

## How to implement and manage Group Policy on a Domain Controller.

This is a simplified example for use in class. It just gives you some starting points.

- 1) Install GPMC, the Group Policy Management Console.

For Server 2008 go to Server Manager> Features>Add Features> select Group Policy Management.

For Windows XP Pro or Server 2003, you will have to download it from Microsoft.

- 2) If you have not created a desktop Microsoft Management Console, do so now.

Start>Run>MMC. Save as Console on Desktop. This is your “toolbox” where you can add tools.

- 3) Open your MMC toolbox and click on file>Add/Remove Snap-ins and add the Group Policy Management Console snap-in.

Now add the Active Directory Users and Computers snap-in.

You will use these tools often.

- 4) Under Group Policy Management we want to create some default policies.

Here’s how to do that: Group Policy Management>Forest>Domains>our root domain>Group Policy Objects.

- 5) Now if we right click on Group Policy Objects, it opens a dialog box, choose new.

It will name the new GPO “New Group Policy Object” by default. In the next step we will change this to something more meaningful.

- 6) Let’s call it “Screen Saver Policy” and click OK.

It now appears in a list under the GPO. Right click it and choose “edit.”

Now we need to drill down to where we actually make the settings we want.

- 7) Here’s how to get there: User Configuration>Policies>Administrative Templates>Control Panel>Display.

We now see a list of settings that affect the screen saver.

- 8) For this exercise we want to set which screen saver is used, and hide the settings tab.

Double click “Hide Screen Saver Tab” and choose enable. You might want to look at the explain tab to see what this does. Now apply it and move to the next setting.

This one is just called "Screen Saver" and enables you to control it.

Now we need to specify the screen savers executable path and name.

For Windows XP, this is C:\WINDOWS\system32\ssbezier.scr  
(The ssbezier.scr is the actual name of the screen saver I chose.)

Go to next setting and enable password protect the screen saver.

Go to next setting, enable and select 60 seconds for our screensaver to come on.  
(In the real world this might be something like 300 or 600 seconds.)

9) We can close this window as we have now created a screen saver policy.

When you go back to the previous window, click on settings in the right panel.

It will take a few seconds to generate a report then click show all.

You will be able to scroll down and see all of the settings you have made.

10) Now we need to apply this somewhere. We can do so at any level. Here we are going to apply it at the OU level only.

If I select my Organizational Unit (CIS 103) and right click, you will see a "Link existing GPO here"

Click that link then select "Screen Saver Policy" from the box that pops up then OK.

11) Congratulations. You have just created a Group Policy Object and linked it to a single OU.

If you have a Windows XP Pro client joined to that domain, in 60 seconds the Bezier screen saver should come on. Let it run a few seconds and hit any key. It should prompt you for a password to let you back in.

12) Now right click on the desk top, choose properties and take a look. The "Screen Saver" tab is gone so the users can't change it.