

Active Directory

Author Wessam Alkhushman

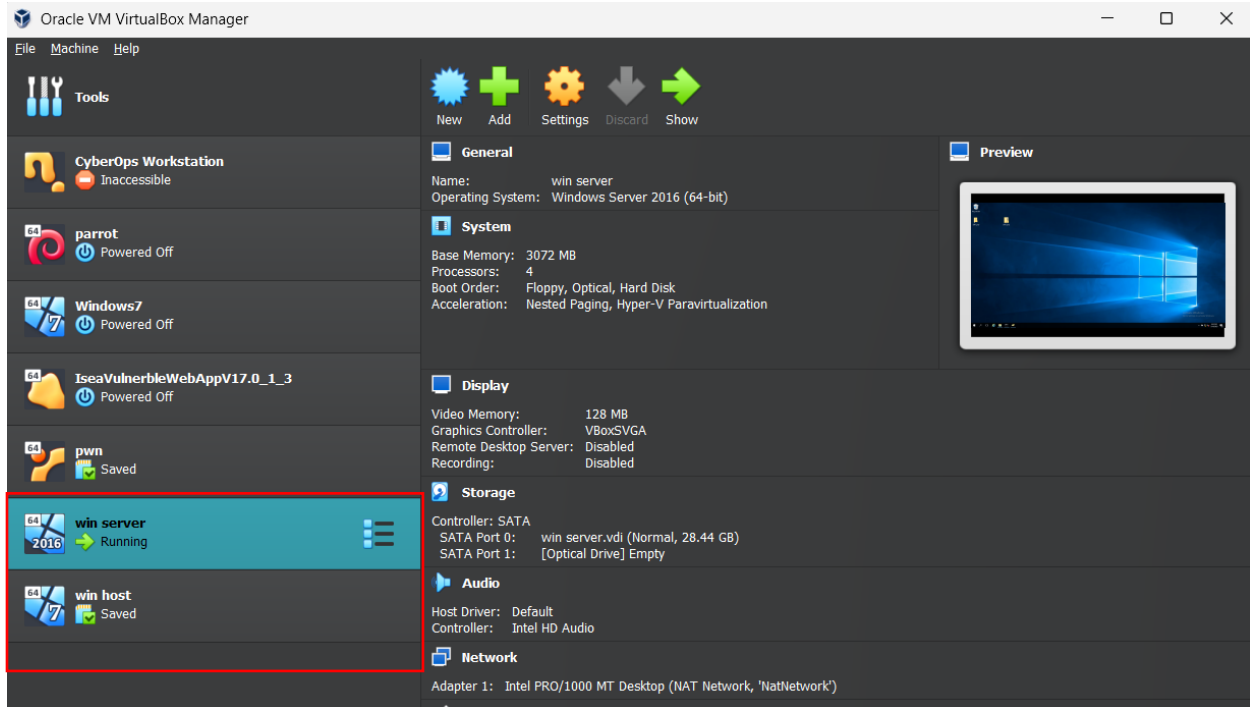
DATE 16/5/2025

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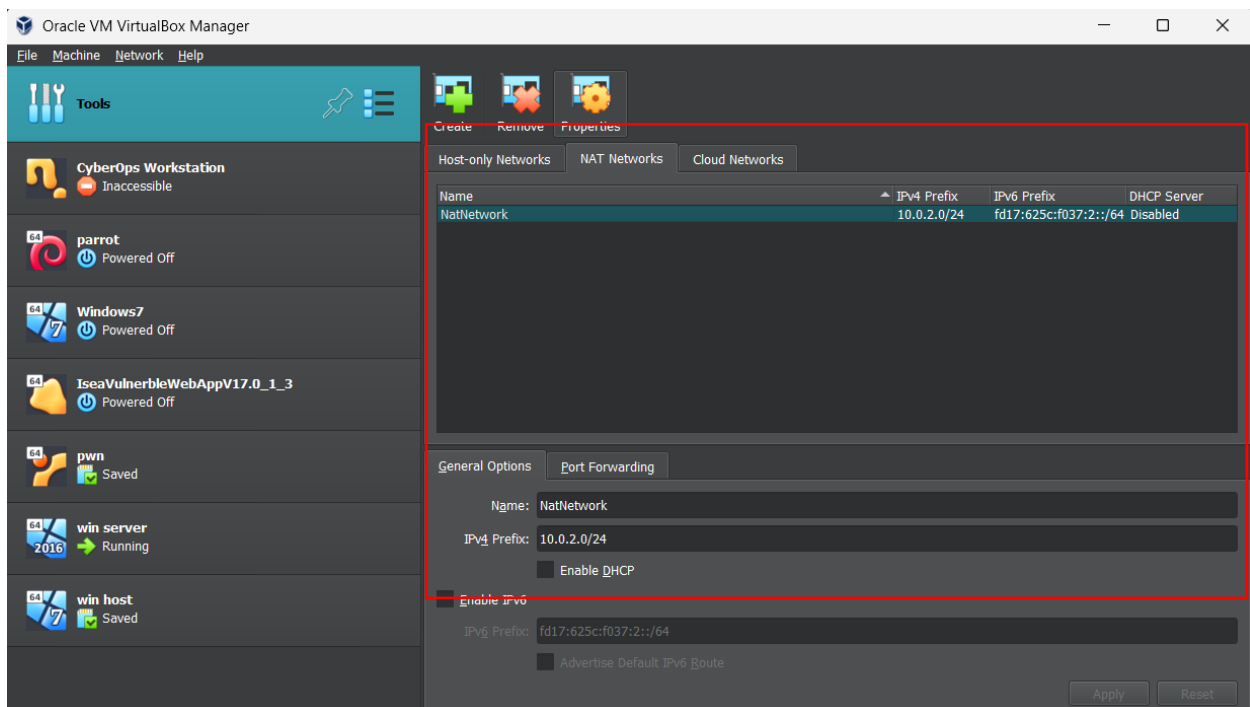
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Setting up the Active Directory Environment

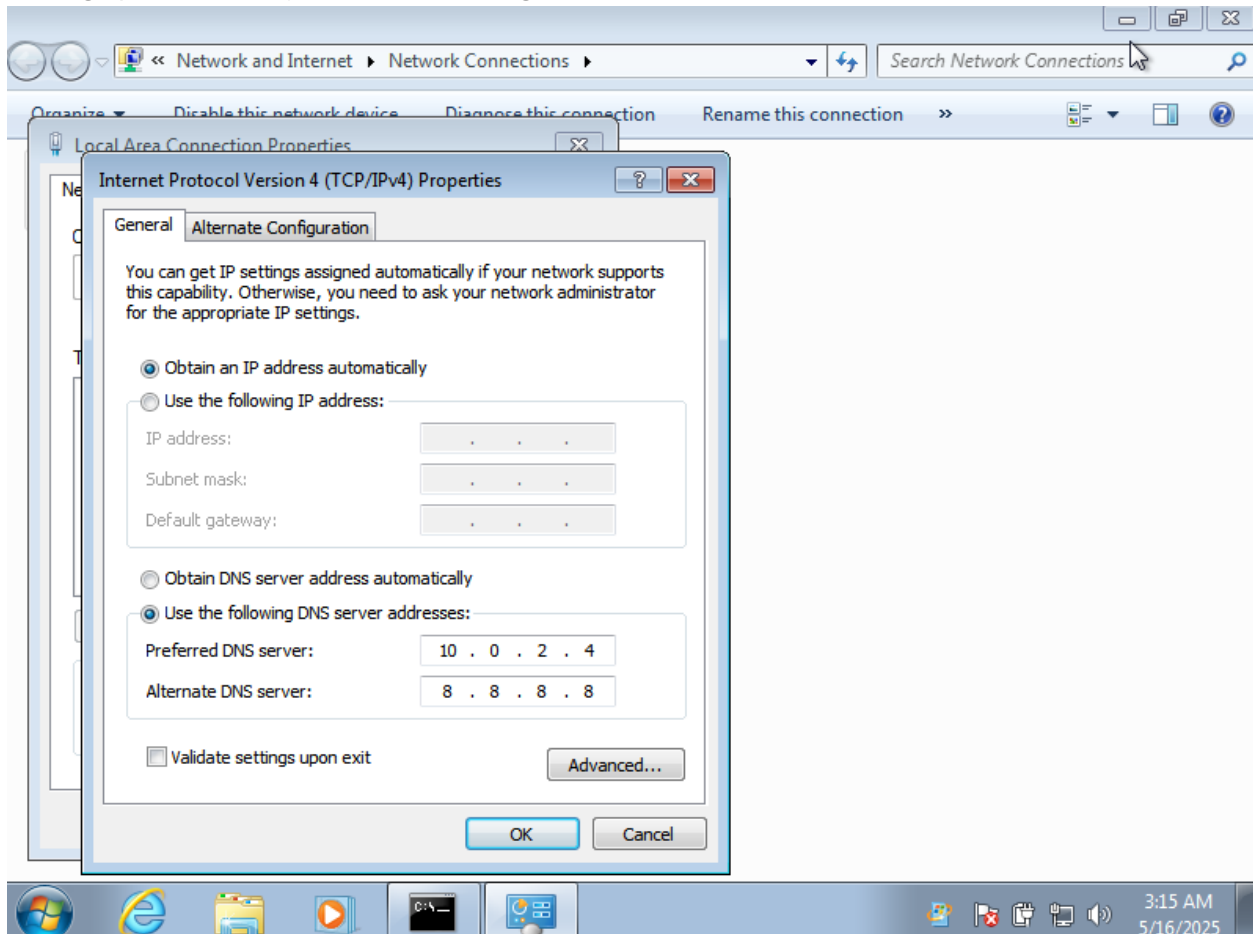
I've already done the AD setup in windows server 2016 and setting up for it:



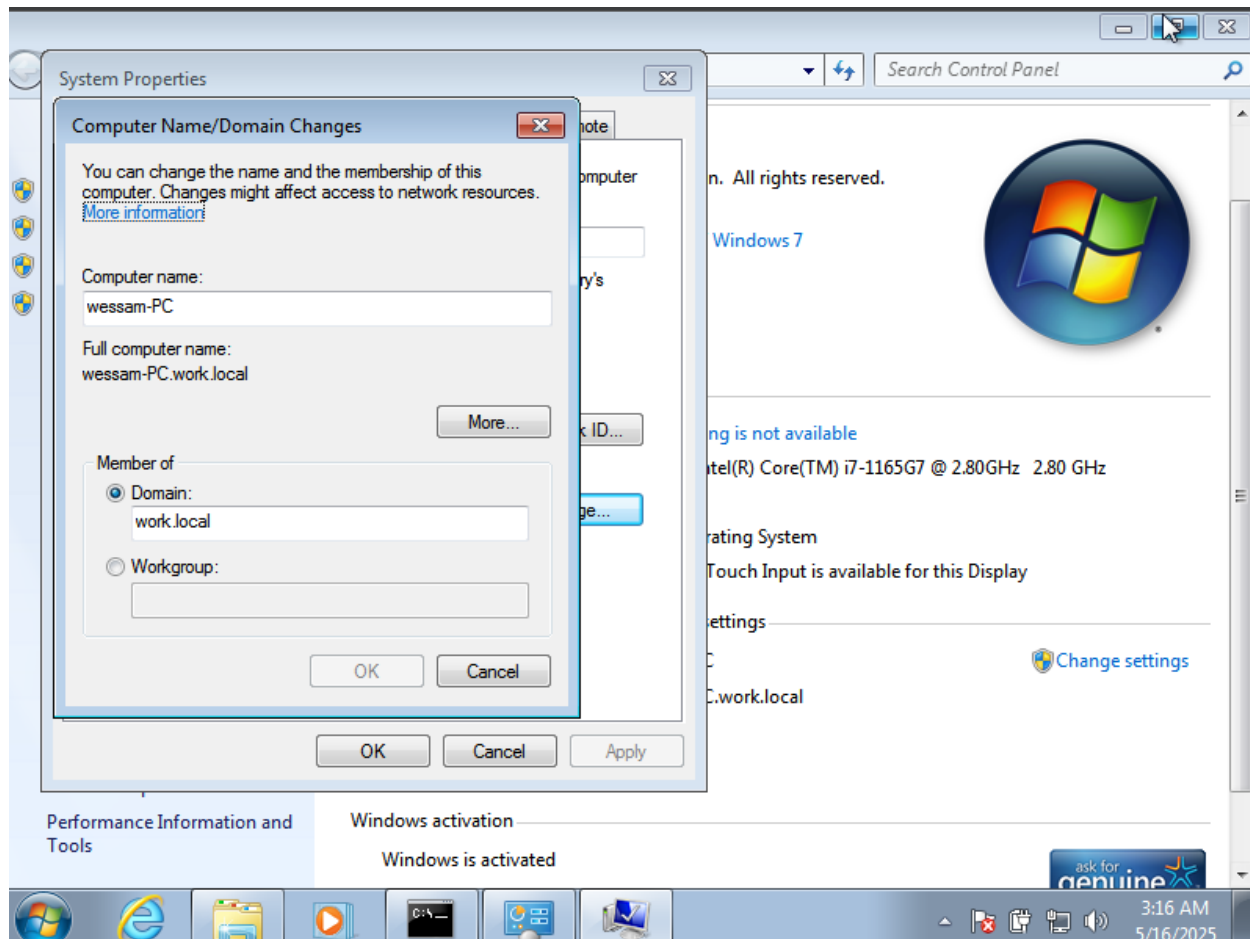
And setting up the network for the machine:



Setting up machine to join a domain and give it DNS:



[Date]



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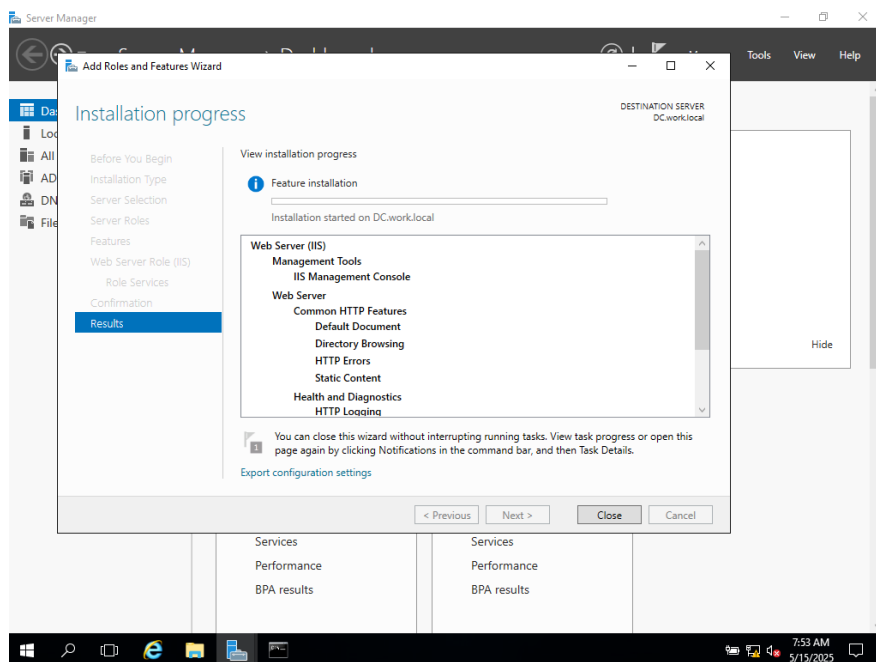
And, I installed the required services in the Same server such as DC server, DHCP Server, DNS Server and IIS Server:

Note: I've already setting up a DC and DNS server.

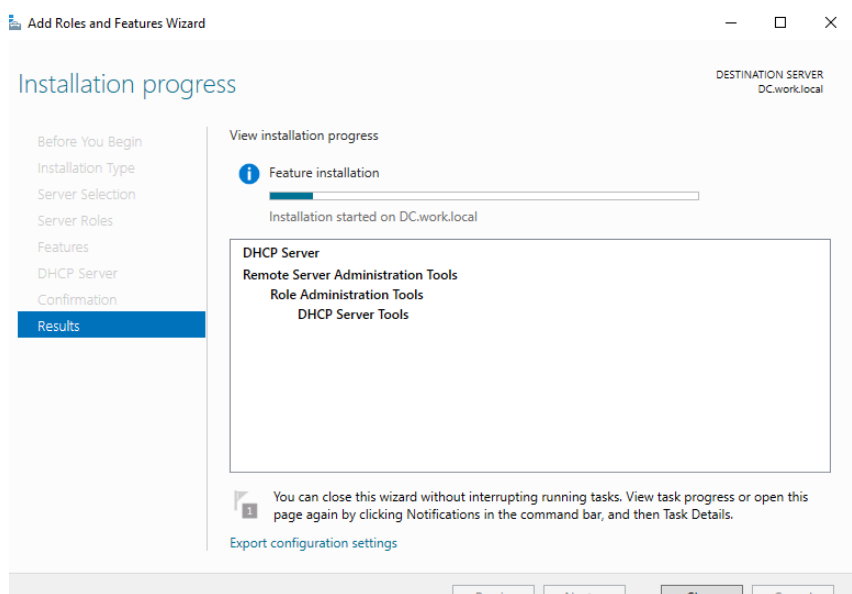
In server manager and in "configure this local server" scope, go to "Add roles and features" to install the required services :

- 1- IIS Server => select the server roles and choose the IIS and go next, and I've added authentication role feature :

ACTIVE DIRECTORY

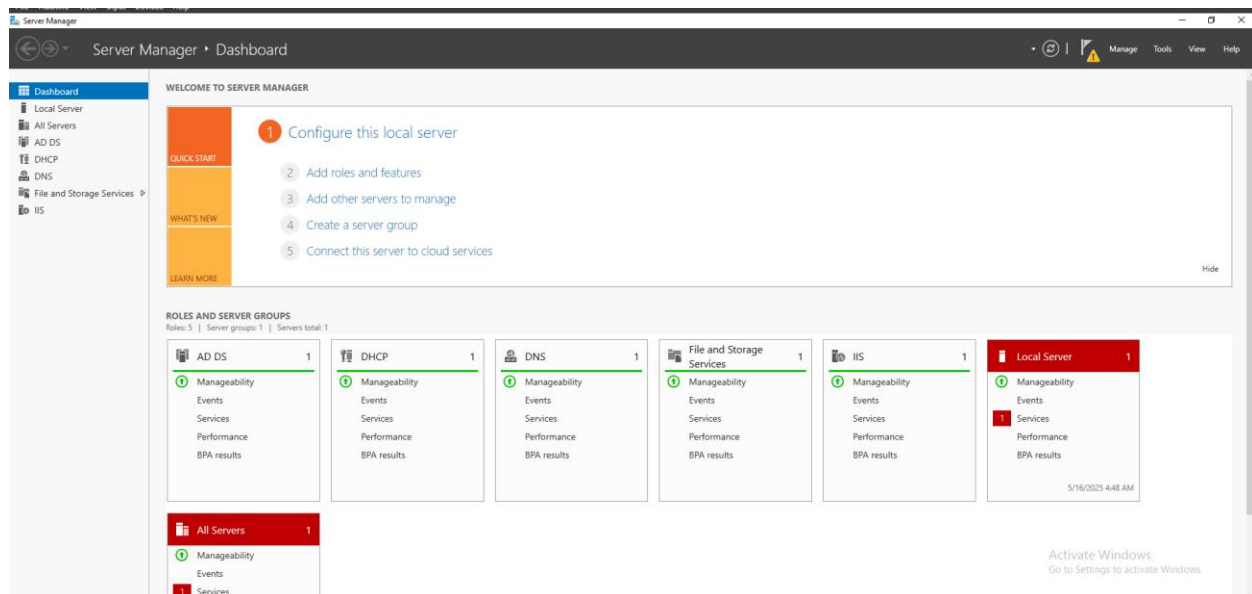


2- DHCP Server => I've done same thing in IIS without add feature:



This is a server I've done it.

[Date]

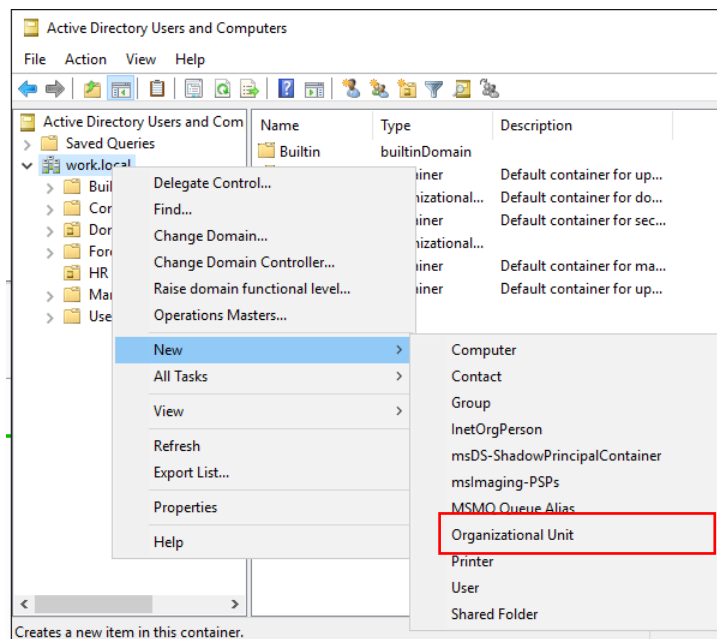


[Date]

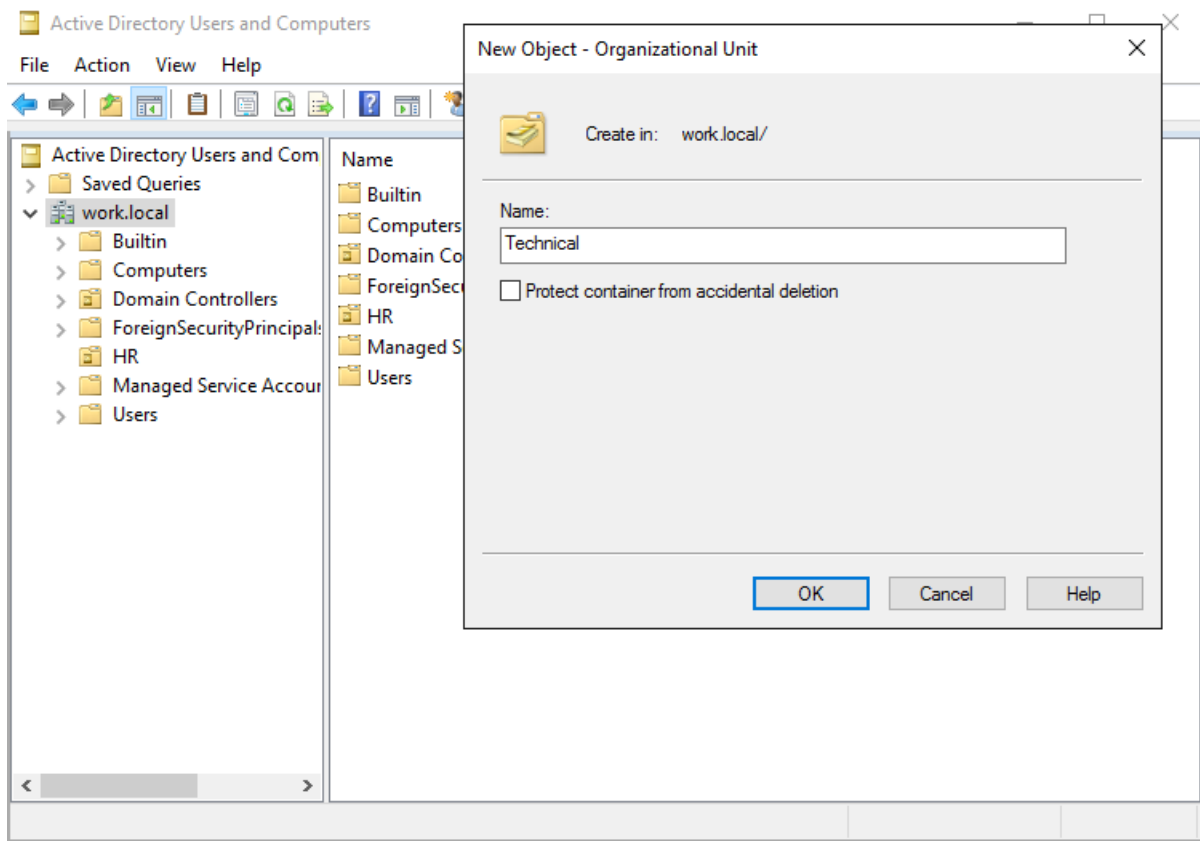
User and OU Management

I've Create four domain accounts and I added two (own and saif) to an OU named "HR" and the other two (wessam and ahmad) to an OU named "Technical":

First, I've create a OU's for HR then Technical :



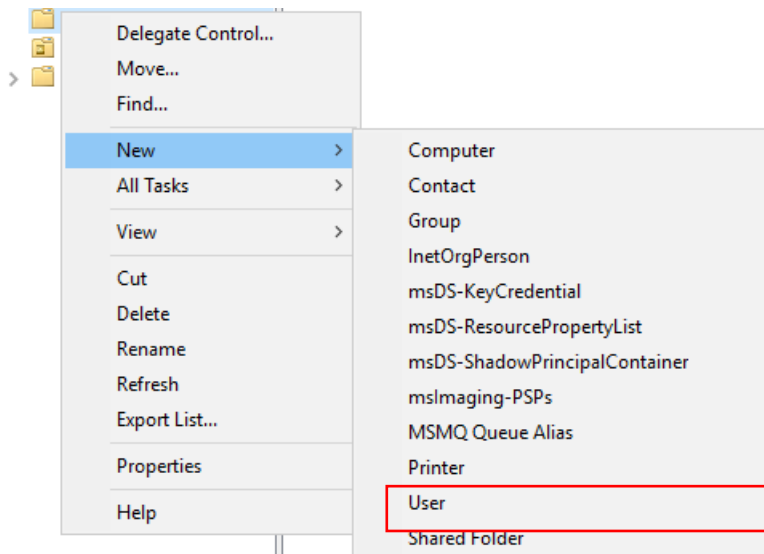
Then, choose name for OU .



[Date]

Same steps I use for create HR .

Then, I create an new user for units ,two for each unit.



Then, choose name and domain :

Active Directory Users and Computers

New Object - User

Create in: work.local/HR

First name: own Initials:

Last name:

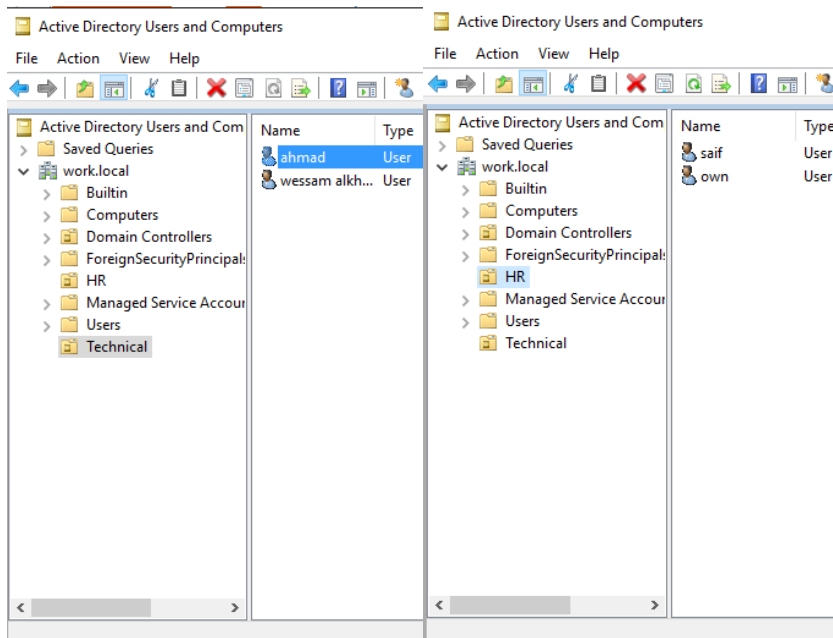
Full name: own

User logon name: own @work.local

User logon name (pre-Windows 2000): WORK\ own

< Back Next > Cancel

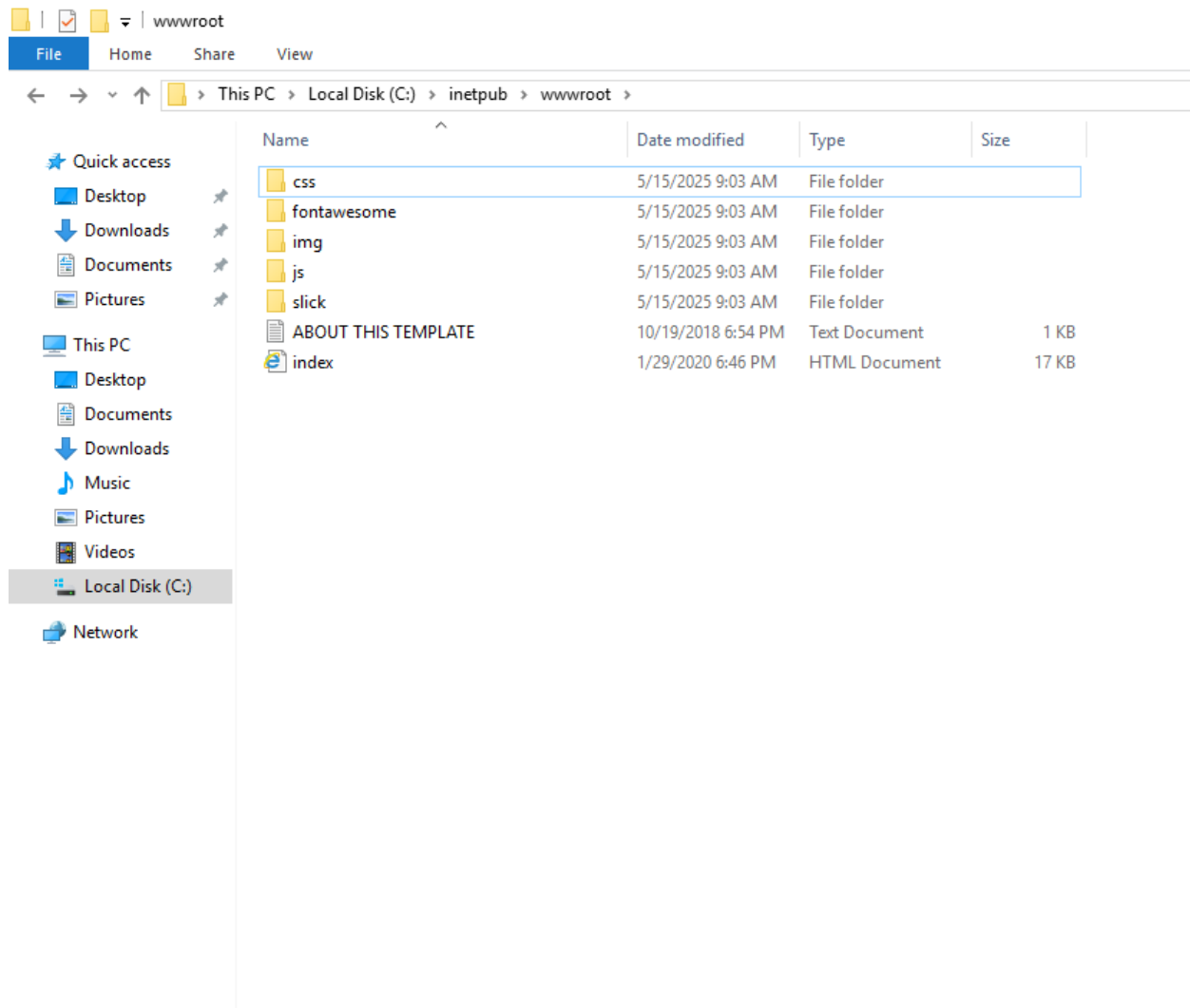
These steps for creating all user.



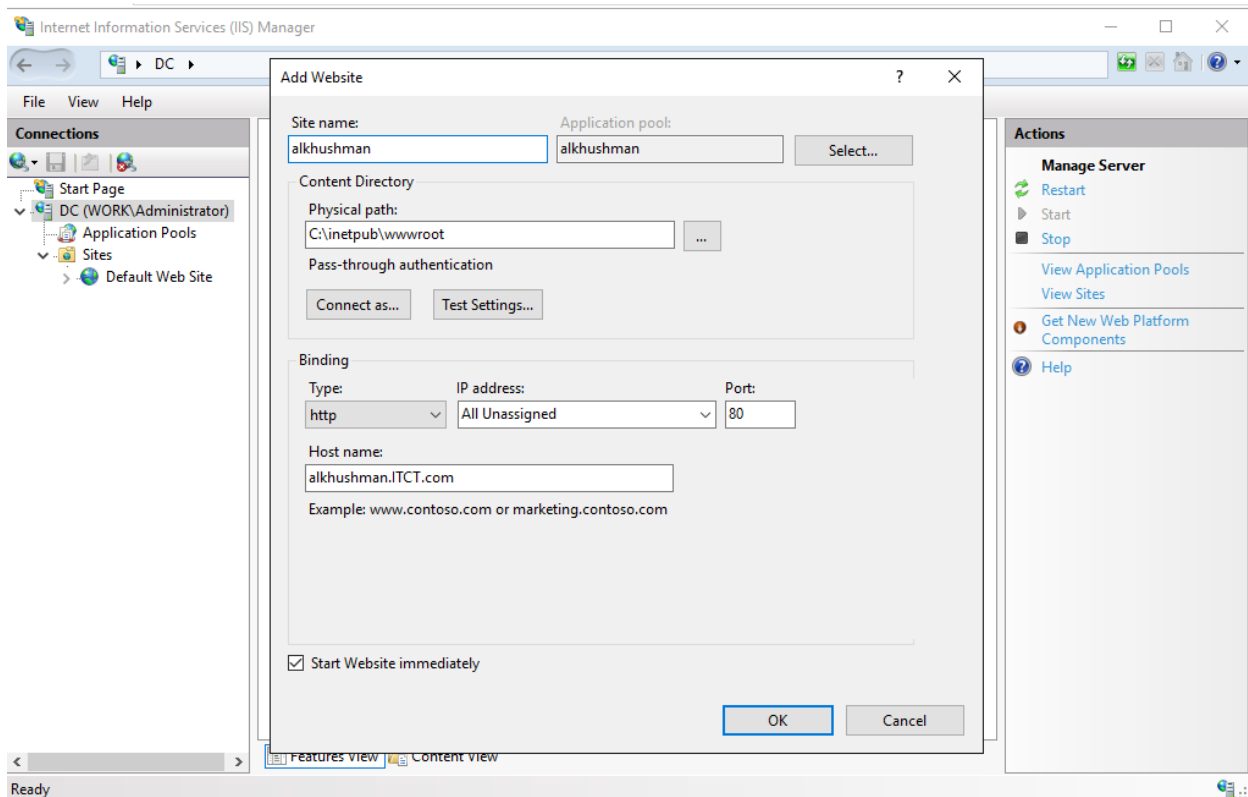
[Date]

Website Hosting

After install IIS, I install template for website and put it in this path :



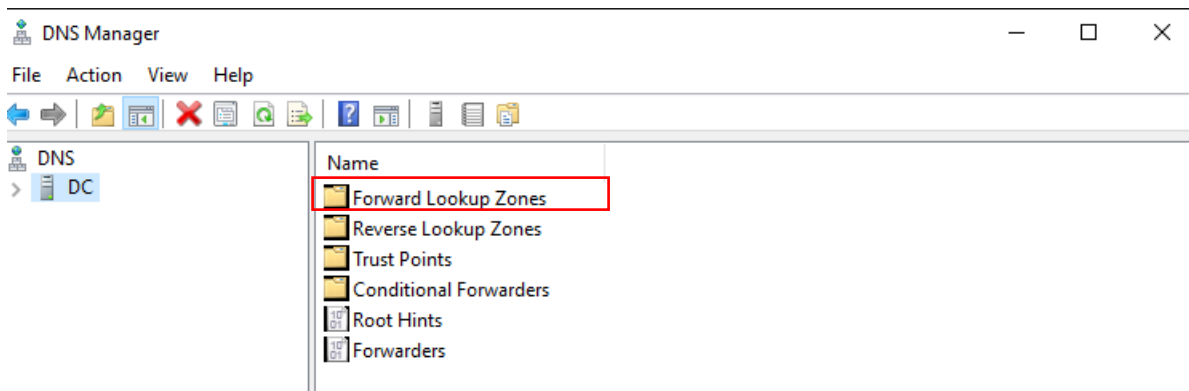
Then, I configure this server to accept and run this website :



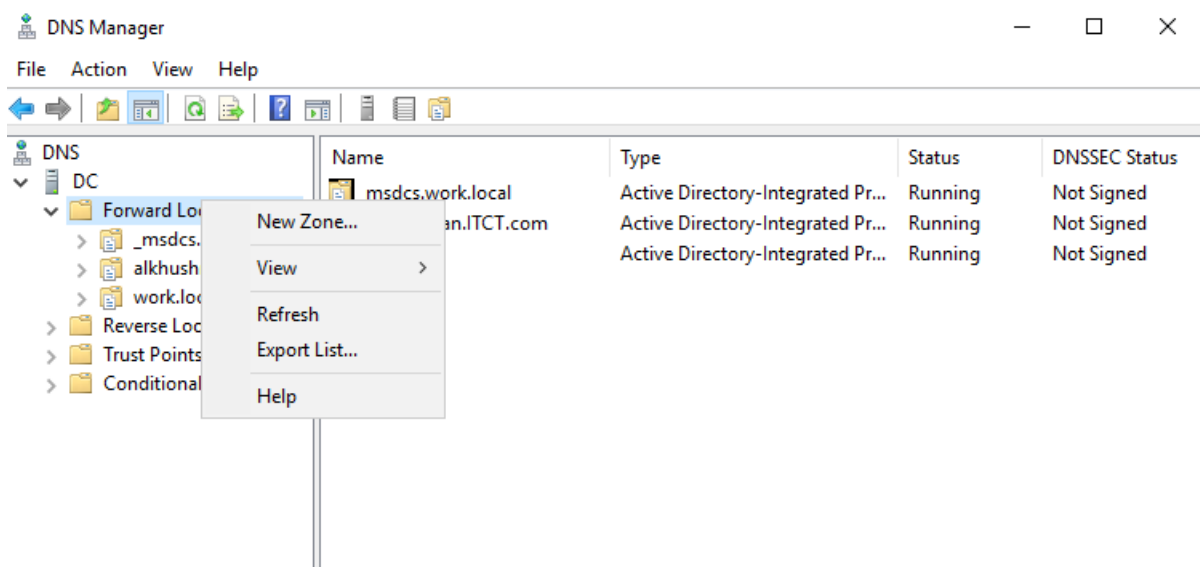
[Date]

Configuration DNS server

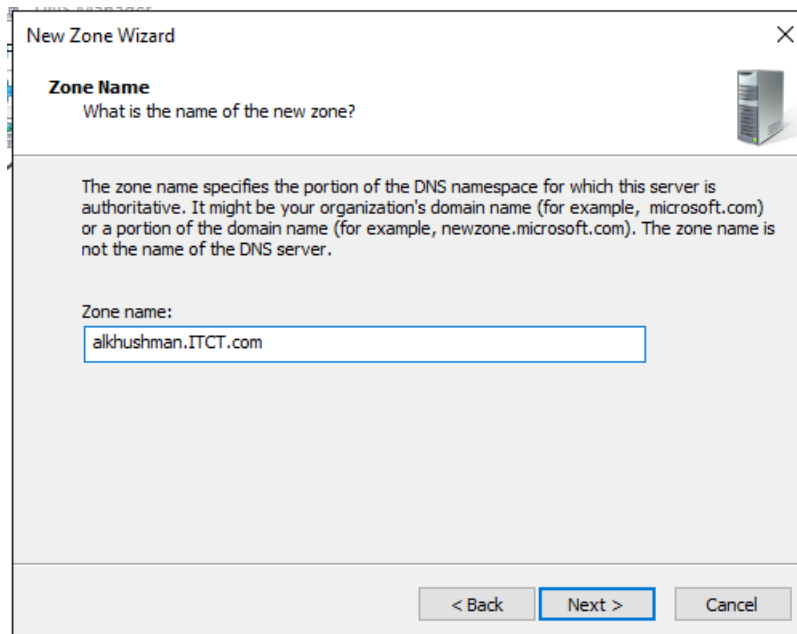
I've insert the host name and IP address for server to enable DNS:



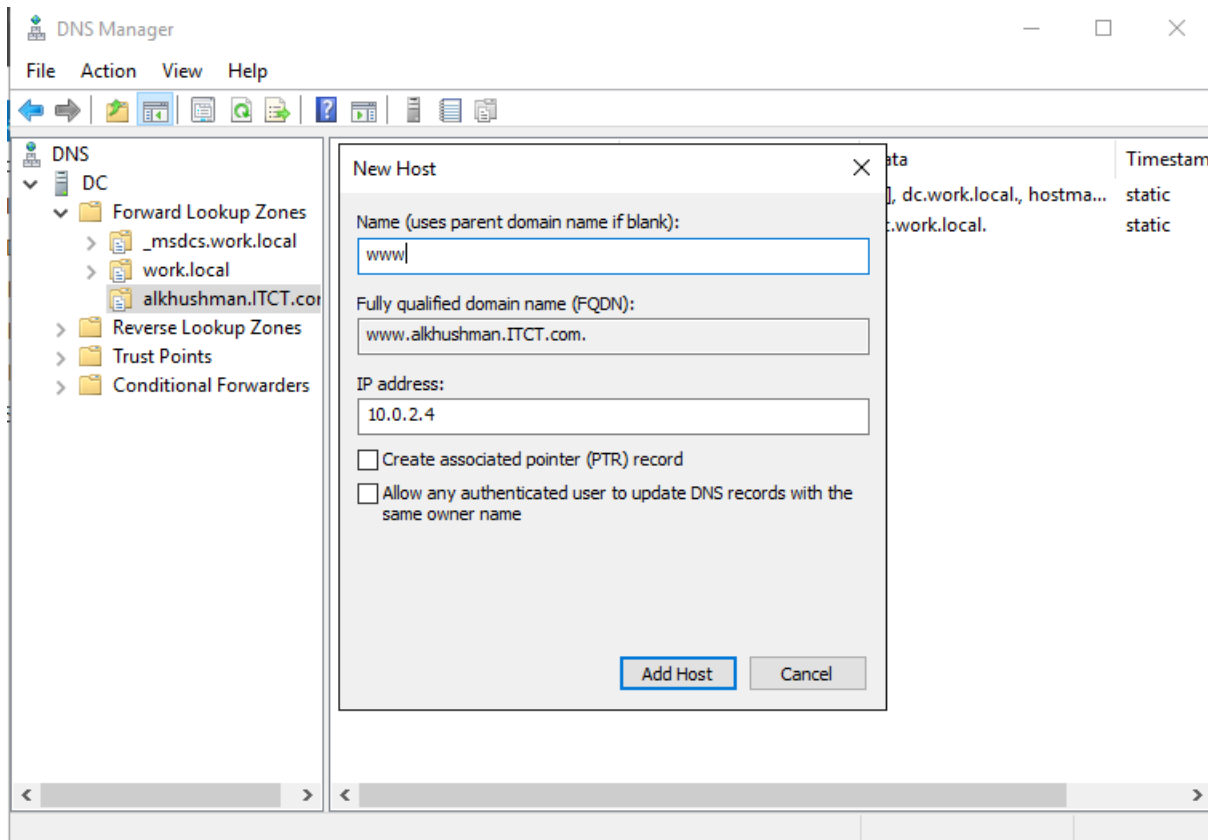
In Forward Lookup Zones ,I've created a new zone and configure it .



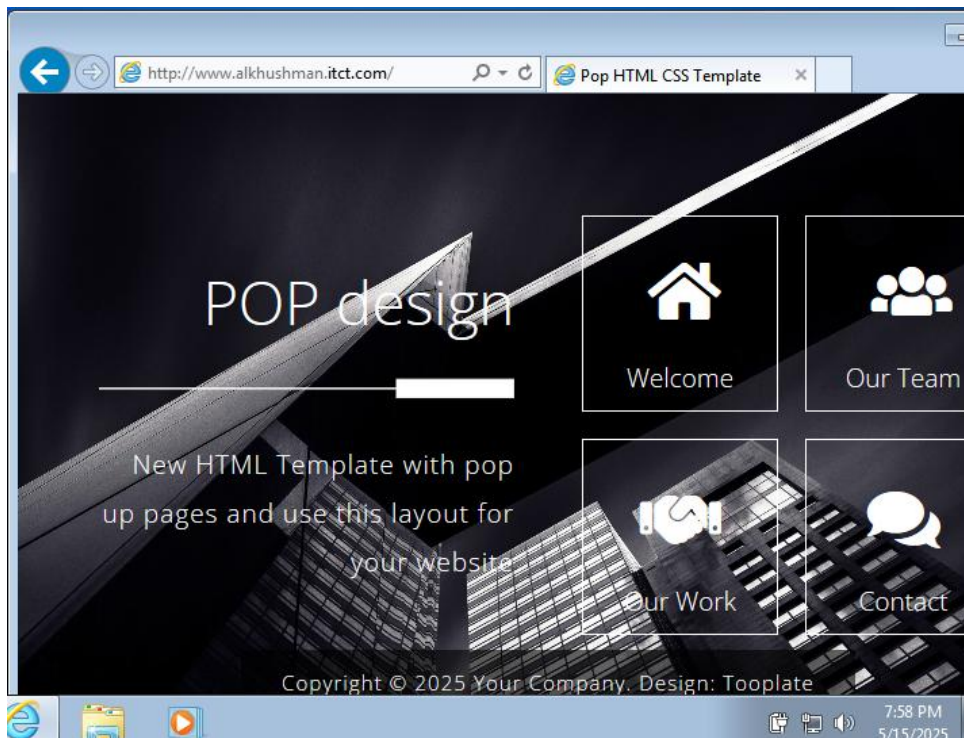
Then set name of zone:



Then , I've created a new host and configer it:

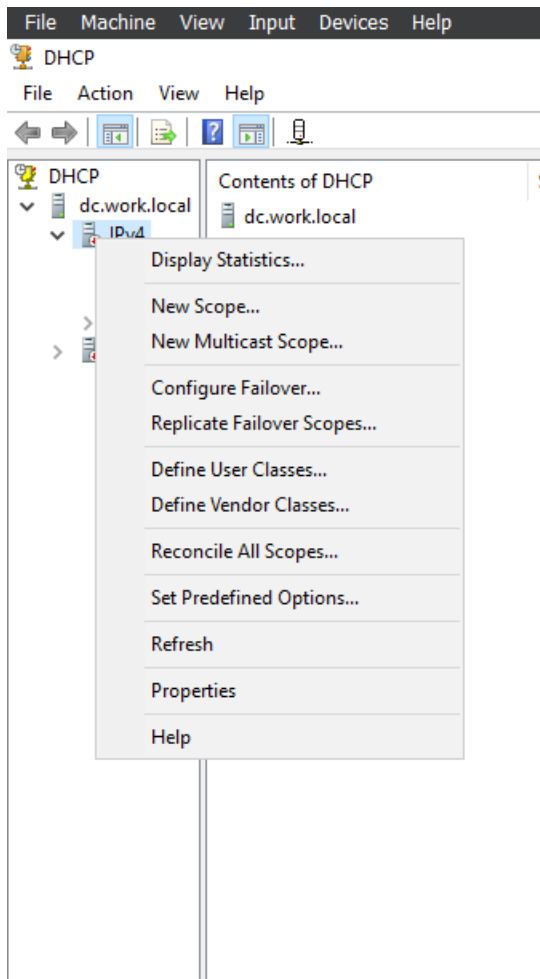


Finally, this is website in windows that use for user:



Configure DHCP Server

After installing the DHCP server in windows server, I've Set up the DHCP Server and configure it and Create a DHCP pool with a subnet similar to the DC subnet .



I've created a new scope and set start, end IP address and subnet mask:

New Scope Wizard

IP Address Range
You define the scope address range by identifying a set of consecutive IP addresses.

Configuration settings for DHCP Server

Enter the range of addresses that the scope distributes.

Start IP address: 10 . 0 . 2 . 1

End IP address: 10 . 0 . 2 . 18

Configuration settings that propagate to DHCP Client

Length: 24

Subnet mask: 255 . 255 . 255 . 0

< Back Next > Cancel

Then, I've added exclusions IP's range:

Note: I've been Excluded address range for first five IP's.

New Scope Wizard

Add Exclusions and Delay
Exclusions are addresses or a range of addresses that are not distributed by the server. A delay is the time duration by which the server will delay the transmission of a DHCP OFFER message.

Type the IP address range that you want to exclude. If you want to exclude a single address, type an address in Start IP address only.

Start IP address: . . . End IP address: . . . Add

Excluded address range:

10.0.2.1 to 10.0.2.5 Remove

Subnet delay in milli second: 0

< Back Next > Cancel

Then, added IP Address for Router(Default Gateway):

Note: this is the last step in creating a scope.

New Scope Wizard

Router (Default Gateway)
You can specify the routers, or default gateways, to be distributed by this scope.

To add an IP address for a router used by clients, enter the address below.

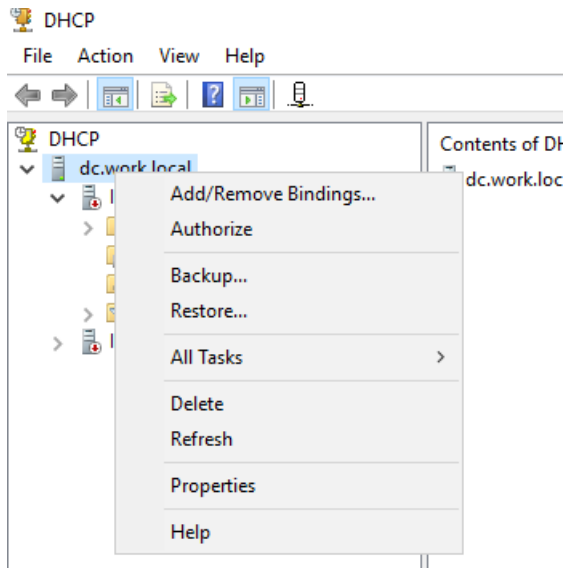
IP address:

10.0.2.1

Add Remove Up Down

< Back Next > Cancel

Then checked on Authorize.



Allow Windows machines (Clients) to request IP Addresses automatically:

The first screenshot shows the output of the 'ipconfig /all' command in a Windows command prompt. It displays network configuration details for the Ethernet adapter 'Local Area Connection'. The 'DHCP Server' is listed as '10.0.2.4', and the 'IPv4 Address' is '10.0.2.6'. Both the 'DHCP Server' and 'IPv4 Address' lines are highlighted with a red box.

The second screenshot shows the output of the 'ipconfig' command in a Windows command prompt. It displays the same network configuration details for the Ethernet adapter 'Local Area Connection'. The 'IPv4 Address' is listed as '10.0.2.6', and the 'Subnet Mask' is '255.255.255.0'. Both the 'IPv4 Address' and 'Subnet Mask' lines are highlighted with a red box.

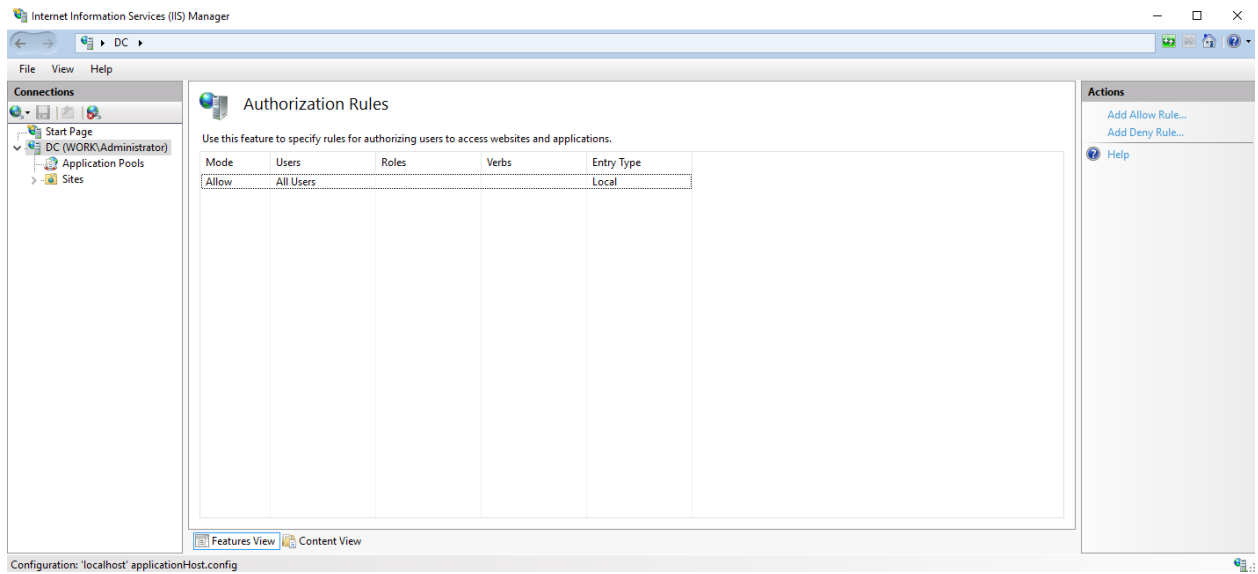
The machine has taken the IP Address from DHCP server.

Group Policy and Access Control

BLOCK HR EMPLOYEES FROM ACCESSING THE WEBSITE (INTENDED ONLY FOR THE TECHNICAL TEAM).

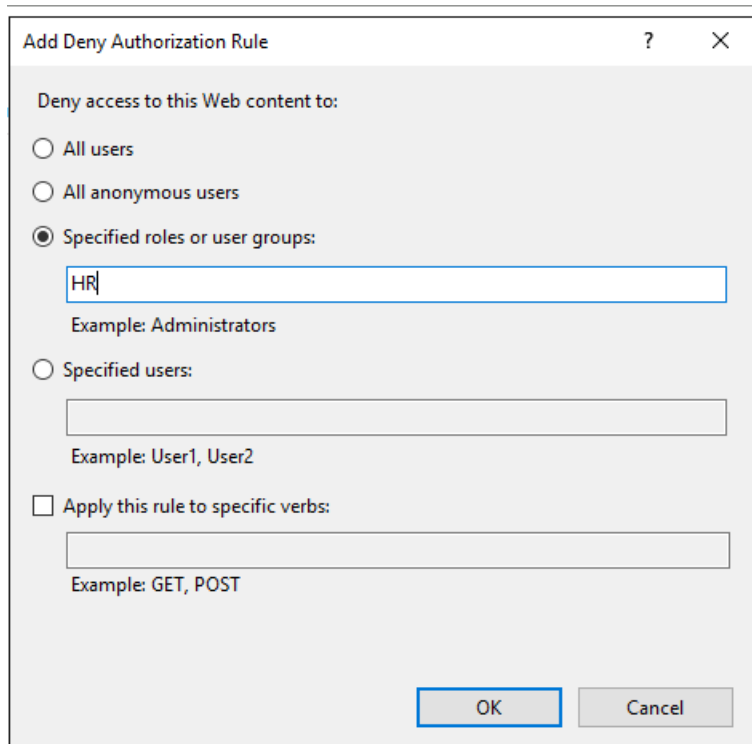
I mentioned earlier that I've added feature called "authentication" in role feature, It's time to use it

ACTIVE DIRECTORY



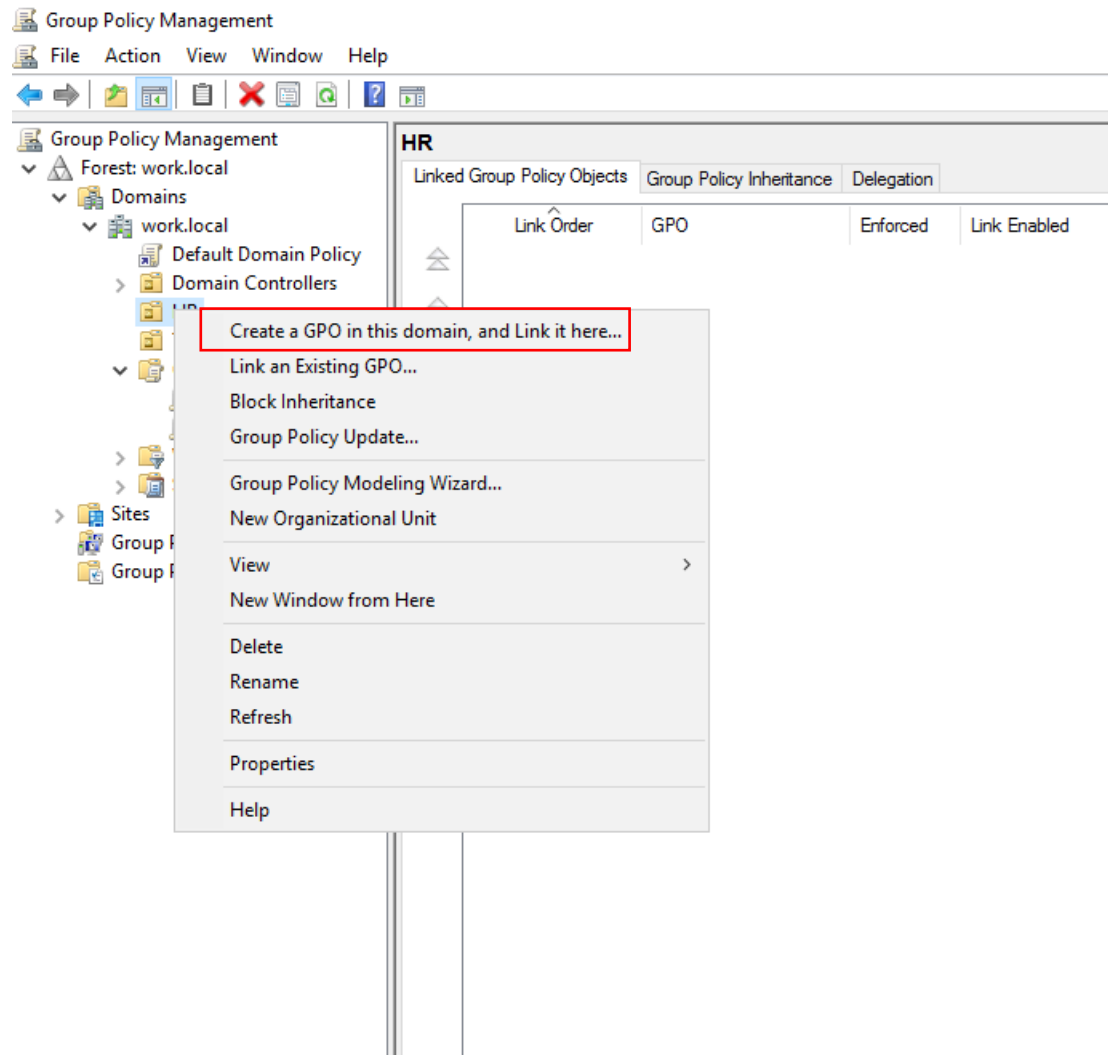
[Date]

In actions tab, I've added deny rule to prevent HR access to website:

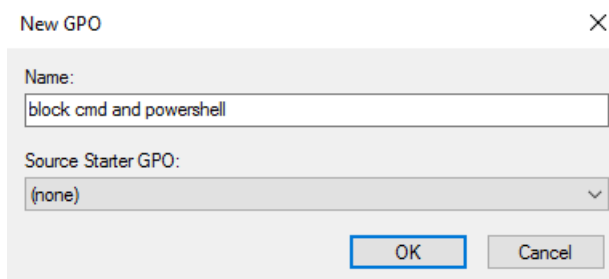


Prevent HR employees from running PowerShell and CMD.

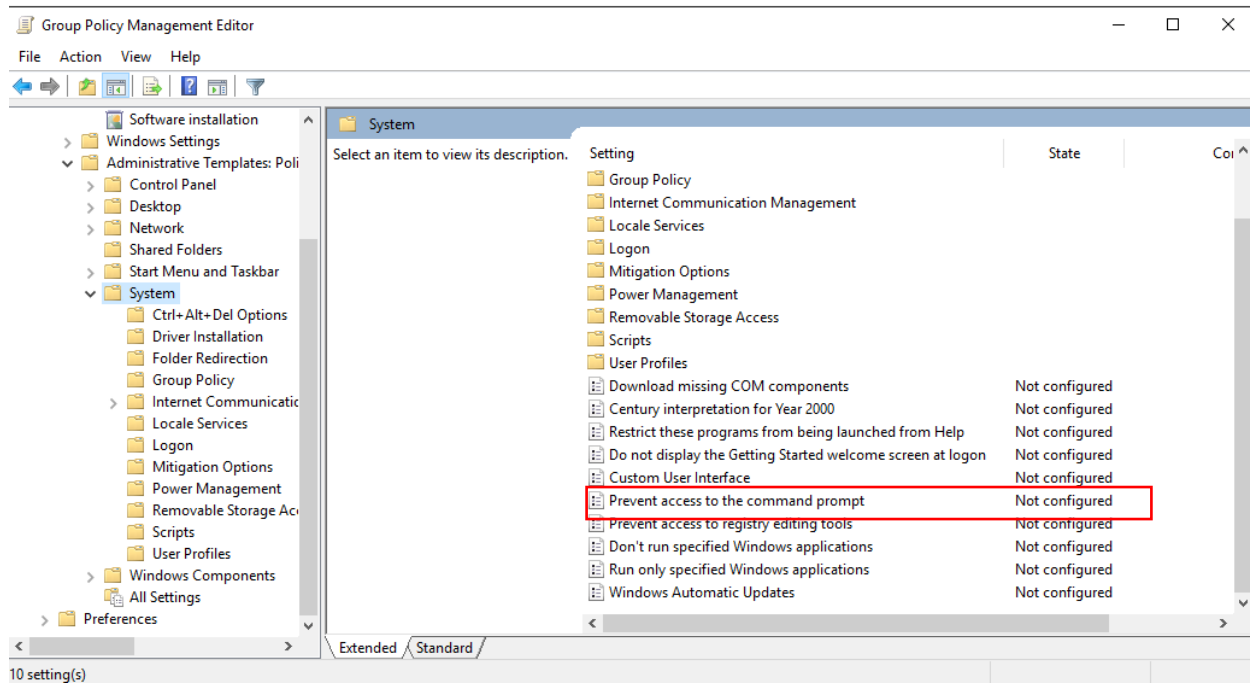
In Group Policy Management, I've created a GPO for HR only:



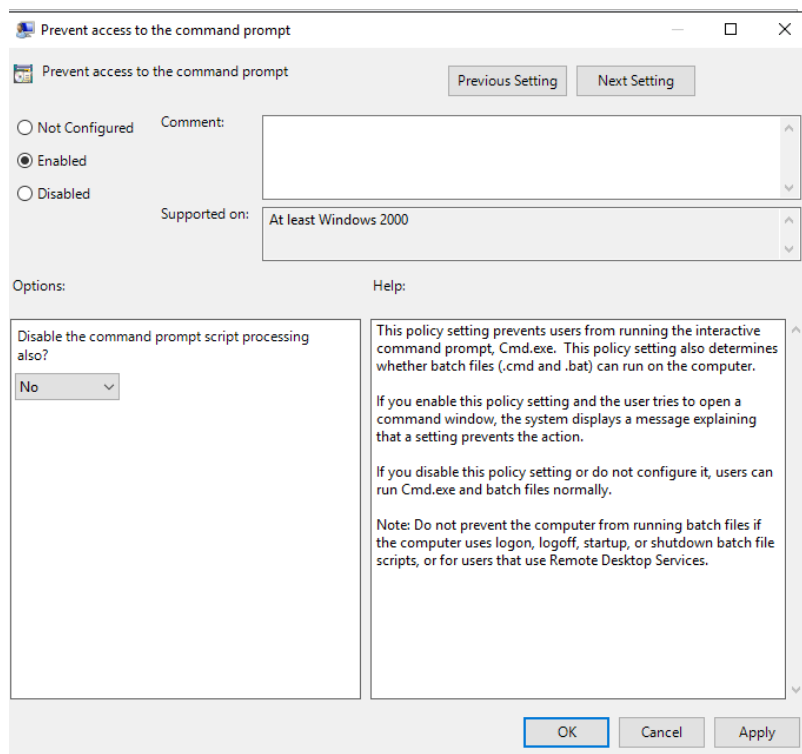
Then, set a name for it:



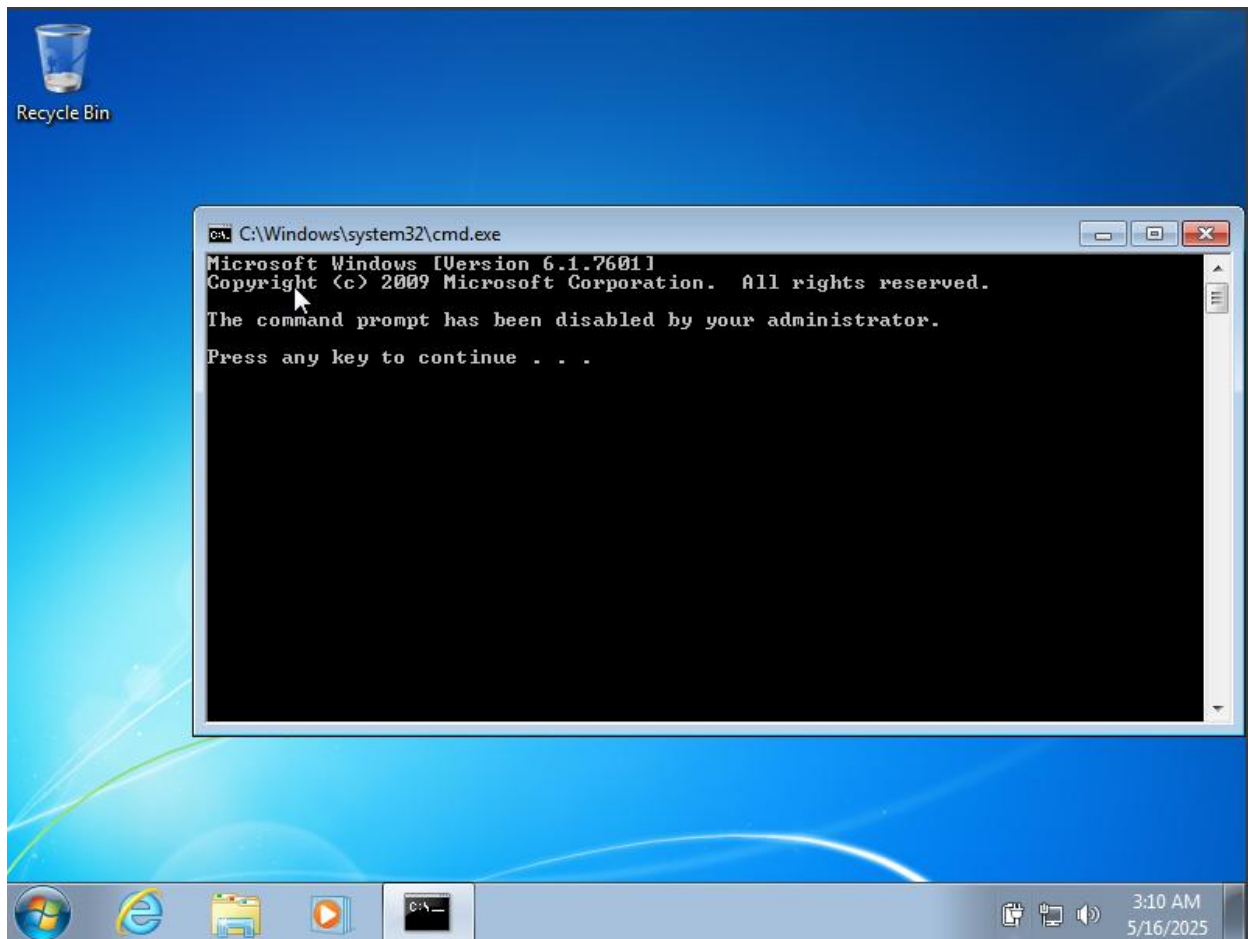
Then, I've Edit that GPO and search for the policy that prevent cmd or powershell in user config...=>Administrative templates ...=>system



Then, Enable it.



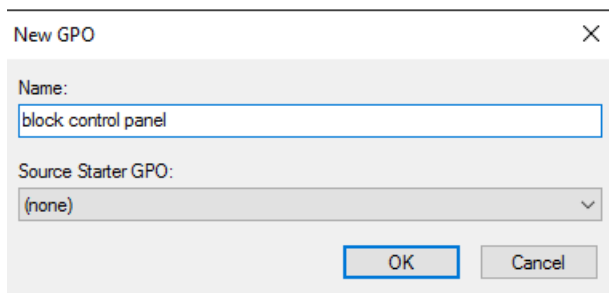
When I try to access to cmd I found this:



[Date]

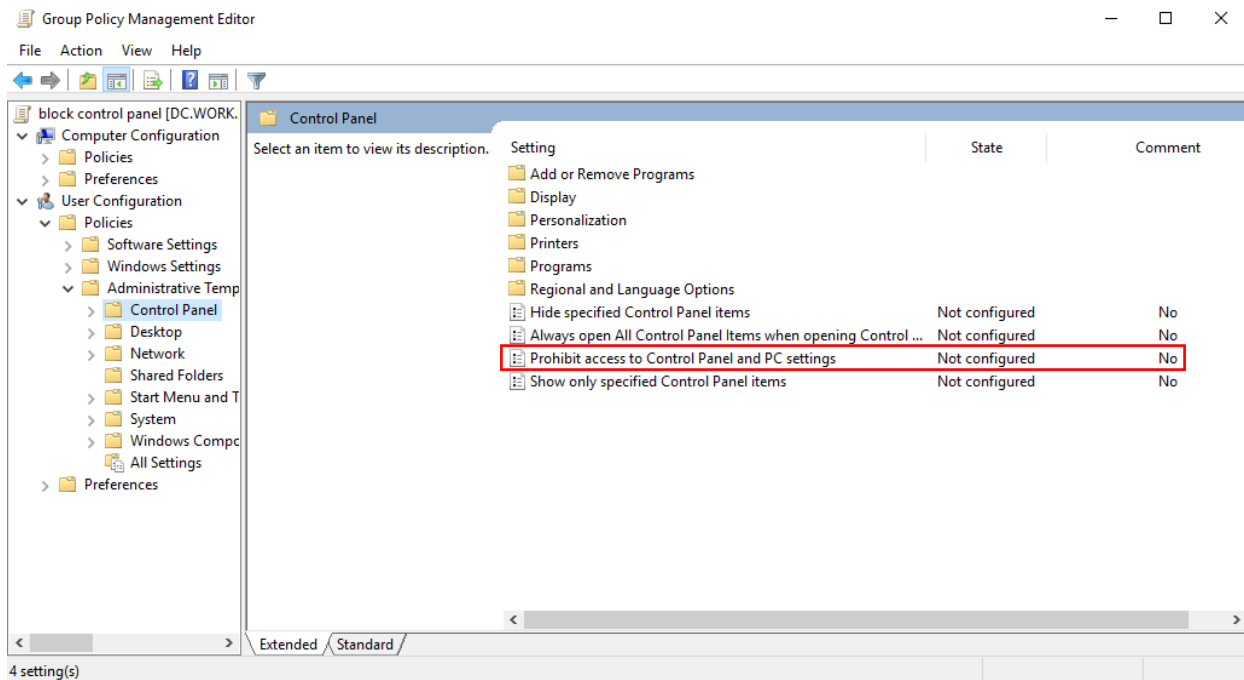
Prevent all employees from accessing the Control Panel.

In Group Policy Management, I've created a GPO in domain:

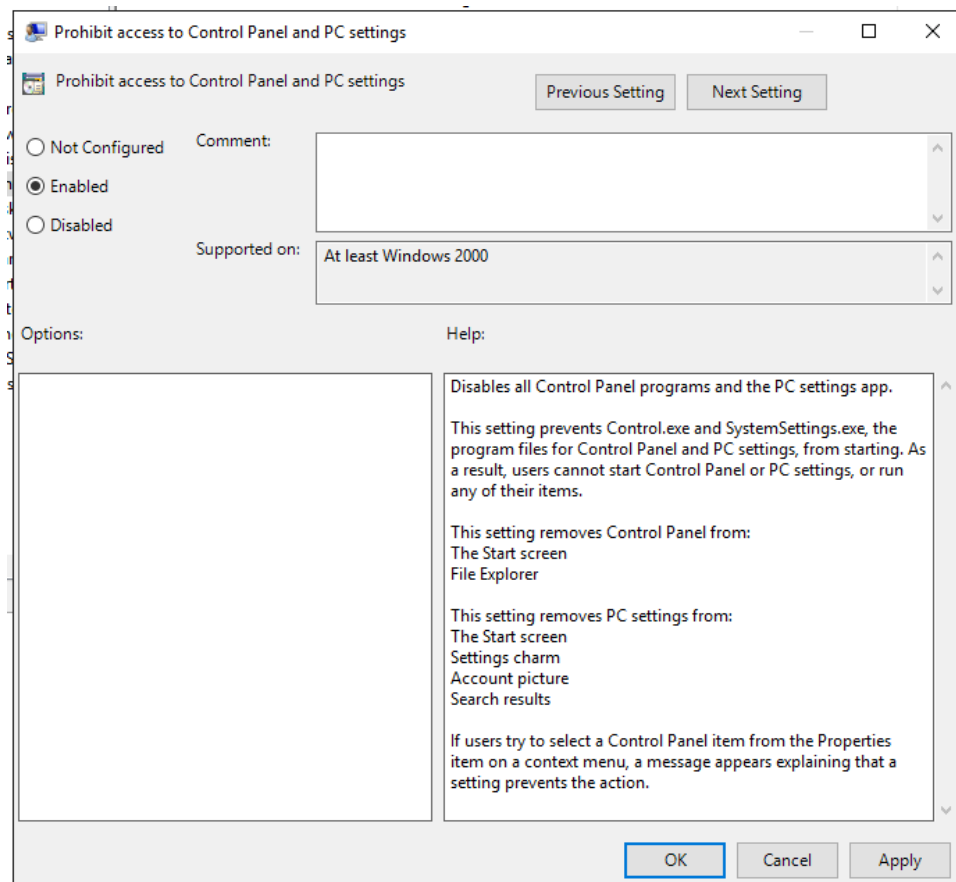


Then, set a name for it.

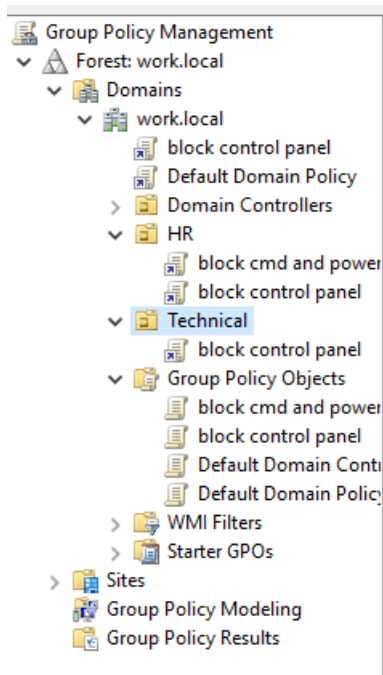
Then, I've Edit that GPO and search for the policy that prevent access to control panel in user config...=>Administrative templates ...=>Control Panel



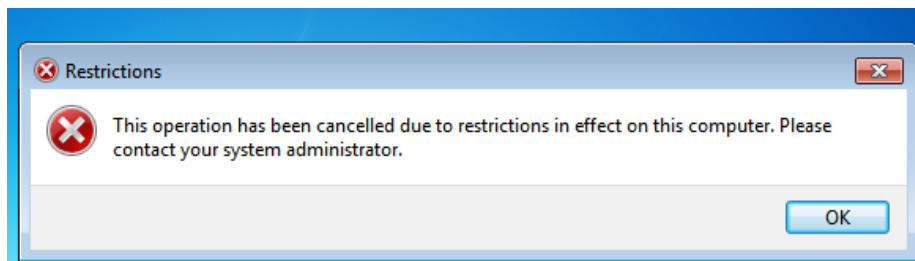
Then, Enable it:



Result of policy I've apply it:

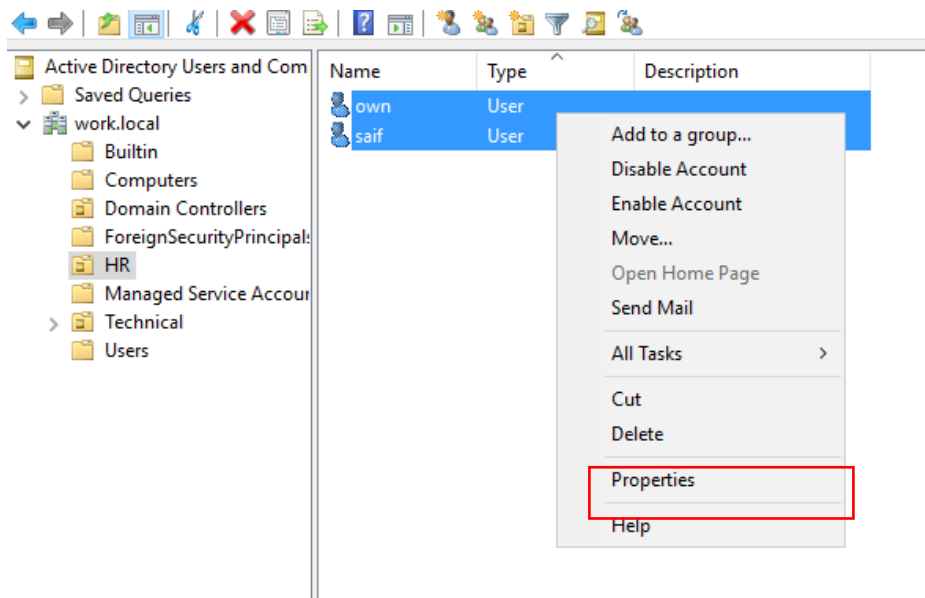


When I try to access to control panel I found this:

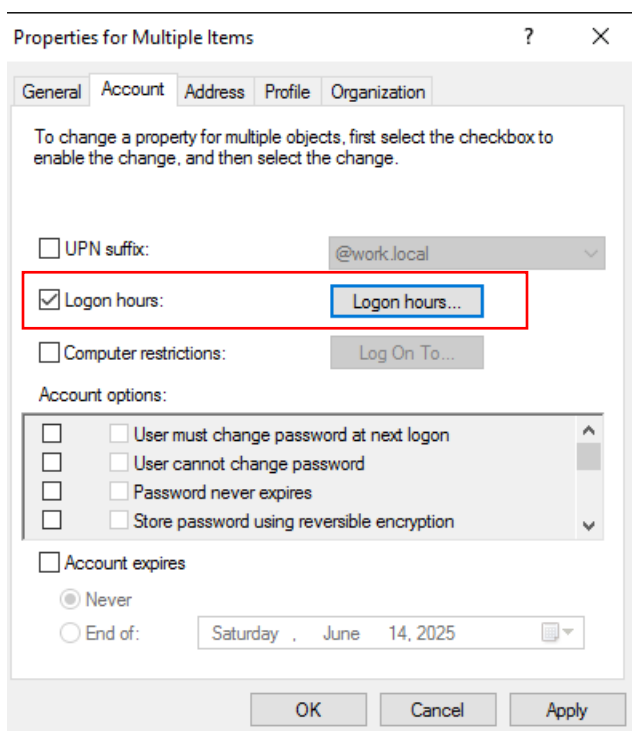


Allow all employees to login to their accounts only between 8 AM – 5 PM.

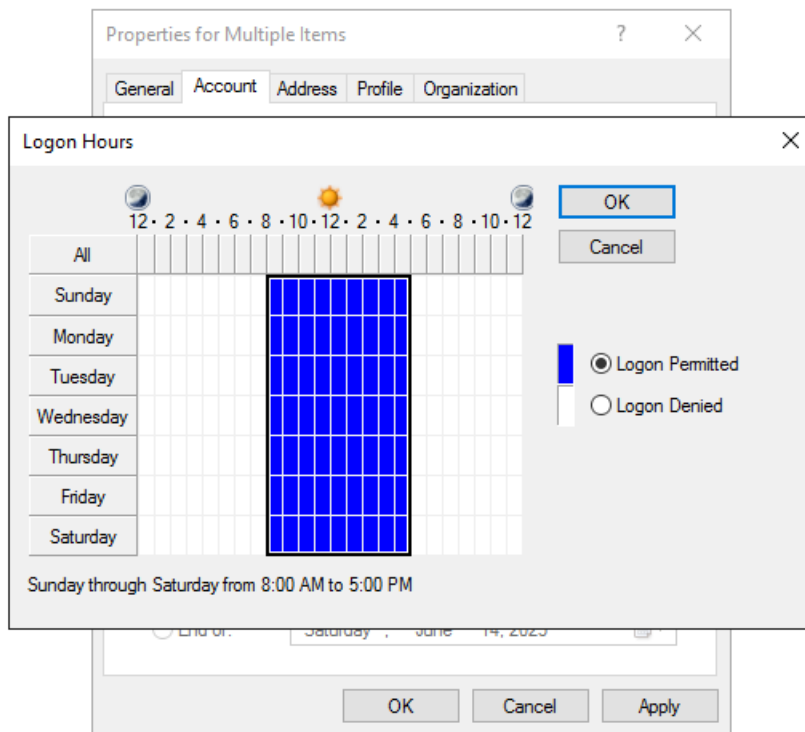
In the beginning, I've selected the users from HR and Technical and go to properties:



Then, I've went through Account tab to logon hours:



Then, set a time between 8 AM to 5 PM:

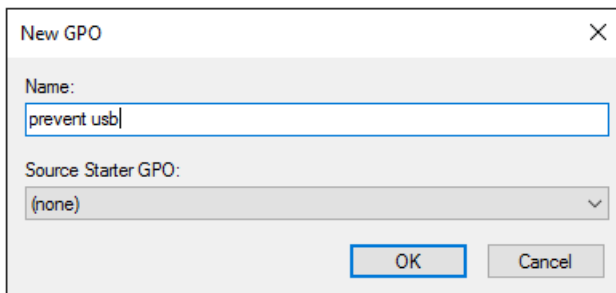


When I try to access to user account I found this :



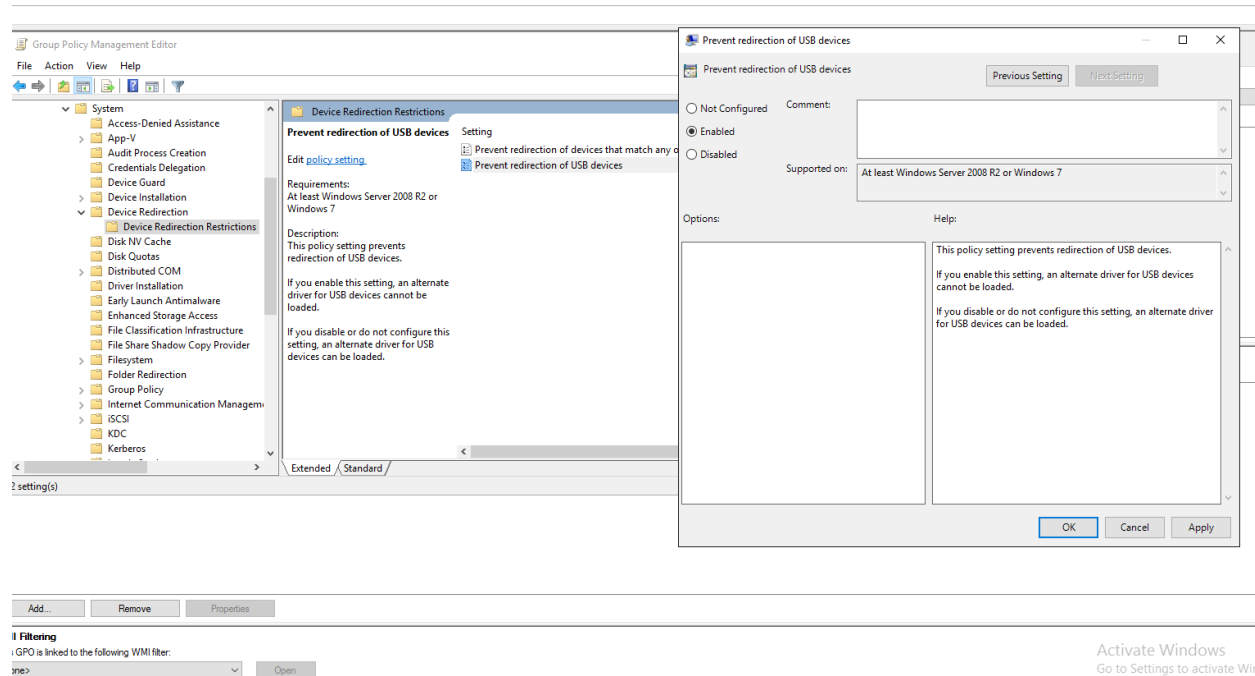
Prevent all employees from plugging in USB devices or any removable storage.

In Group Policy Management, I've created a GPO in domain:



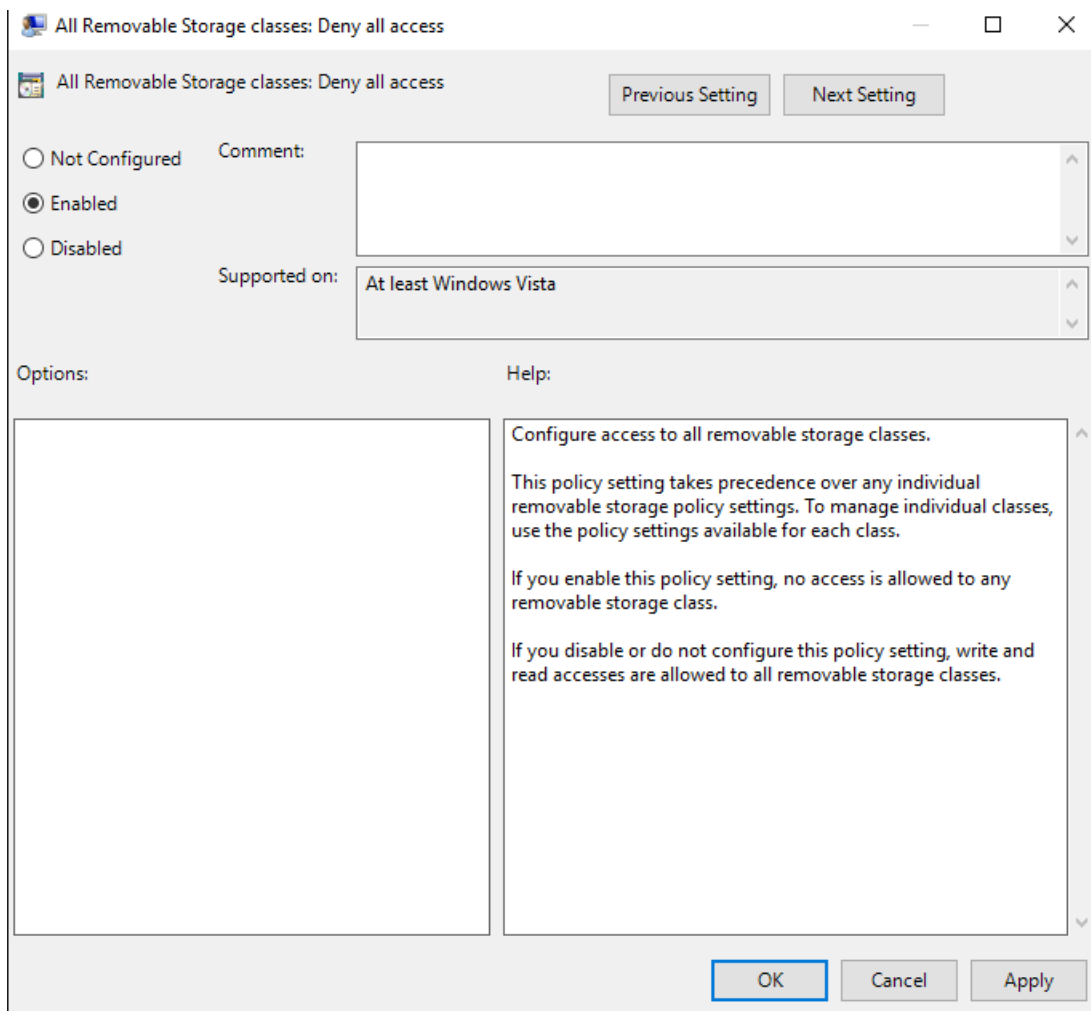
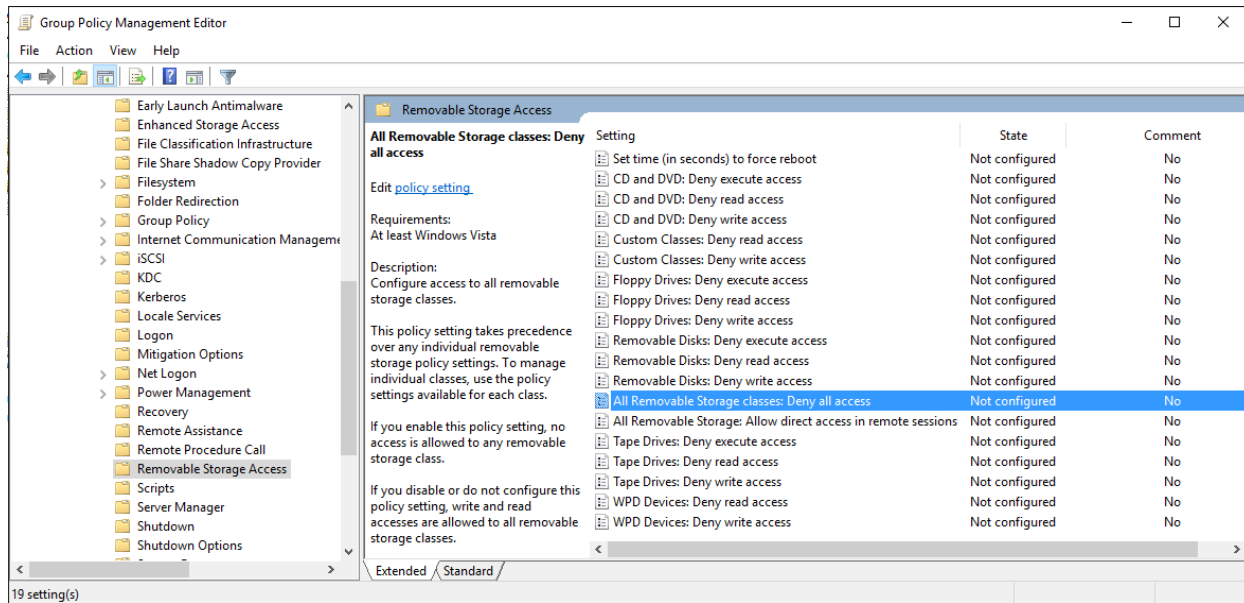
Then, set a name for it.

Then, I've Edit that GPO and search for the policy that prevent USB in computer config...=>Administrative templates ...=>system=>Device Redirection Res...

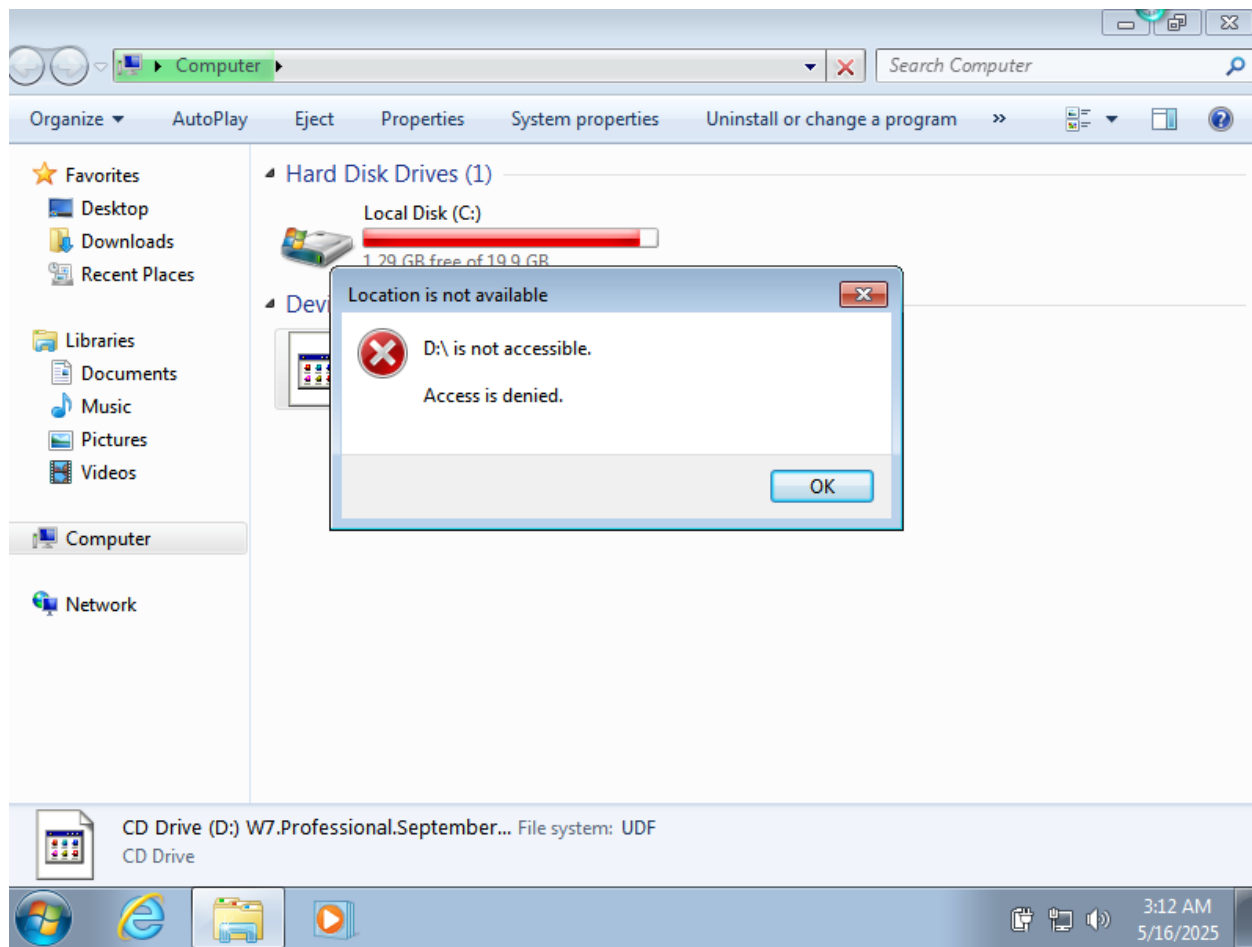


To prevent access all removable storage go to computer config...=>Administrative templates ...=>system=> Removable Storage Access

And Enable it :



When I try to access to USB I found this:



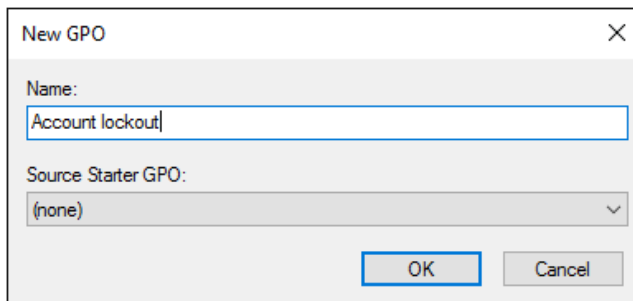
Finally create different five policy:

Account Lockout Policy

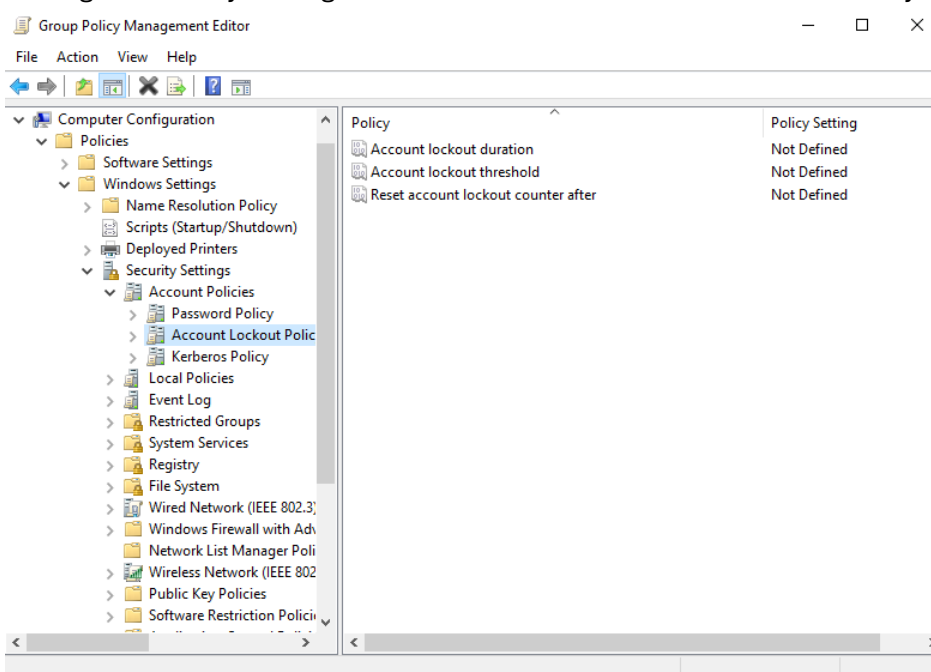
This policy helps protect against **brute-force attacks** on user credentials. If an attacker tries to guess a password repeatedly, the account will be temporarily locked, slowing or stopping the attack.

The steps is:

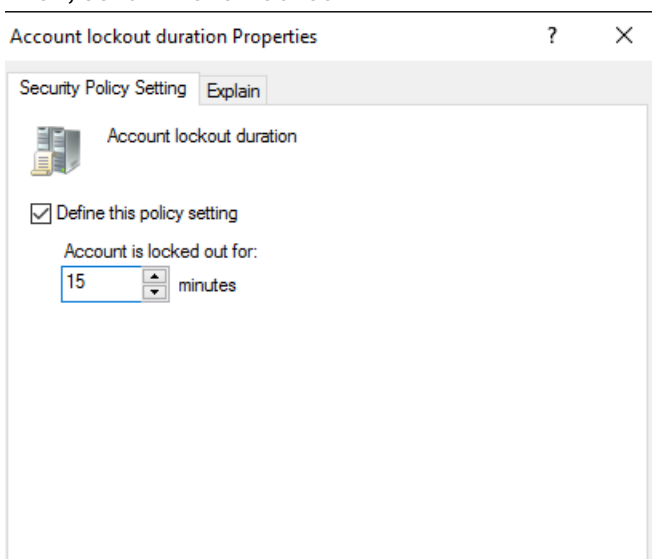
In Group Policy Management, I've created a GPO in domain:

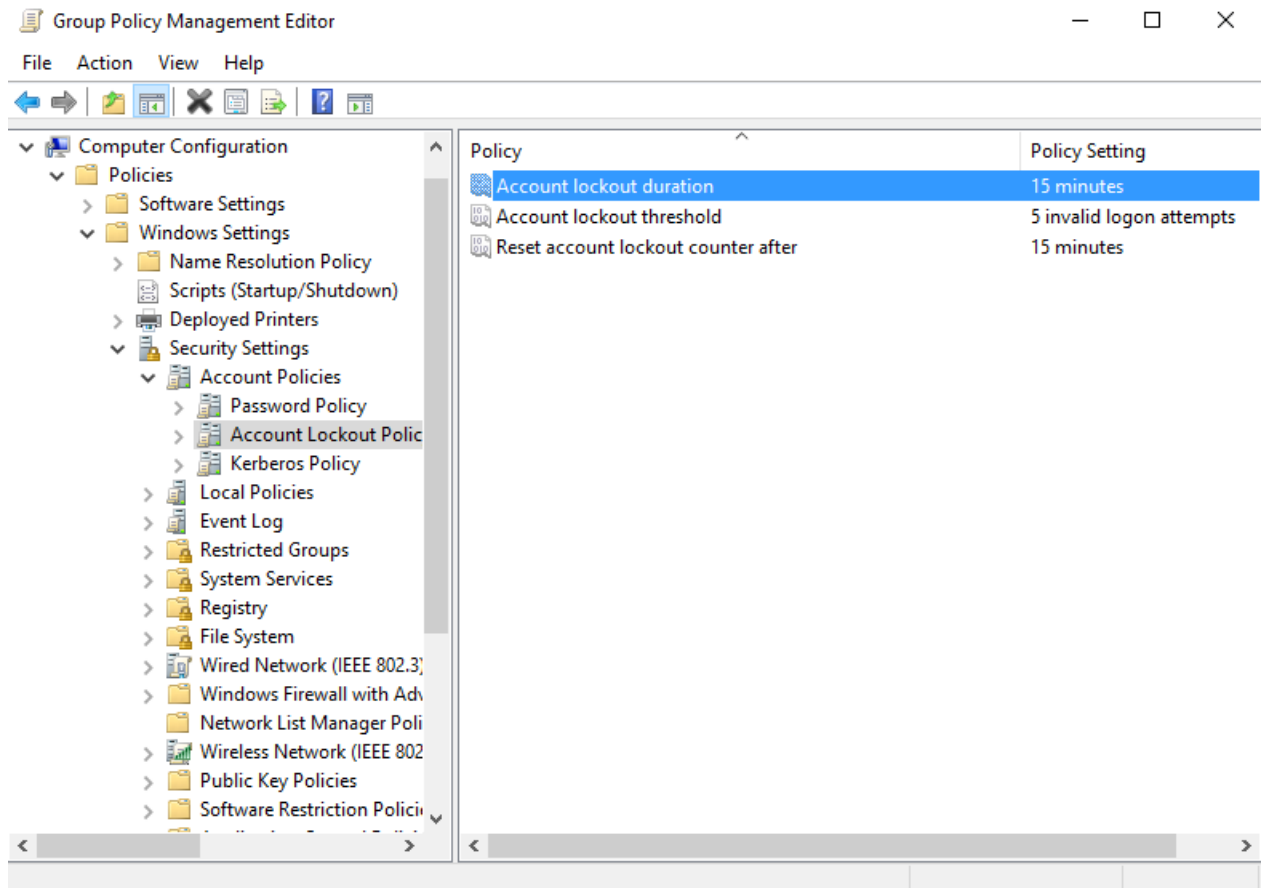


Then, I've Edit that GPO and search for the policy in Computer Configuration → Windows Settings → Security Settings → Account Policies → Account Lockout Policy



Then, set a time for lockout:



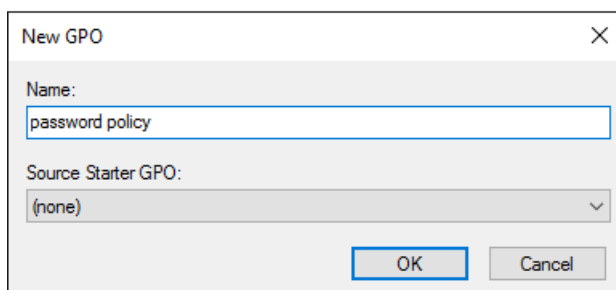


Password Policy

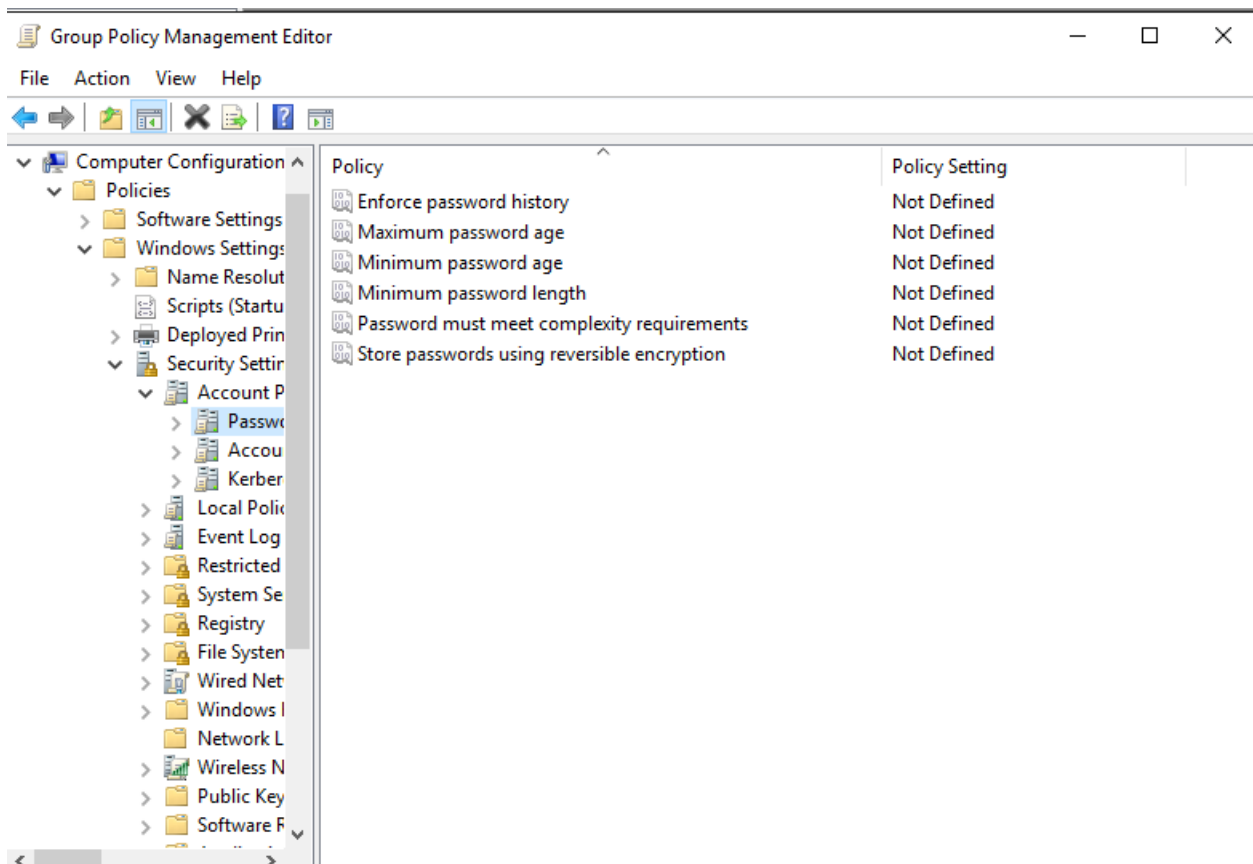
Strong password policies ensure users use **complex and unique** passwords, reducing the risk of easy-to-guess or reused passwords being compromised.

The steps are:

In Group Policy Management, I've created a GPO in domain:

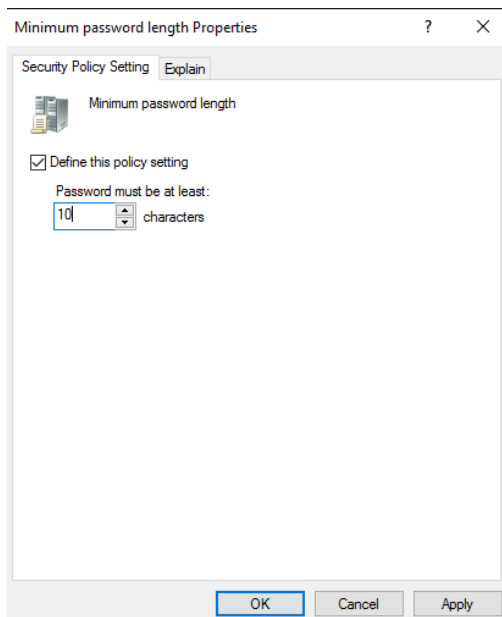


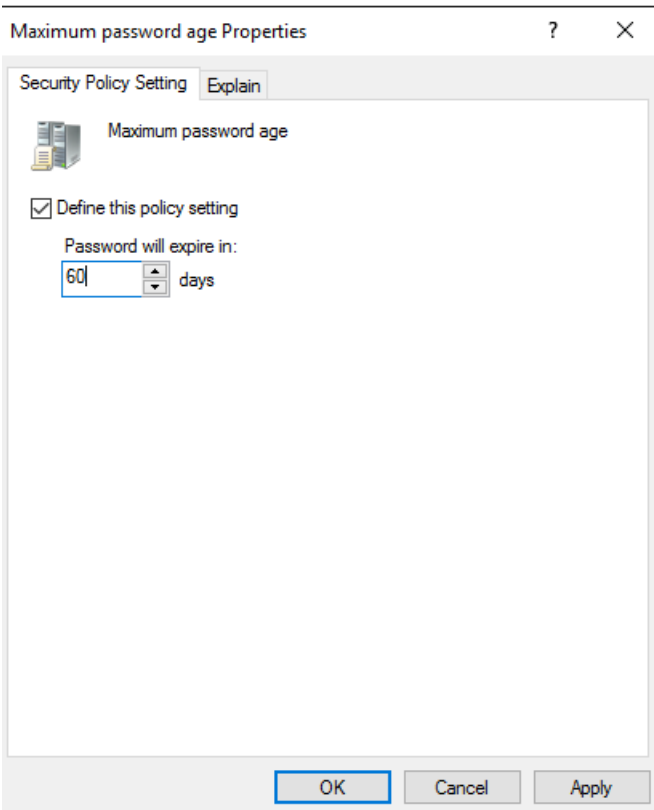
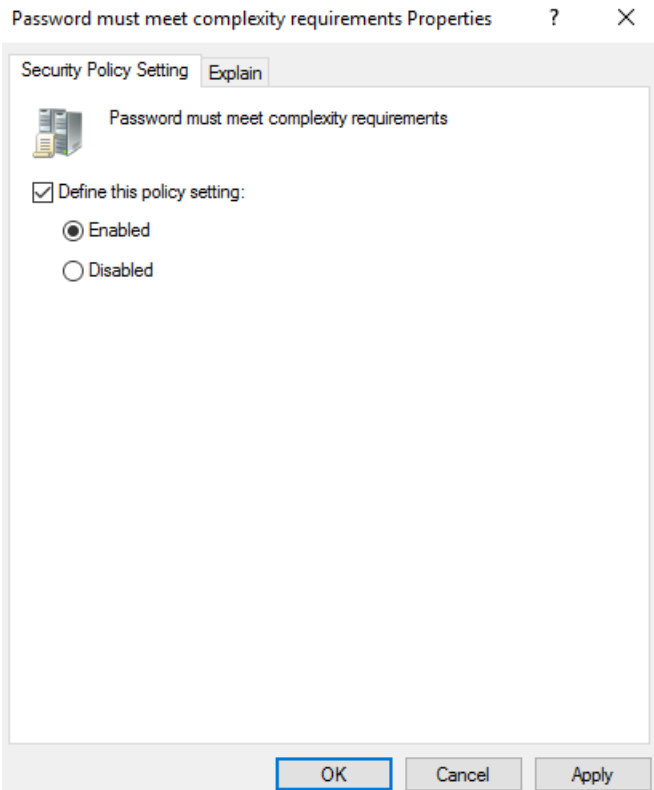
Then, I've Edit that GPO and search for the policy in Computer Configuration → Windows Settings → Security Settings → Account Policies → Password Policy



[Date]


And I've set this configuration:





Enforce password history Properties ? X

Security Policy Setting Explain

 Enforce password history

☒ Define this policy setting


Keep password history for:

10 passwords remembered

OK Cancel Apply

Minimum password age Properties ? X

Security Policy Setting Explain

 Minimum password age

☒ Define this policy setting

Password can be changed after:

1 days

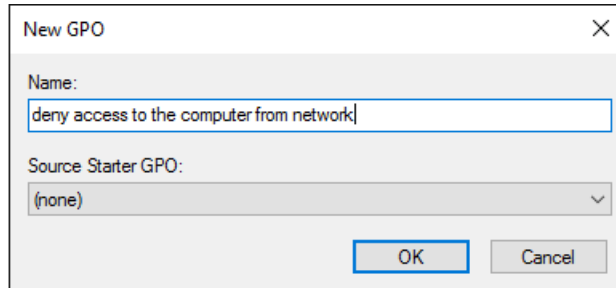
OK Cancel Apply

Deny Access to This Computer from the Network

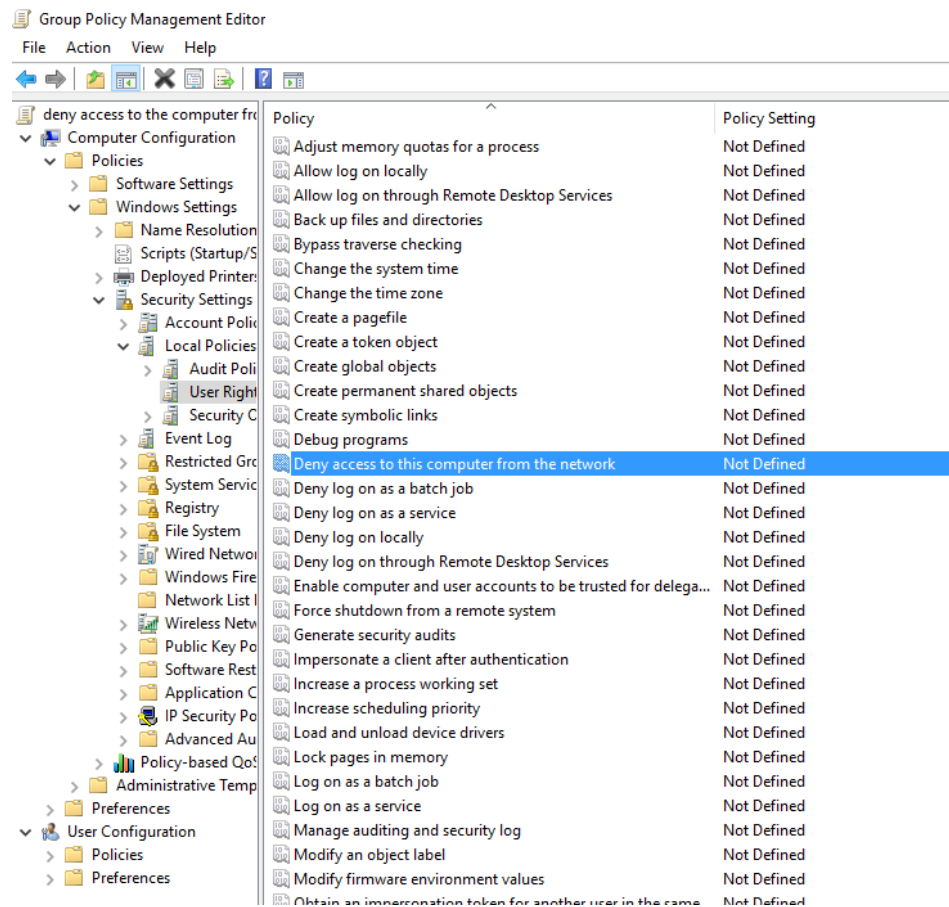
Restricting network access for specific users reduces the **attack surface** and prevents lateral movement inside the network.

The steps is :

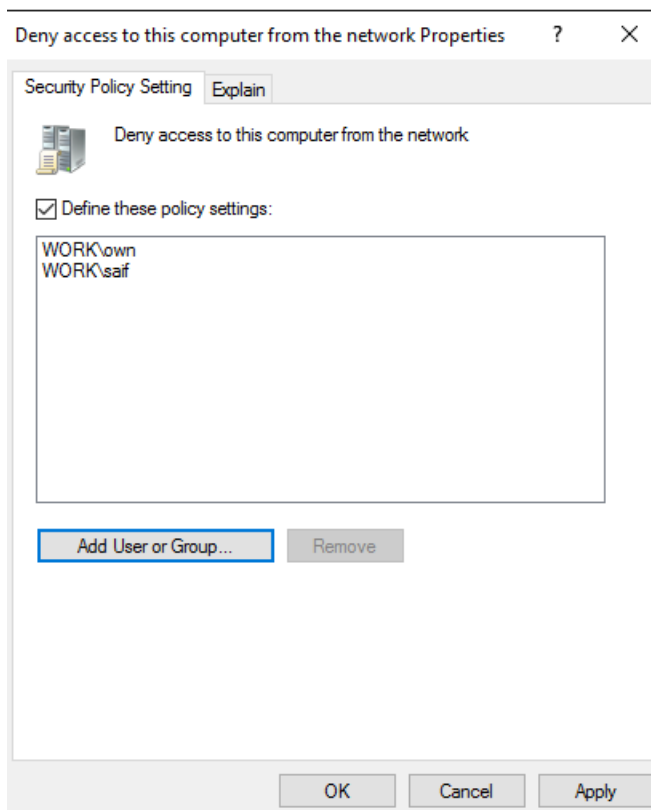
In Group Policy Management, I've created a GPO in domain:



Then, I've Edit that GPO and search for the policy in Computer Configuration → Windows Settings → Security Settings → Local Policies → User Rights Assignment



Then, I've added user form HR into the policy:

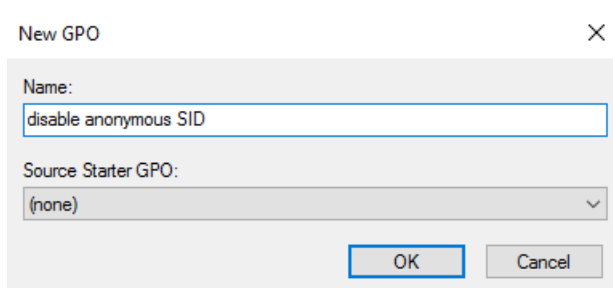


Disable Anonymous SID Enumeration

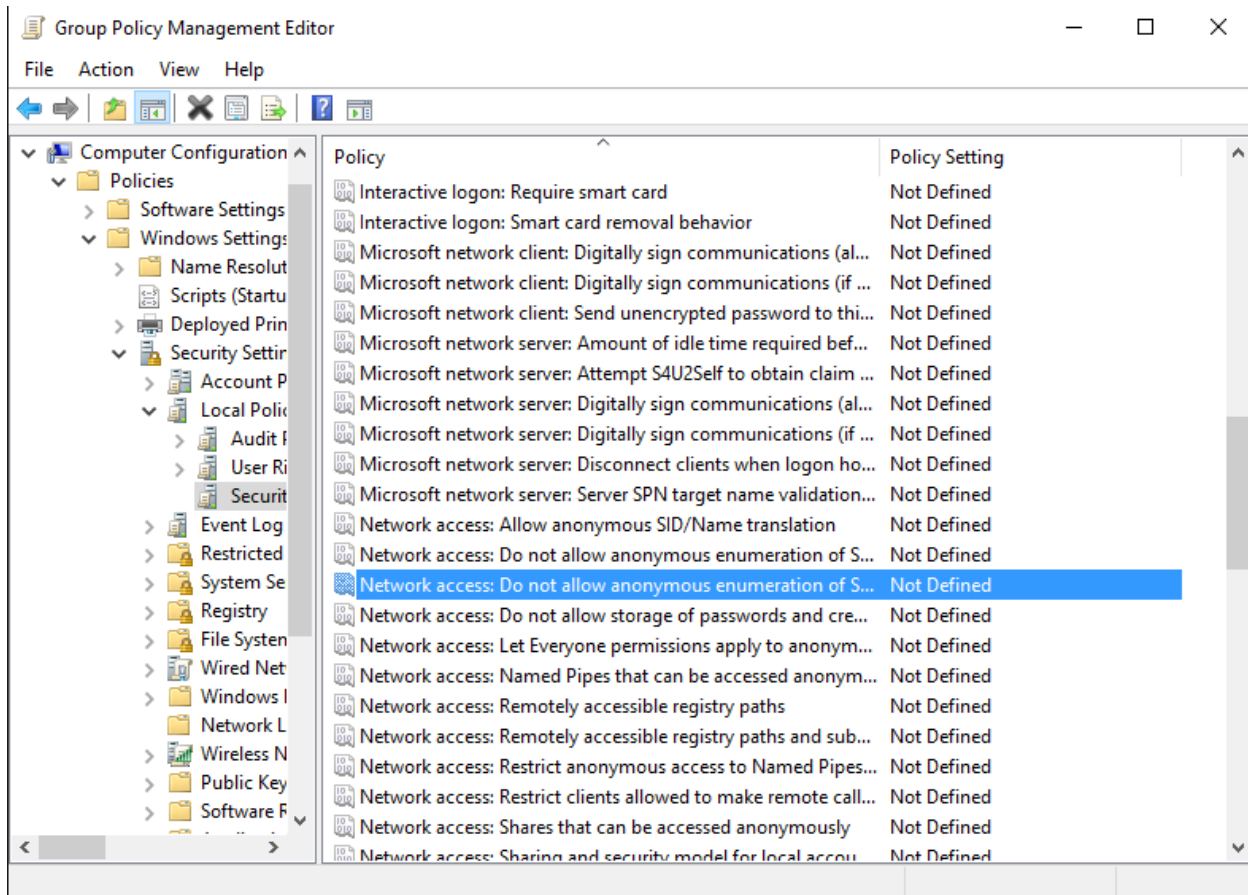
Prevents attackers from anonymously listing **user accounts and shared resources** via SID enumeration.

The steps are:

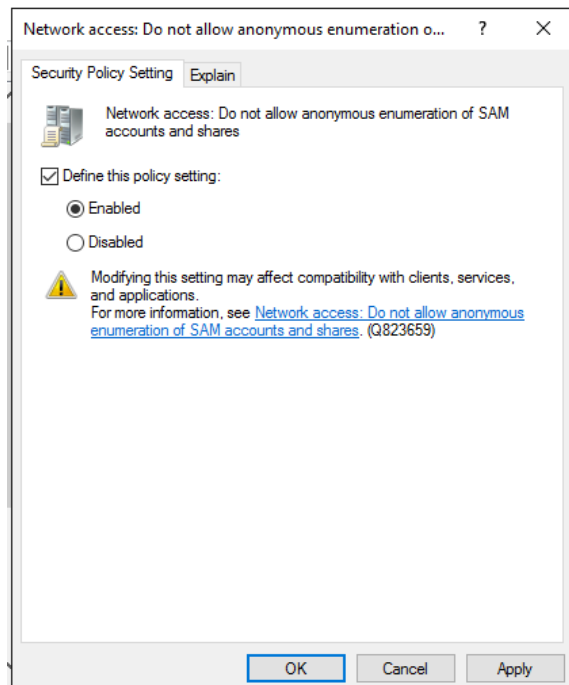
In Group Policy Management, I've created a GPO in domain:



Then, I've Edit that GPO and search for the policy in Computer Configuration → Windows Settings → Security Settings → Local Policies → Security Options



Then, I've enabled it :

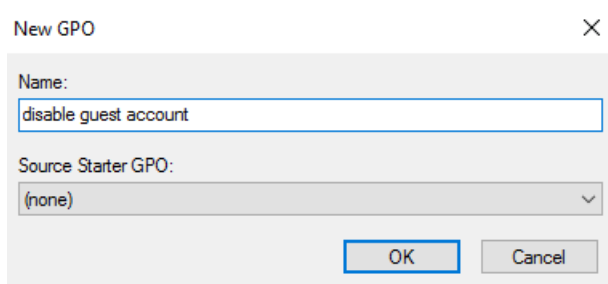


Disable Guest Account

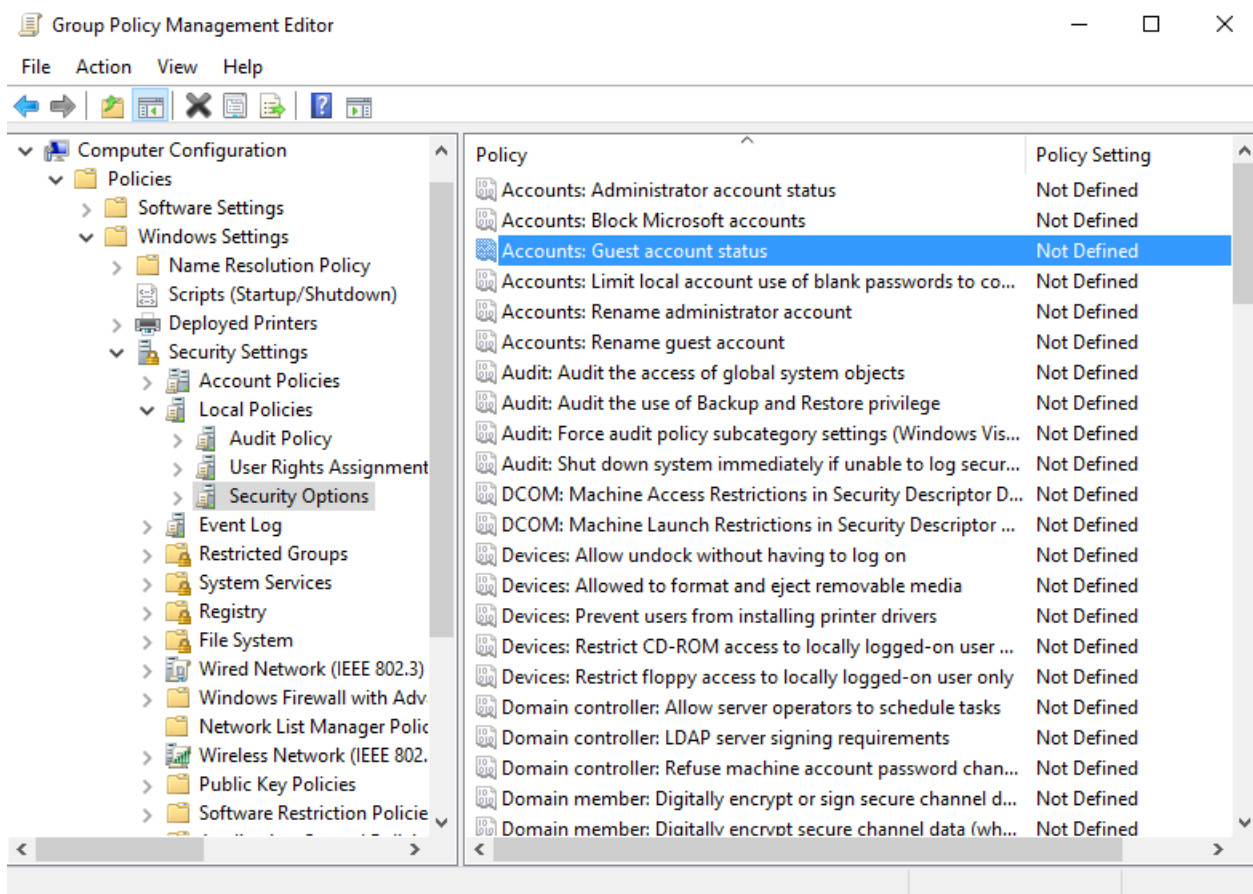
The Guest account is a common target for attackers because it requires no password by default.

The steps is :

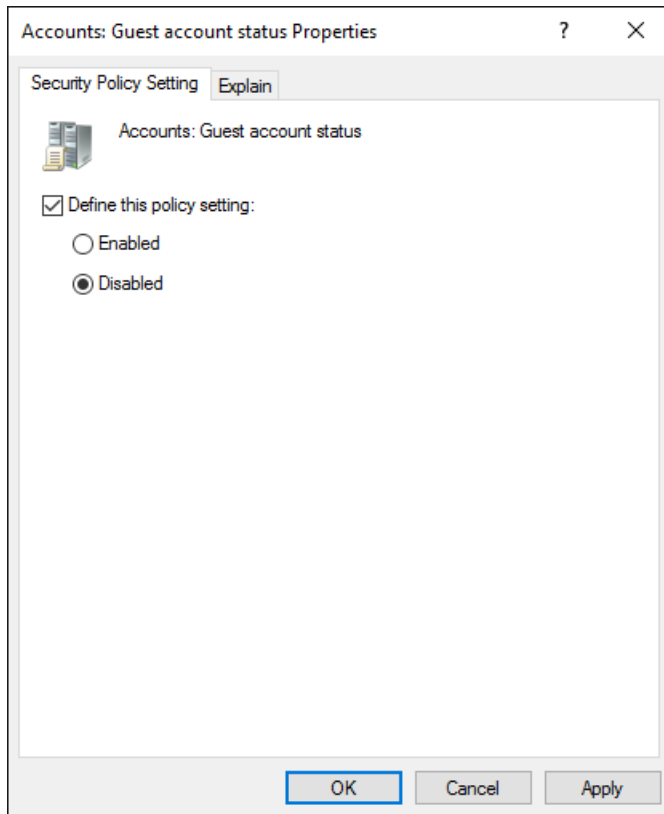
In Group Policy Management, I've created a GPO in domain:



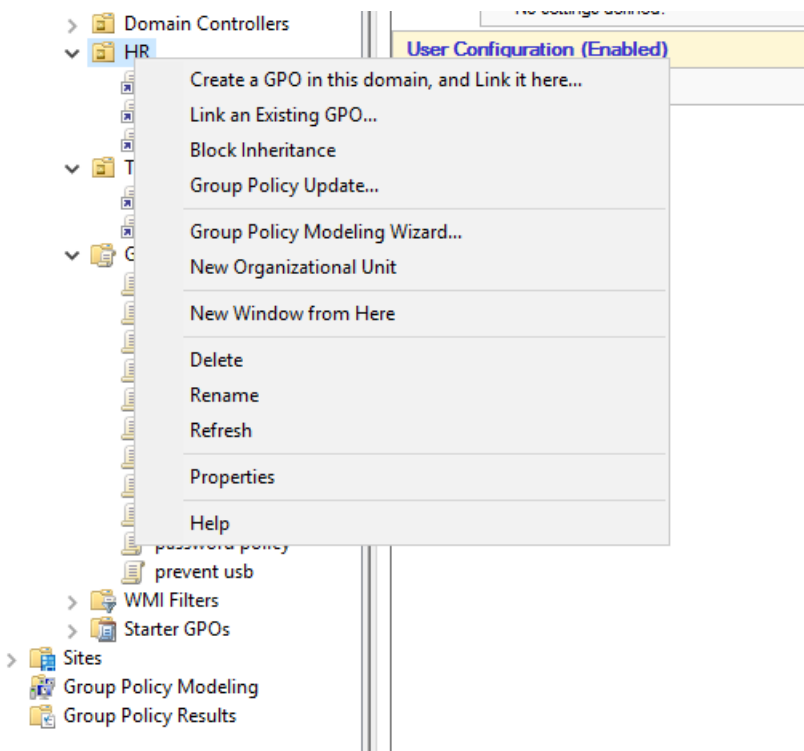
Then, I've Edit that GPO and search for the policy in Computer Configuration → Windows Settings → Security Settings → Local Policies → Security Options



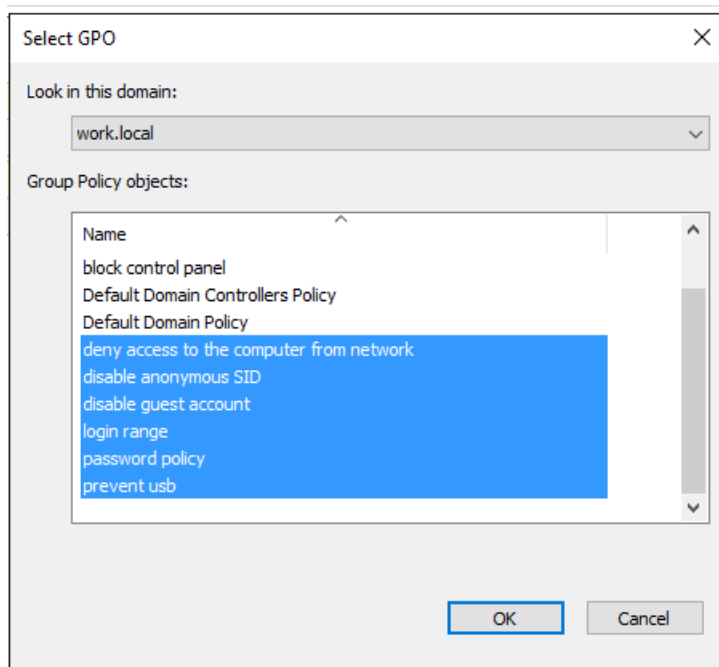
Then, I've disable it:



Finally, I've link an existing GPO of the HR Unit :



Then, I've selected the required policy:



And, this is a list of policies that I've configured it:

