

Deployment Guide

BLOCKBOX DISCOVERY APPLIANCE

REV 2.2, JAN 2018

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Introduction

The BlockBox Appliance is a hardened Linux virtual appliance with an on-board web server designed to provide a richly detailed but easy to understand portrait of your IT environment.

The information capture elements of the BlockBox are designed to capture an exhaustive and accurate inventory of all endpoints - be they Windows PCs and Servers, Linux or Solaris systems, OSX devices, SNMP-enabled Layer 2 & Layer 3 devices, or even mobile devices connected to your wireless network.

The on-board reporting provided by the BlockBox is designed to be easy to use, to require the fewest clicks possible, and to answer key questions about the hardware and software present in your environment.

Requirements

For the BlockBox appliance to function properly, there are some 'must haves' that should be taken care of out of the gate.

Networking Requirements:

First off - you or someone with the appropriate access will need to provide a list of the appropriate subnet(s) to put into scope to 'see' all devices on the network(s)

- To function properly and be able to access and communicate with your entire environment, the BlockBox must be on a network segment that can route to any and all other segments. If there are unique ACLs on your routers or switches, they must allow the discovery appliance to communicate through to your endpoints.
- Access from the appliance through any network firewalls, intrusion prevention systems or endpoint protection. See Network Security Requirements below.

Network Security Requirements

Certain features of the appliance require a small amount of pre-work. We have endeavoured to create a platform that required zero client footprint - no agents, and no leave-behinds on your endpoints. To make that possible however, we require the ability to remotely administer these endpoints. Luckily, this is easily accomplished, and is a one-time effort.

The salient points are as follows:

- Network-based firewalls or Intrusion Prevention systems must allow communication from the appliance to your endpoints.

- Local firewalls or Endpoint Protection applications must also allow for communication from the appliance.
- The simplest method to ensure connectivity through your Endpoint Protection product, is to add a firewall and/or complete exception from the appliance's IP address to all endpoints over all ports and through all protections.
- Windows Inventory **processes typically communicate over** TCP ports 135, 139 and 445 (WMI, RPC, SMB) **and** UDP ports 137 and 138 (NetBIOS). **Windows Inventory communicates over those ports using the following "services":**
 - WMI
 - Remote Procedure Calls (RPC)
 - SMB (CIFS)

To ensure these services respond to our inventory, please refer to Appendix 1.2 – Allowing Inventory services using Group Policy...
- OSX, Linux and Solaris Inventory **processes are carried out over SSH (TCP port 22)**
- SNMP Inventory **processes are carried out over UDP ports 161 and/or 162**
- VMware vCenter Inventory **process are carried out over HTTPS (TCP port 443)**

Windows Inventory Requirements:

- Administrator credentials with **both domain and local** administrator access for inventorying Windows machines. Typically, domain administrators have local administrator rights out of the gate, but if this is not the case in your environment, and you are not sure how to grant local administrator rights to a set of domain administrator credentials, please see Appendix 1.1: Granting A Domain User Local Administrative Rights
- Access through any local firewalls or endpoint protection systems to, at minimum, TCP ports 135, 139 and 445 (WMI, RPC and SMB) and UDP ports 135 and 139. **See Network Security Requirements above.**
- Additional Windows firewall exceptions may need to be set using Group Policy. See Appendix 1.2 - **Windows Firewall...**

Apple OSX Inventory Requirements:

- OSX Administrator credentials for inventorying OSX machines
- SSH management must be enabled on the endpoint
- Access through any local firewalls or endpoint protection systems using TCP port 22 (SSH). **See Network Security Requirements above.**

Linux/Solaris Inventory Requirements:

- Credentials that can access the following resources for *nix systems:
 - Files in `/proc/`
 - `dmidecode` (ideal)
- Credentials that can access the following resources for Solaris systems:
 - `/usr/sbin/psrinfo`
 - `/usr/sbin/prtconf`
 - `/usr/sbin/smbios` (or `eeprom` or `sneep`)
- Access through any local firewalls or endpoint protection systems using TCP port 22 (SSH). See Network Security Requirements above.

VMware Inventory Requirements:

- vCenter SSO domain credentials in UPN format e.g. administrator@sso.mydomain.local
 - These credentials can also be Windows domain credentials.
- Access through any local firewalls or endpoint protection systems using TCP port 443 (HTTPS). See Network Security Requirements above.

SNMP Inventory Requirements:

- SNMP v1 or v2c read-only community strings
- SNMP v3 credentials for inventorying the network devices. These would include:
 - Username
 - Password
 - Context
 - Security level
 - Authentication and encryption protocols
 - Encryption key
- Access through any local firewalls or endpoint protection systems using UDP ports 161 and 162. See Network Security Requirements above.

Information Collection

The BlockBox can collect an inventory of all devices on the network, though if you have an alternate solution already collecting this data, you can simply choose to not enable the Inventory functions of the BlockBox, and import flatfiles of your existing inventory yourself in the 'Utilities' section of the BlockBox GUI.

Should you use the BlockBox to collect an inventory of your environment, information is collected in the following fashion:

Scanning

First, a list of viable targets is generated via a multi-level scan of the environment. This has been engineered to have the lowest impact to the network possible. First, a list of possible targets is gathered by conducting a scan of provided subnets via TCP SYN requests. The results of these scans are combined and used as a list of viable targets within the environment.

Fingerprinting

Optionally, and recommended on all but the most fragile of networks, further information can be collected about the devices that have been uncovered without a full-blown inventory being conducted, via OS fingerprinting. This is carried out by investigating the manner in which the device responds to a small number of TCP and UDP probes over a period of a few milliseconds. This can be disabled if chosen.

Inventory

Once a possible candidate for inventory has been detected and validated, an inventory of that endpoint can be optionally carried out. For Windows and OSX machines, a full list of installed software, as well as the hardware specifications and serial numbers of the machines are gathered. For SNMP devices (such as printers, switches, routers, and firewalls), the full complement of MIBs is dumped, and information such as manufacturer, model, serial number, etc. is gathered. For Linux, Unix, Solaris and similar variants, hardware information, package lists, and certain files pertaining to software installations are gathered.

Reporting

Almost of your interactions with the BlockBox will take place through a browser. We hope you'll find the reports provided useful in gaining a quick and easy understanding of what you have - and more importantly, what you need to know about it. But first, you'll need to configure the appliance for your unique environment.

Initial Setup

Console Setup

First things first! Hopefully by now you have downloaded a copy of the virtual appliance and deployed it on your chosen virtualization platform, and have an IP Address handy that you can assign to the appliance. The first job you'll have is to, from the console, log into the device:

```
blockbox login: _
```

The login and the password are both by default 'blockbox', though you will be asked to change this upon your first login. After you've successfully logged in, simply type './config' at the prompt to configure the network:

```
blockbox@blockbox:~$ _ ./config
```

You will be asked to supply the desired netmask, gateway, ip address, DNS servers and DNS suffixes for the appliance:

```
Configuring BlockBox for first use!
```

```
Please enter the Netmask associated with this appliance: [255.255.255.0]
255.255.255.0
```

```
Please enter the gateway associated with this appliance: [xxx.xxx.x.x]
192.168.1.1
```

```
Please enter the IP Address assigned to this appliance: [xxx.xxx.x.xx]
192.168.1.96
```

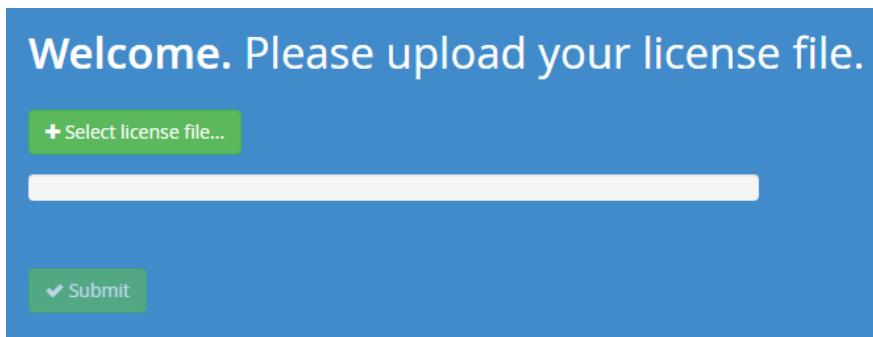
```
Please enter your Domain Name Server(s) (DNS) assigned to this appliance.
Please separate each DNS with a space: [8.8.8.8 9.9.9.9]
```

```
Please enter your Domain Suffix(es) (DNS) assigned to this appliance
. Please separate each suffix with a space: [domain.local
subdomain.domain.local]
```

```
Changes Applied. Please reset the appliance to continue.
```

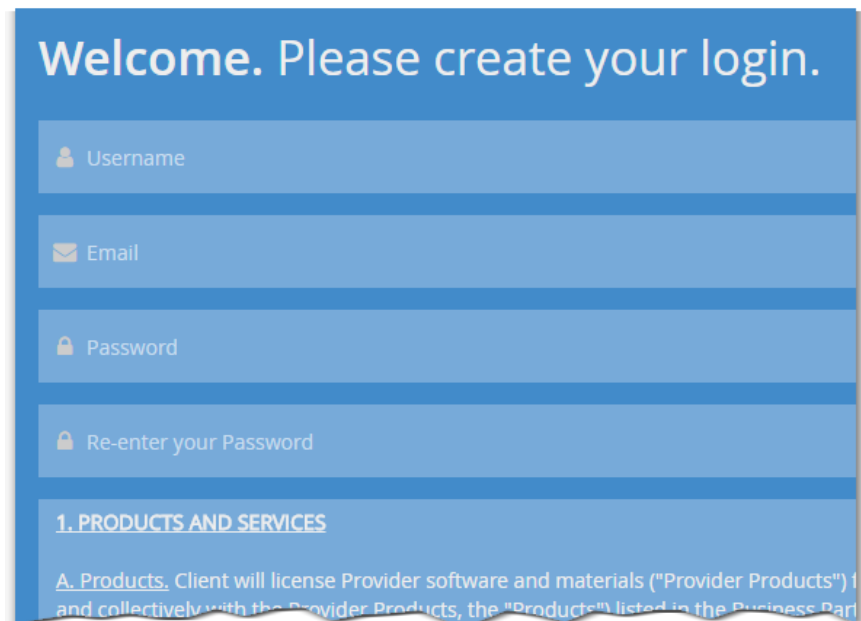
Web UI Setup

After configuring the device IP address and resetting the device, you should be able to navigate via browser to the GUI for further configuration. **Make sure to use 'https' as the IP prefix.** You may want to bookmark this page for easy re-visiting once you've arrived. The first screen you see should be like this:



You should have received a license file ("license.dat") that you can upload using the browser interface. If you haven't, contact your representative and we'll get you sorted out right away!

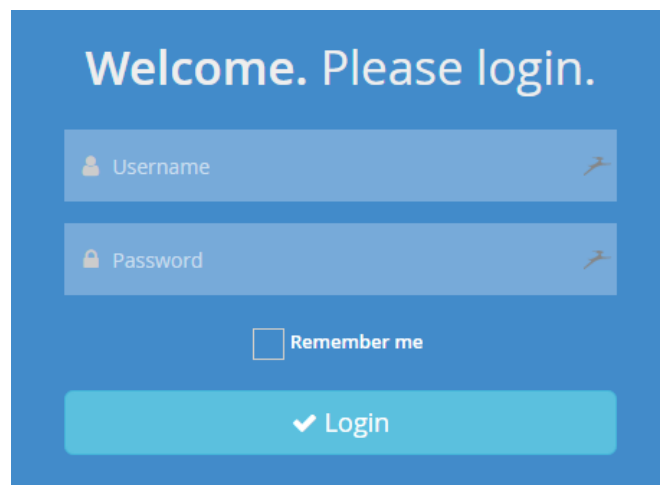
From here, you'll want to input the credentials you plan to use with the appliance. Make sure you write them down or keep them on hand somewhere!



1. PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

A. Products. Client will license Provider software and materials ("Provider Products") and collectively with the Provider Products, the "Products" listed in the Business Part

Once created, you be dropped into the login page. Use the credentials you just created to authenticate, and you're on to the configuration wizard!

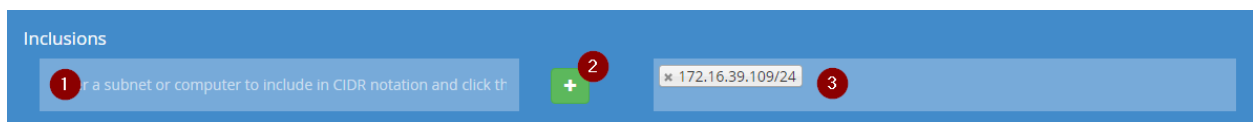


Configuration Wizard

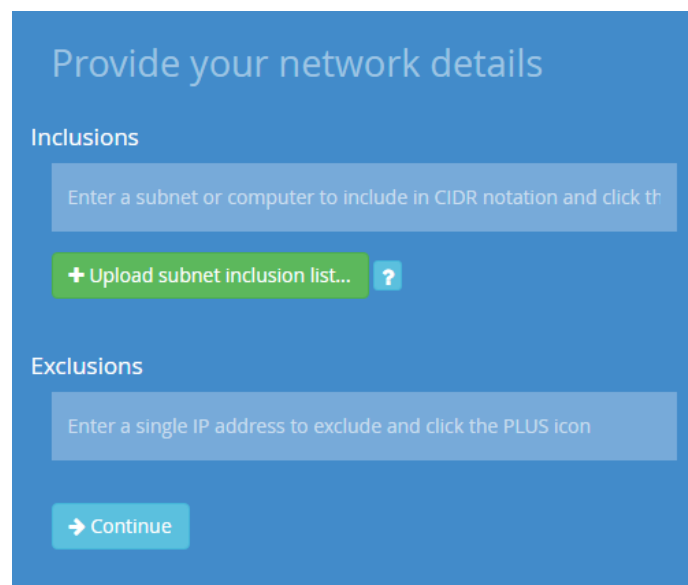
You should be directed to the "Configuration Wizard" on first landing.

Note: The rule of thumb for entering data into most fields in the Configuration Wizard, is to:

1. Enter the value in the field at left
2. *Click the + (plus) sign to...*
3. ...transfer that value to the field at right



Configuration Wizard: Network



Inclusions

You will first enter in the network subnets intended for inclusion in the scanning process.

Note that the ideal is to enter the smallest possible subnets that cover all of your endpoints. So while your LAN may be using a class A network (10.x.x.x/8), unless you have millions of endpoints (!), you should consider entering some more logical subnets into the appliance's scanning ranges.

Desired Range	Proper CIDR Notation	# of Possible Hosts
192.168.1.1	192.168.1.1/32	1
192.168.1.0-255	192.168.1.0/24	256
172.16.0-255.0-255	172.16.0.0/16	65,536
10.0-255.0-255.0-255	10.0.0.0/8	16,777,216

Exclusions

Enter any individual IP addresses that you would prefer to be excluded from scans or inventories. (Examples of these may be ER systems in health care organizations or reactor systems in energy organizations)

Configuration Wizard: Scanning

Please enter your scanning settings

Start Scanning Immediately? * Yes No

[← Back](#) [→ Continue](#)

Here you can opt to start scanning immediately (highly recommended) or postpone the scan to a later time.

Configuration Wizard: Inventory

Please enter your inventory settings

Inventory the following OS* * Windows Linux/UNIX/Solaris Mac OSX VMWare vSphere / ESX SNMP

Enable OS Fingerprinting Enabled Disabled

Windows server or desktop:
To accurately test your Windows credentials we need the IP address of a Windows desktop or server (that is not a domain controller) entered here.

Enter an IP address of a non-DC Windows server and click the PLUS

Windows domain controllers:

Enter an IP address of a Domain Controller and click the PLUS icon

VMWare vCenter servers or ESX(i) hosts:

Enter an IP address of a vCenter server or ESX(i) host and click the I

Inventory the following OS'

You can enable or disable the inventory of Windows, Linux/UNIX/Solaris, OSX, VMware and/or SNMP devices.

Enable OS Fingerprinting

Immediately prior to inventory, we can use our OS fingerprinting technology to determine a device's type, making it easier for us to target a style of inventory.

Windows Server or Desktop

Enter a Windows server or workstation IP address here that is not a domain controller.

The purpose here is for checking local administrator privileges once we have entered some credentials in the Security tab of the wizard.

Windows Domain Controllers

Enter the IP address(es) of your domain controller(s) that are as close to the top of your Active Directory forest as possible.

VMware vCenter server or ESX(i) hosts

Enter the IP address of your vCenter server. If you do not have a vCenter server, enter the IP addresses of your virtual hosts.

Configuration Wizard: Security

The screenshot shows the 'Configuration Wizard: Security' interface. It features three main sections for adding credentials:

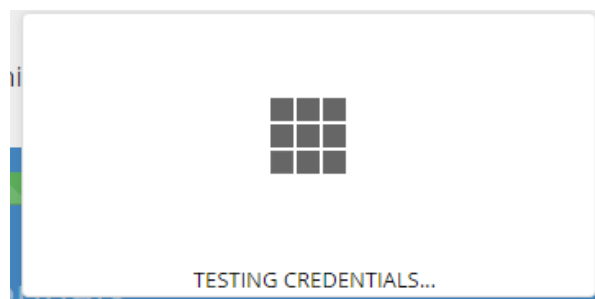
- Add some administrative credentials:** Includes fields for 'Type of Credential' (Windows), 'Domain' (Domain), 'Username' (Add a username), and 'Password' (Password), with a green '+' button.
- Add some database credentials:** Includes fields for 'Type of Database' (Oracle DB), 'Domain' (Domain), 'Username' (Add a username), and 'Password' (Password), with a green '+' button.
- Add an SNMP community or credential:** Includes fields for 'Version' (v1), 'Community' (Community), 'Username' (Username), 'Security' (No Authn), 'Authentication' (None), 'Password' (Passw), 'Encryption' (None), and 'Enc. Key' (Privat), with a green '+' button.

At the bottom, there are 'Back' and 'Continue' buttons.

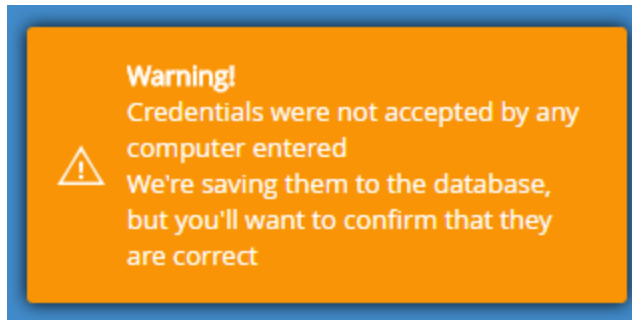
Here you will enter your OS administrative credentials, Oracle database credentials and/or SNMP community strings or SNMPv3 credentials.

Administrative credentials:

As you enter your credential sets, and click the + sign, in the case of Windows and VMware credentials, we will try and test those credentials against the systems entered under the Inventory tab.



In the case where we are unable to authenticate the credentials against those systems, you will receive the following notice:



As noted, we would recommend that you ensure the credentials were entered correctly, or that the systems entered in the `Inventory` tab would be able to authenticate them properly.

Database Credentials:

Primarily designed to take in Oracle Database credentials.

SNMP Credentials:

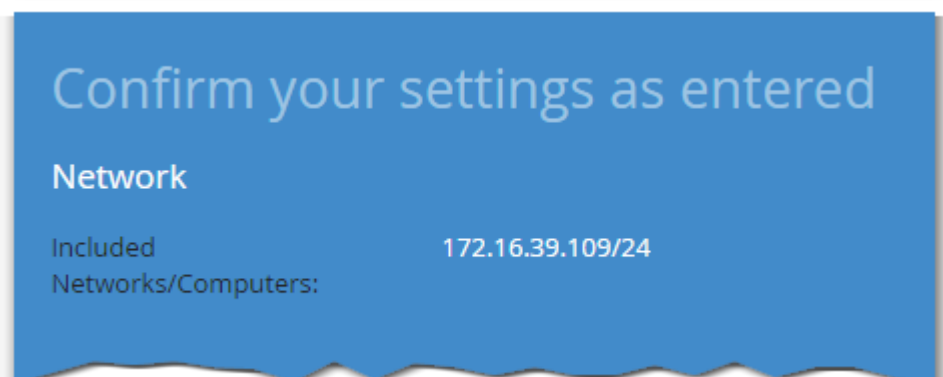
For v1 or v2c SNMP credentials, enter your community string.

For v3 SNMP credentials, you will need to enter:

- Username
- Password
- Context
- Security level
- Authentication and encryption protocols
- Encryption key

Configuration Wizard: Confirmation

You're all set! Check that the desired settings have been entered and click the `Submit` button.



From here you will be taken to the Status screen which will display how your scanning and inventory processes are proceeding.

That's Just About It!

There should be nothing to do at this point but sit back and let the tool do its work. Within 10-15 minutes, you should begin to see devices showing up in the 'Discovery Status' report.

Should you have any questions, concerns or require assistance of any kind, please contact info@block64.com and we will be back to you post haste!

Appendix 1.1: Granting A Domain User Local Administrative Rights

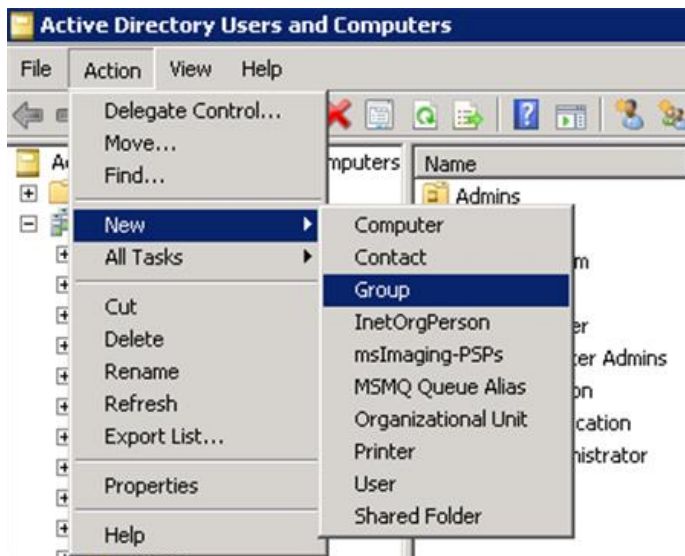
(From <https://social.technet.microsoft.com/wiki/contents/articles/7833.how-to-make-a-domain-user-the-local-administrator-for-all-pcs.aspx>):

Step 1 : Creating a Security Group

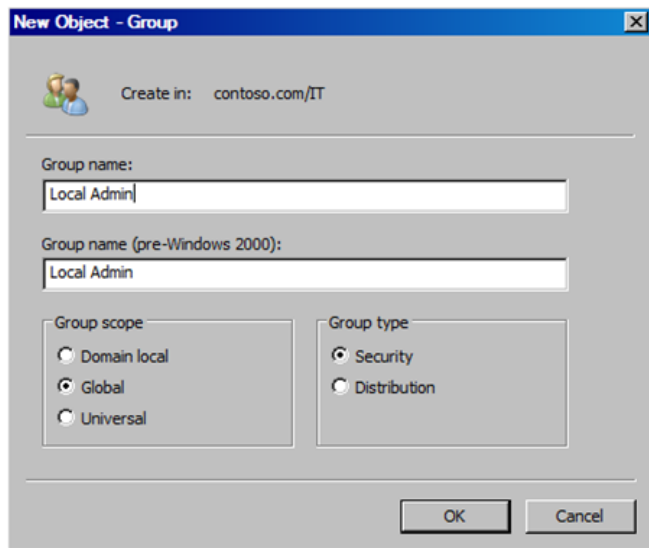
First you need to create a security group called Local Admin

Log onto a Domain Controller, open Active Directory Users and Computers (**dsa.msc**)

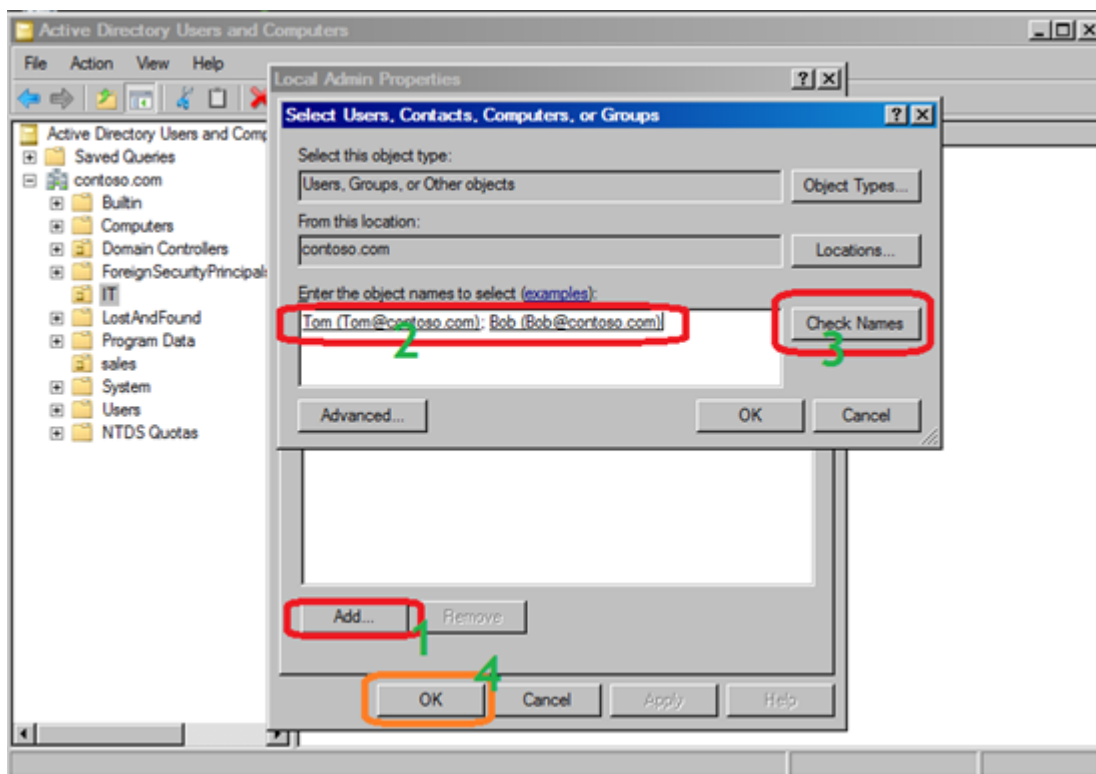
Create a security Group name it Local Admin. From the top menu, select Action | New | Group



Name the group '**Local Admin**'.



Add the Help Desk members to Local Admin group. I will add two users say Tom and Bob.

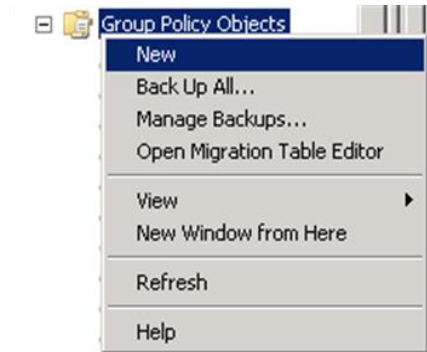


Step 2: Create Group Policy.

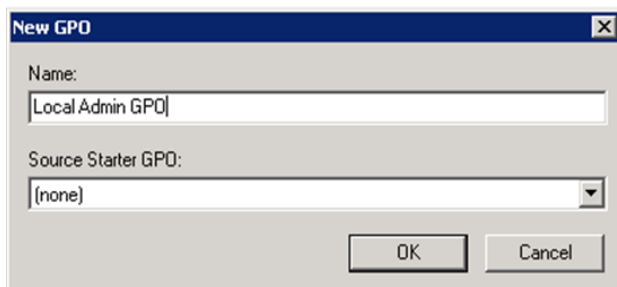
Next you need to create a group policy called "Local Admin GPO"

Open Group Policy Management Console (`gpmc.msc`)

Right click on Group Policy Objects and select New.



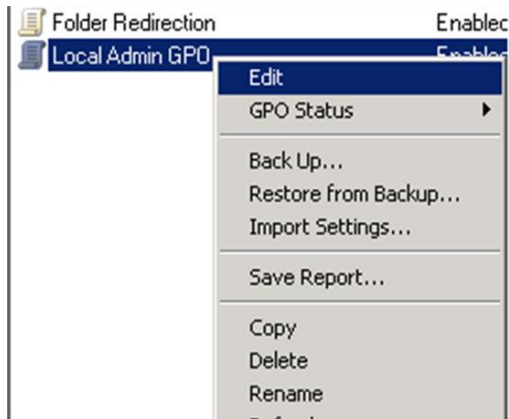
Type the name of the policy "Local Admin GPO"



Step 3: Configure the policy to add the “Local Admin” group as Administrators

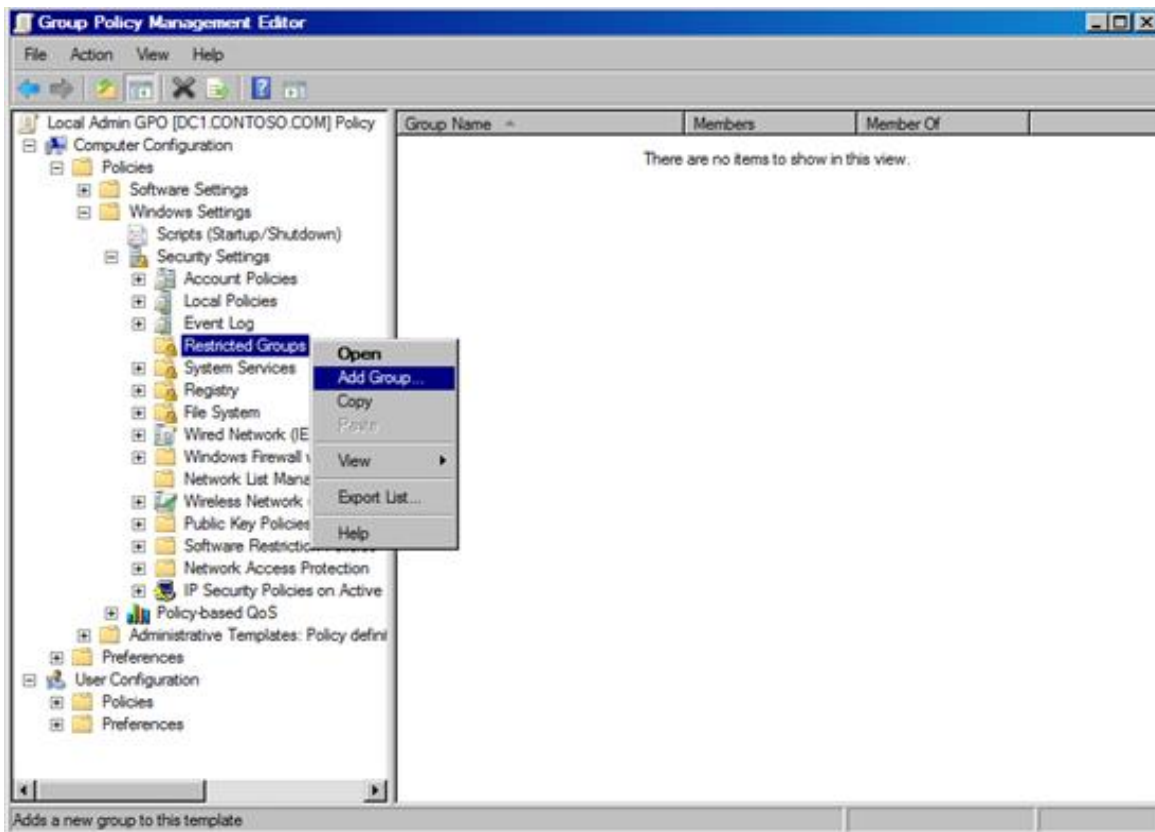
Here you will add the Local Admin group to the Local Admin GPO policy and put them in the groups you wish them to use.

Right click “Local Admin GPO” Policy then select Edit.

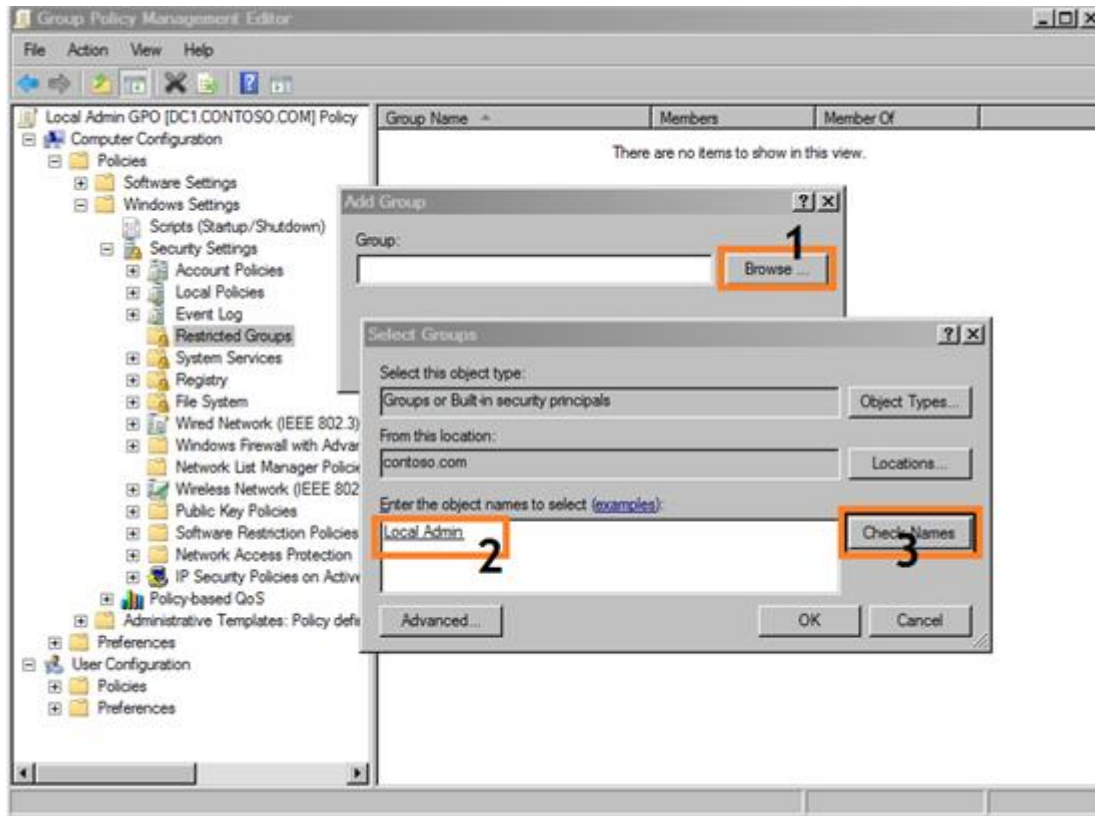


Expand Computer configuration\Policies\Windows Settings\Security Settings\Restricted Groups

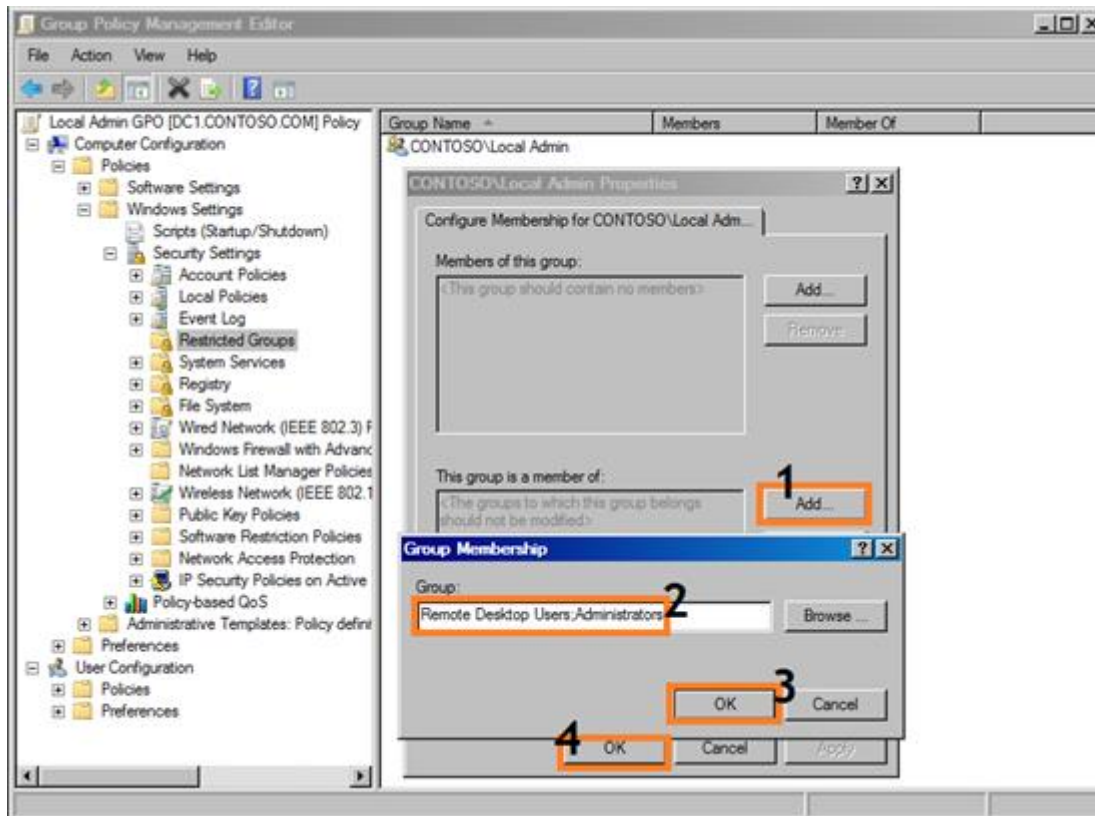
In the Left pane on Restricted Groups, Right Click and select “Add Group”



In the Add Group dialog box, select browse and type Local Admin and then click “Check Names”



Click OK twice to close the dialog box.



Click Add under “This group is a member of.”

Add the “Administrators” Group.

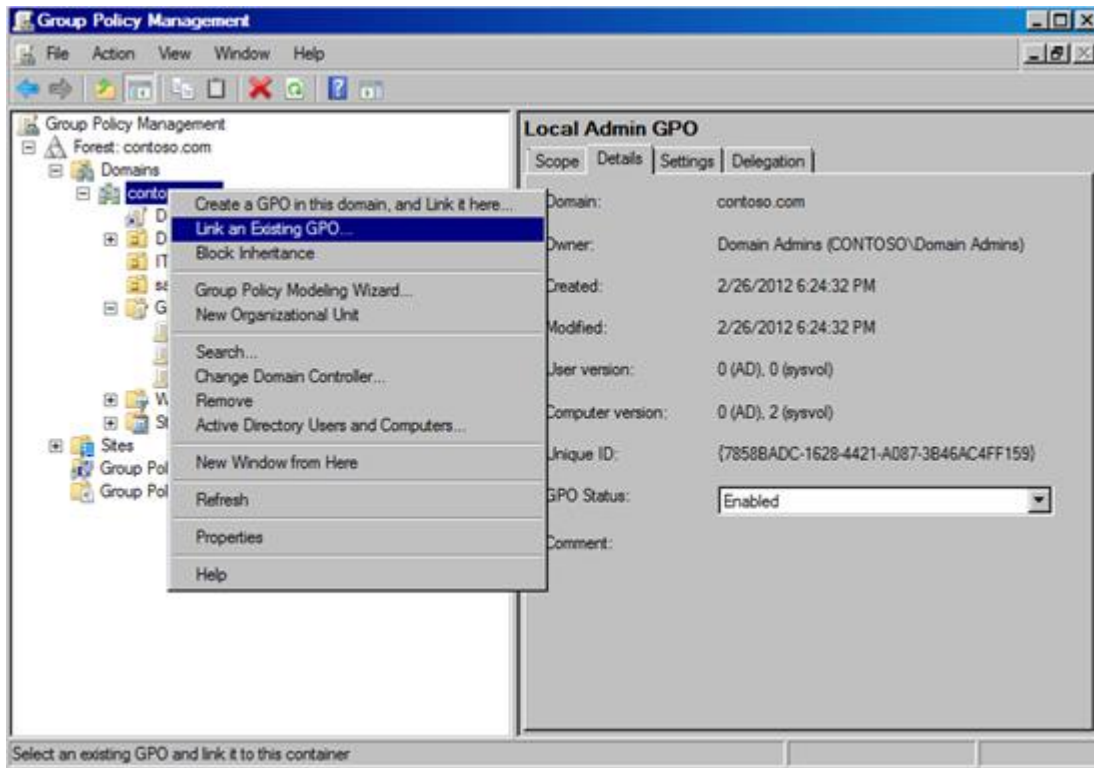
Add “Remote Desktop Users”

Click OK twice

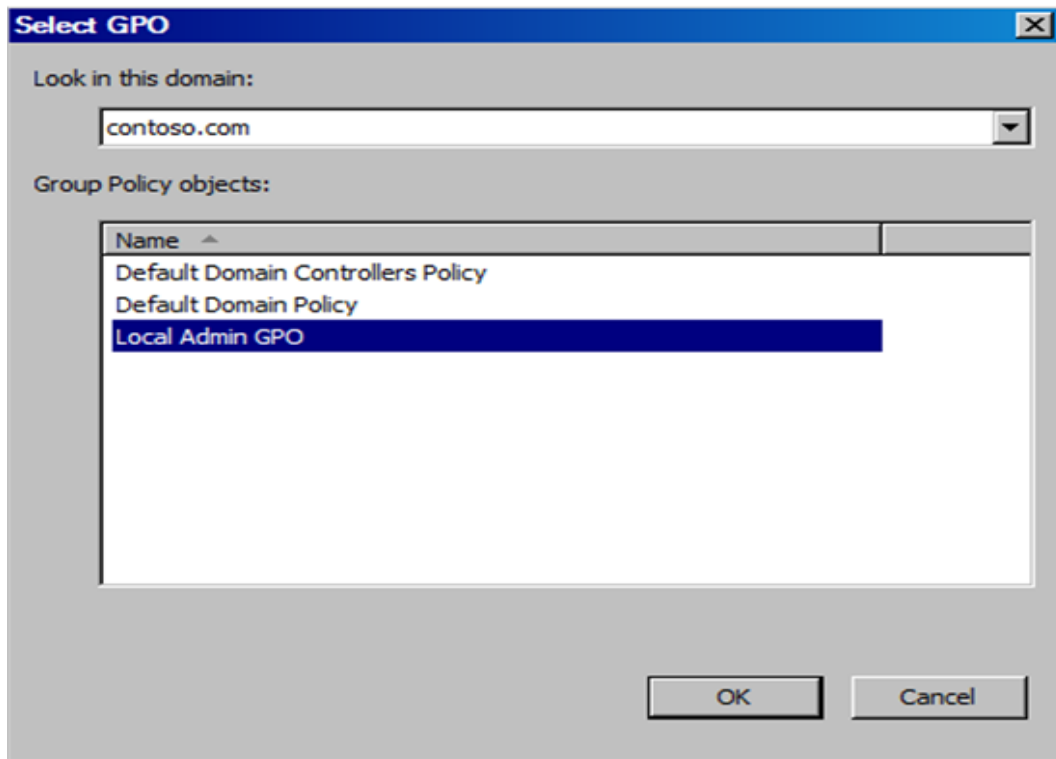
Note: When adding groups, you can add whatever you want, the GPO will match the group on the system, if you type “Admins” it will match a local group called Admins if it exists and put “Local Admin” in that group.

Step 4: Linking GPO

In Group policy management console, right click on the domain or the OU and select Link an Existing GPO



Select the Local Admin GPO



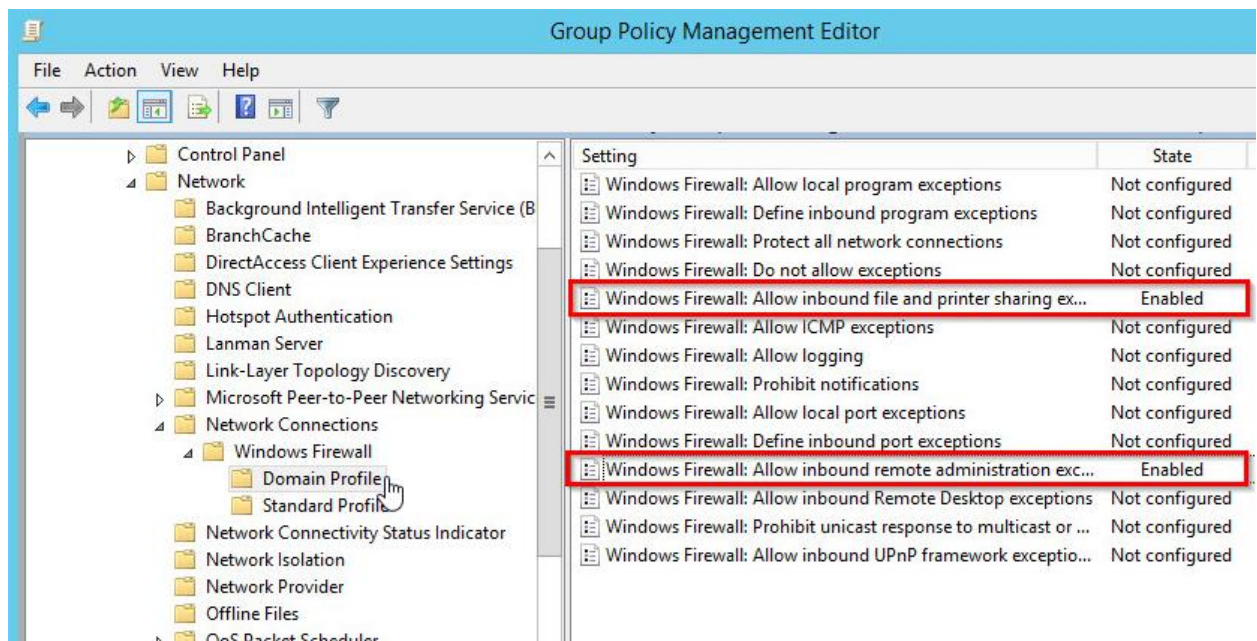
Step 5: Testing GPOs

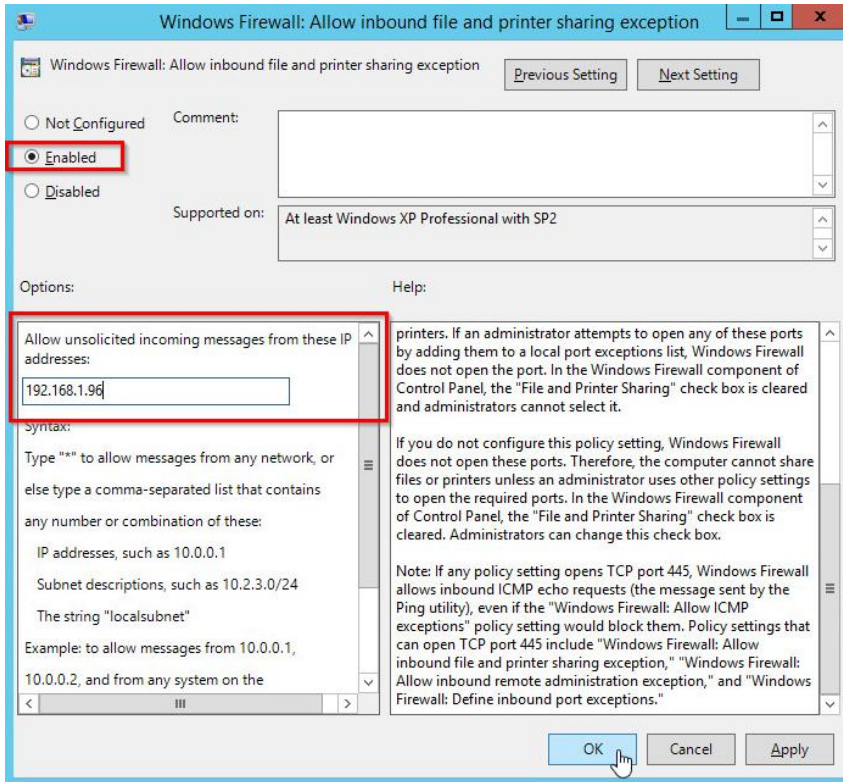
Log on to a PC which is join to the domain and then run `gpupdate /force` and check the local administrators group. You should see Local Admin in that group now. Make sure all PCs you want to access should be move to an OU and properly link above GPO. Tom and Bob domain users can now access all PCs remotely as a local administrator.

Appendix 1.2: Allowing Inventory services using Group Policy

The Windows Inventory functions of our technology require the ability to remotely access 'File and Printer Sharing' services, 'WMI' and 'Remote Administration'. This is what allows our solution to remain agentless - luckily, the steps to allow access to these services can be easily enabled through Group Policy:

1. Using the Group Policy Management console, create a new Group Policy Object (GPO) called BlockBox (for example) and then Edit that GPO
2. In the new GPO, navigate to Computer Configuration > Policies > Administrative Templates > Network > Network Connections > Windows Firewall > Domain Profile
If you do not have this entry, and/or are working with legacy Domain Controllers (Windows 2008R2 or older), go to step 4 below.
3. You should then enable the Allow inbound file and printer sharing exception and Allow inbound remote administration exception rules for the discovery appliance's IP address.





That's it! The following steps are only for Windows 2008R2 or older.

4. **Navigate to** Computer Configuration > Policies > Security Settings > Windows Firewall with Advanced Security > Inbound Rules

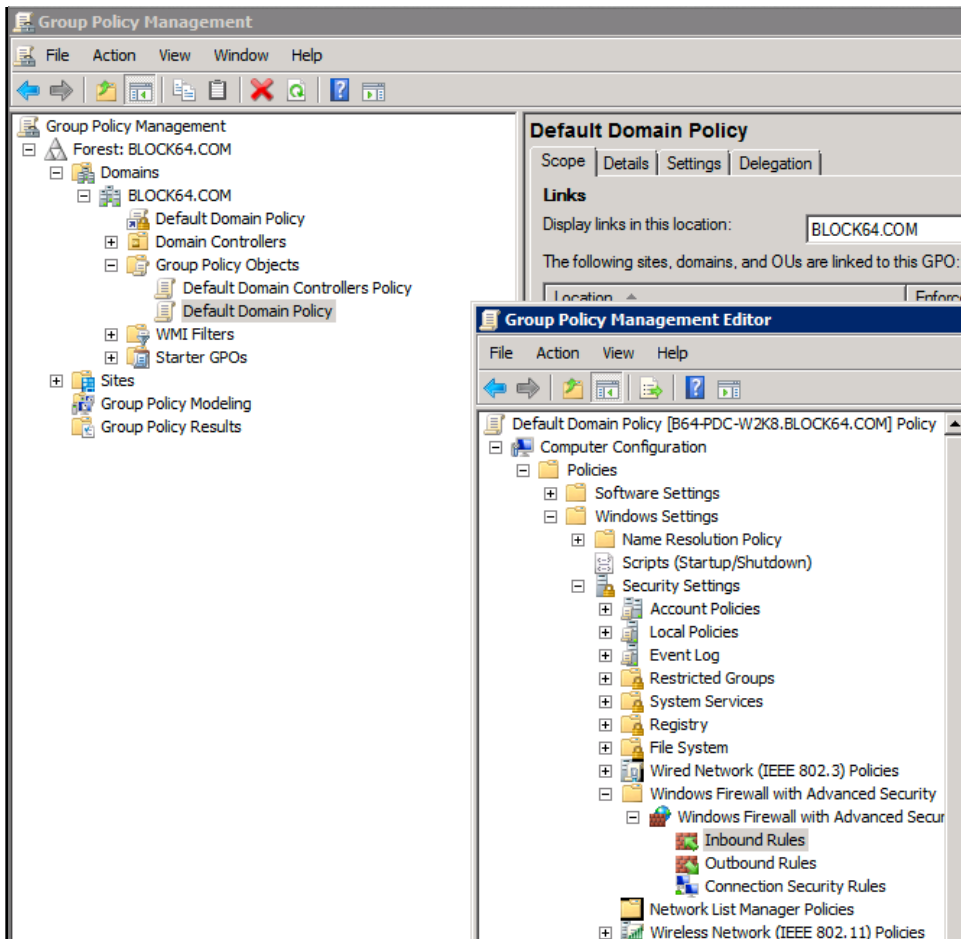


Fig 1.1: Location of Domain GPO for Inbound Firewall Rules

5. You can add the following predefined rules here:
 - File and Printer Sharing
 - Remote Administrator
 - WMI (Windows Management Instrumentation)

If you do not have those predefined rules, your Active Directory functional level may be Windows 2003 or older. If so, we would strongly recommend elevating your AD functional level to at least Windows 2008 or above (<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/help/322692/how-to-raise-active-directory-domain-and-forest-functional-levels>)... but if that is not a possibility, let us know and we'll work with you to enable the individual firewall rules.

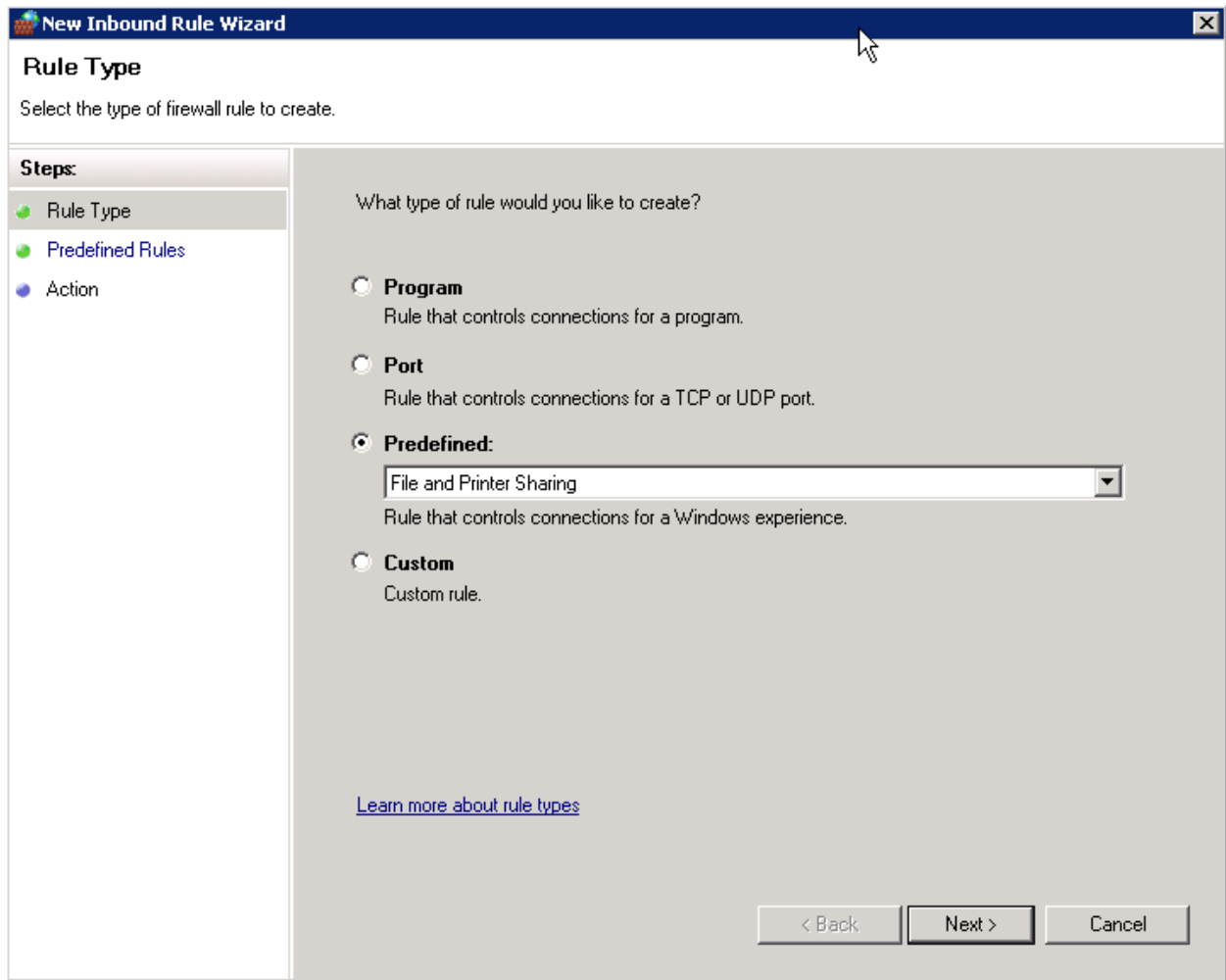


Fig 1.2: Rule Settings for “File and Printer Sharing” Inbound Firewall Rule

Appendix 1.3: Allowing Remote Registry Access via Group Policy

Supplementary Reading: Microsoft KB314837 - *“How to Manage Remote Access to the Registry”*
(<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/314837>)

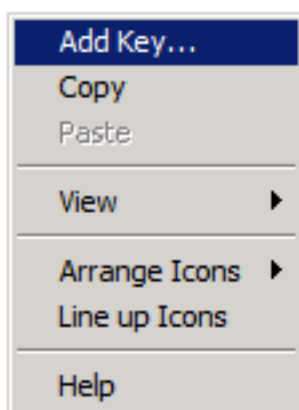
In some environments, or in cases where a special set of credentials has been prepared for the BlockBox by the Windows Domain Administrator at your site, we may encounter difficulties connecting to the Windows Registry remotely. This method of connecting to the registry is really only used as a last resort. The following steps may not be necessary. If you're not sure - ask the tech who provided you with this software. They'll know!

In many cases, this can be fixed via Group Policy Objects (GPO) by following these instructions:

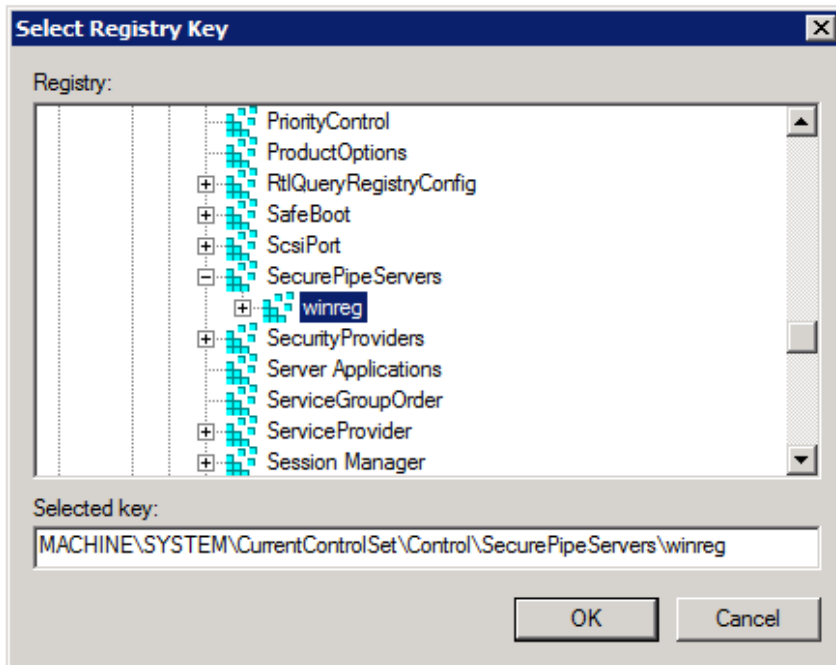
On a domain controller, Start > Administrative Tools > Group Policy Editor > **Either** edit an existing policy **or** create a new one (**Remember it's a computer policy you need to link it to something with computers in it, if you link it to a users OU nothing will happen**).

Navigate to Local Computer Policy > Computer Configuration > Policies > Windows Settings > Security Settings > Registry

In the right hand pane, right click and Select **'Add Key'**:



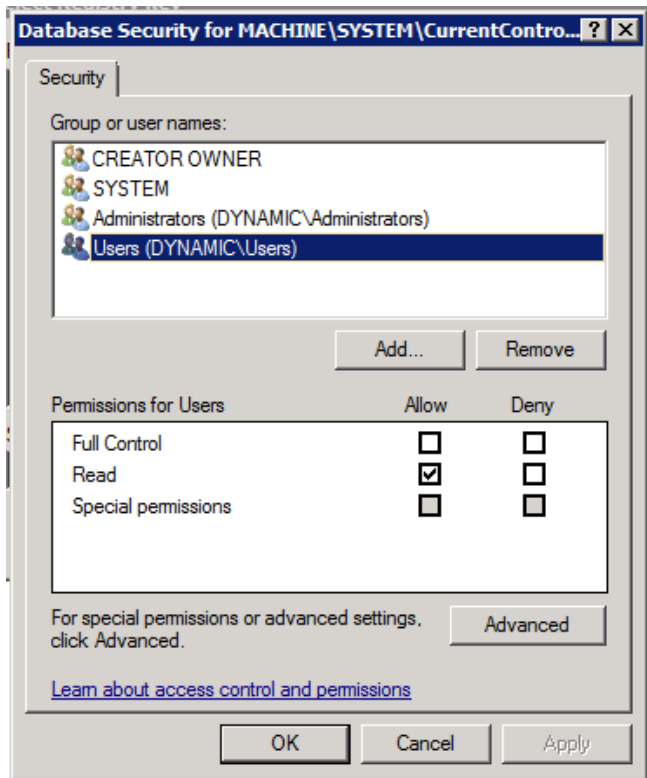
You will then want to navigate to MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\SecurePipeServers\winreg, click it, and then click ok:



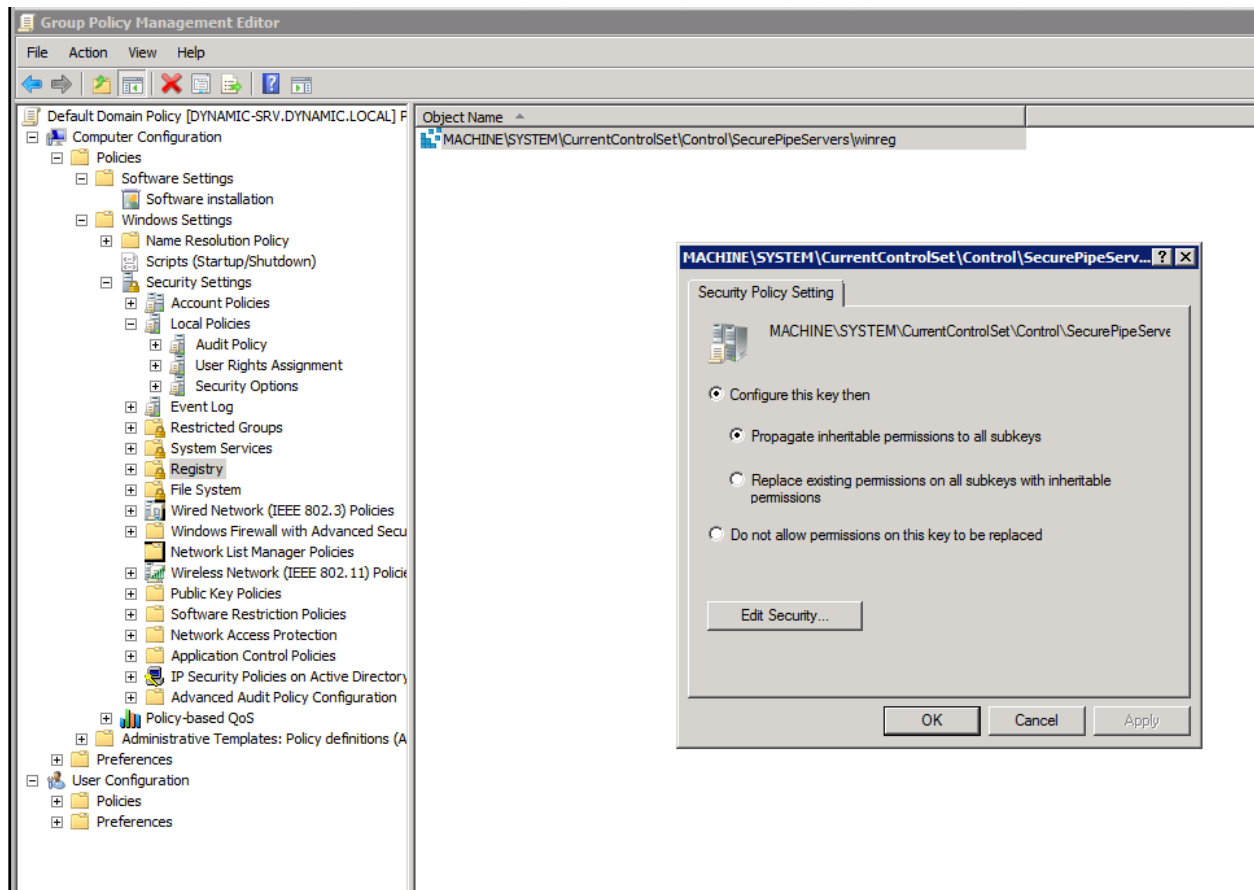
At this point, you need to add the appropriate permissions. Below are the recommended settings:

Administrator Group: Read Access

Users Group: Read Access



Use the default setting of 'Configure the key then > Propagate inheritable permissions to all subkeys', and click **OK**.



After their next reboot, each client should have the appropriate permissions set.

Appendix 1.4: Enabling Necessary Services using Group Policy

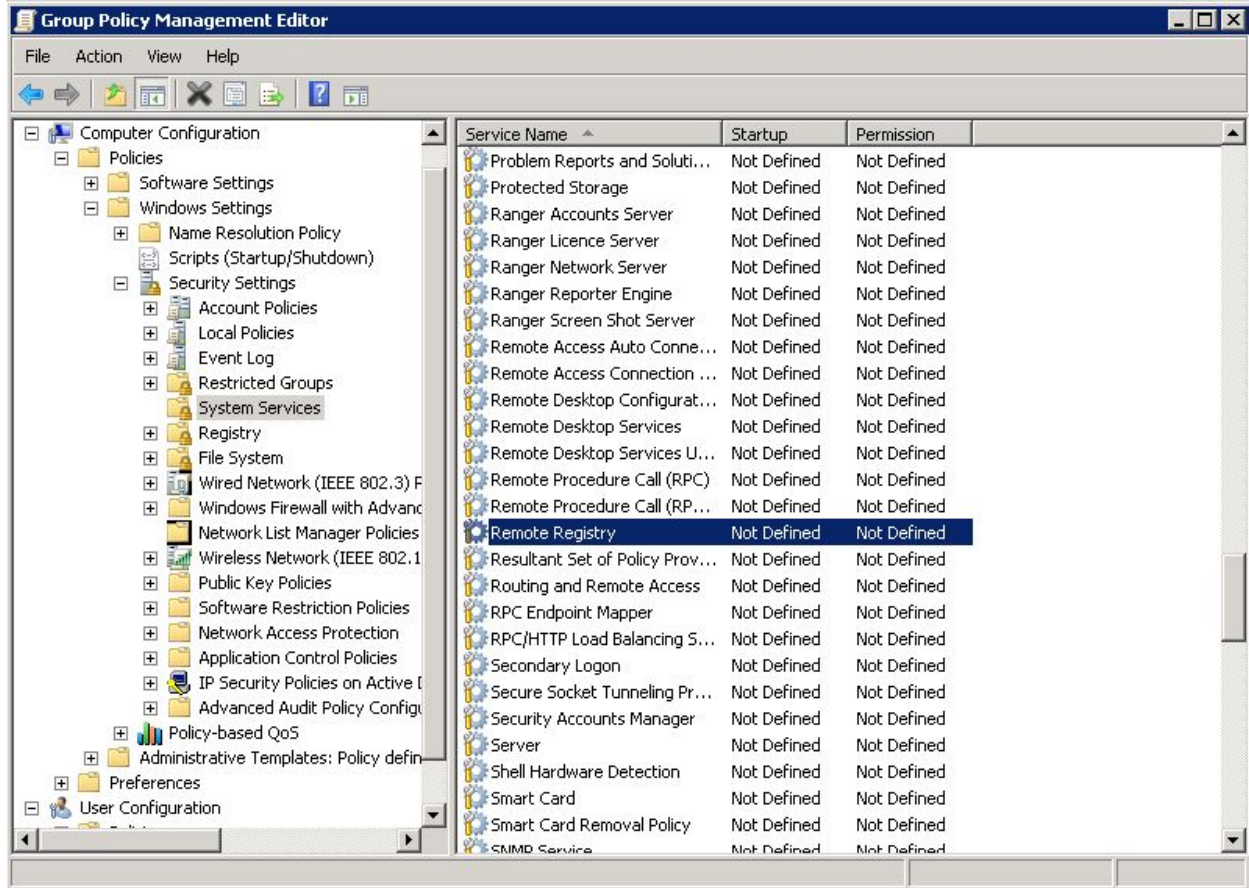
Please note these steps are likely unnecessary if the furnished credentials have both Local & Domain Administrative privileges.

The remote inventory features of the BlockBox allow the inventory of Windows-based machines without the installation of any agent. However, they *do* require the enablement of some services that allow remote inventory on the endpoints in question. The good news is that the Group Policy Editor will allow your administrator to enable these services programmatically across your endpoints. The services we would like to enable are as follows:

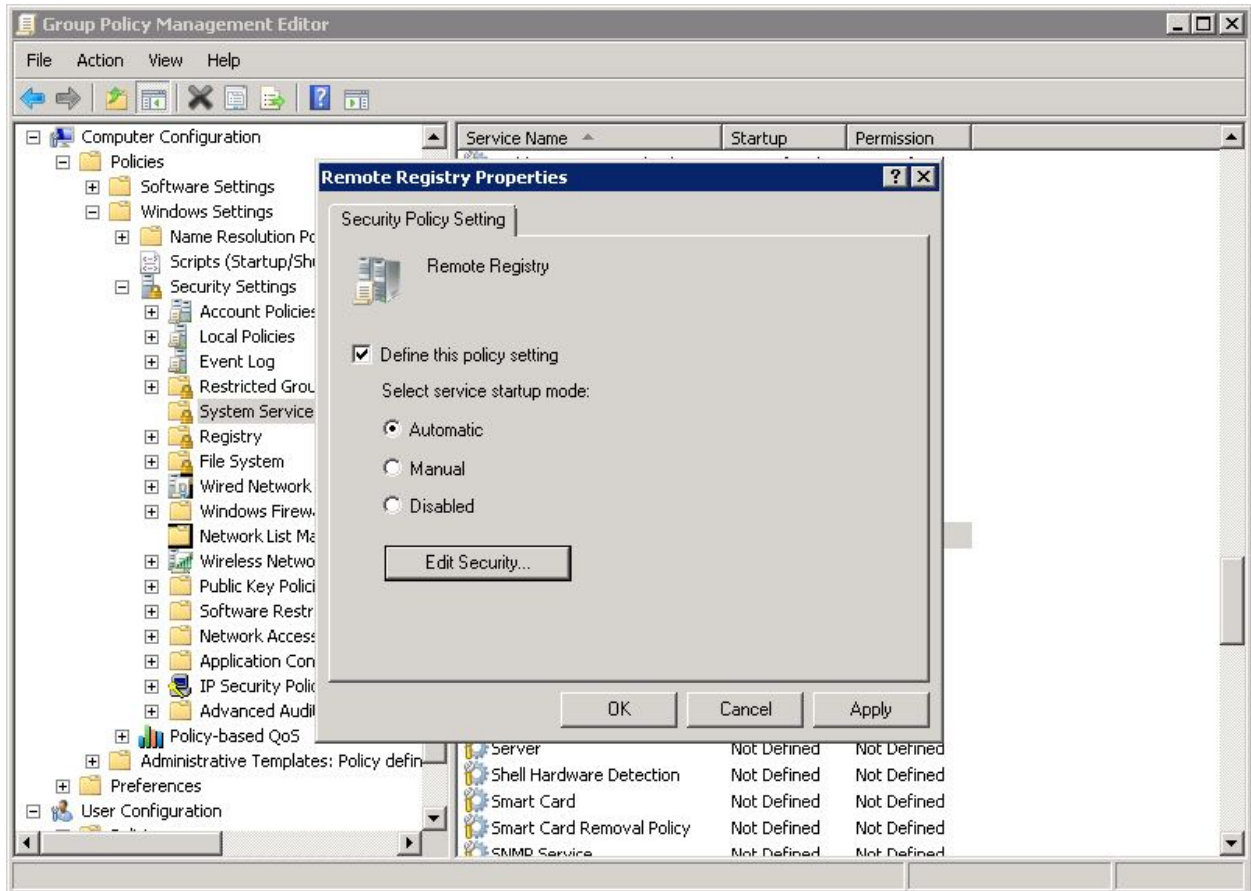
- Remote Procedure Call (RPC)
- Remote Registry
- Windows Management Instrumentation

To enable each of these services, it's just a matter of a couple of clicks -

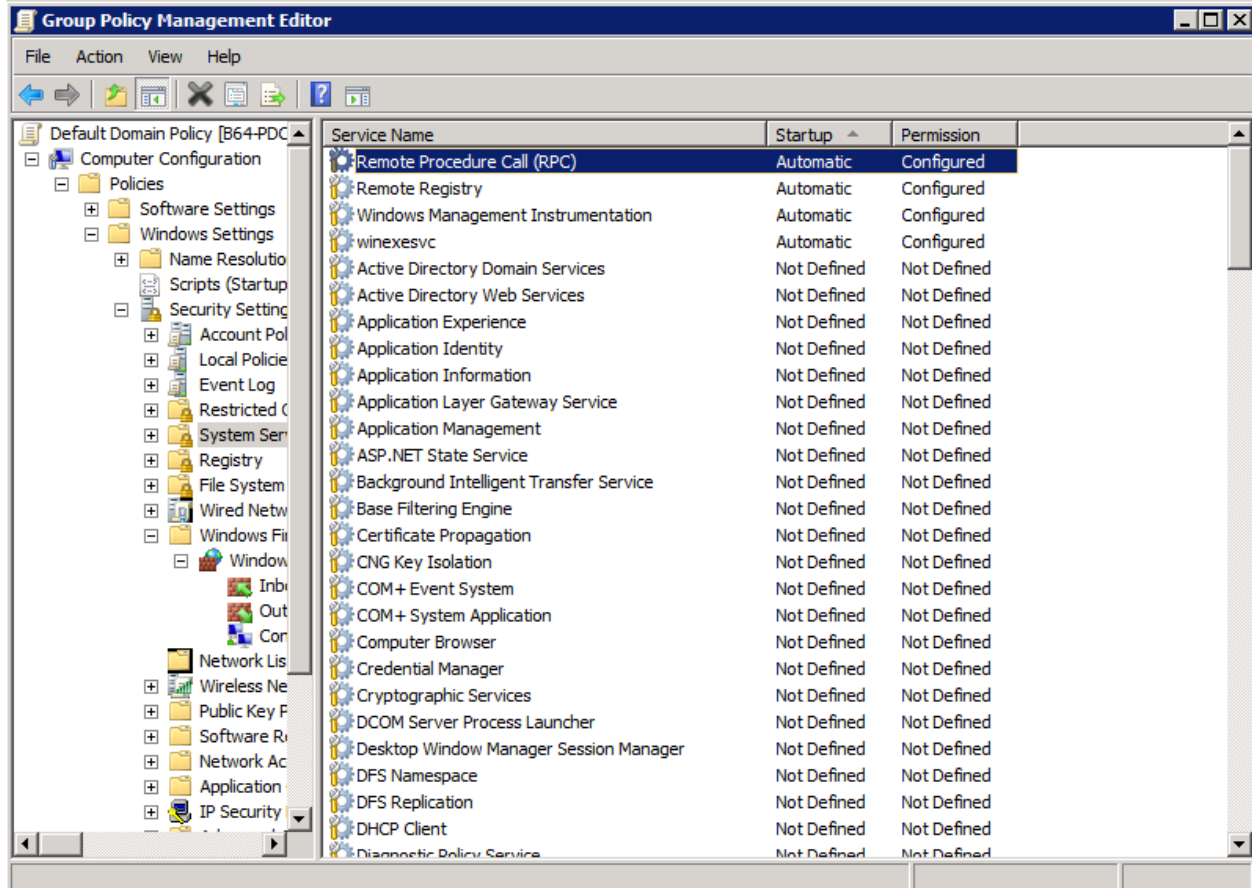
1. **On a domain controller**, Start > Administrative Tools > Group Policy Editor > **Either** edit an existing policy **or** create a new one (**Remember it's a computer policy you need to link it to something with computers in it, if you link it to a users OU nothing will happen**).
2. **Navigate to**, Local Computer Policy > Computer Configuration > Policies > Windows Settings > Security Settings > System Services.
3. **In the right hand pane locate** "Remote Registry".



Define the policy, and set the startup type to automatic.



Repeat Step 3 for the Remote Procedure Call (RPC) and Windows Management Instrumentation services. These services would typically be started anyhow, but this step ensures they haven't been stopped, which might interfere with the Windows inventory. When done, your list of services should look something like this:



After their next reboot, all your clients will have the service running.