

Up for a challenge?

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From: Kurt (kurtl_at_olyphen.com)

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OK, Here's a REAL case study for my fellow MCSE's and soon-to-be's. It's long, so skip if you're not interested. I don't think you'll find this one on any tests, but it's real and sure had me scratching my head for a good hour. The names have been changed to protect the innocent.

I set up a single W2K3 DC in a one-domain new forest for a small medical office. Pre-joined 4 XP clients and connected in a training room so their software vendor could do training prior to the rollout. Created user accounts, placed in an OU - "Staff". 2 GPOs linked to the OU, one runs a logon script (nothing fancy, just maps drives and printers). The other re-directs My Documents to the server for central backup. Server is multi-homed, one connected to the LAN and the other to a wireless AP for 2 mobile tablet PCs. Their primary software vendor specified Terminal Services for the wireless on a separate subnet, no routing, so all protocols except TCP/IP are disabled on that interface. Everything fires up, workstations join without problem, group policy is applied correctly, training goes off without a hitch, mobile tablets connect with an RDP session - all is well, life is good.

Then comes deployment in the office. I am asked to set it up so that users can have the same application settings at any workstation (but not roaming profiles). After a little research, I decided to use a GPO to redirect "Application Settings" to the same directory as "My Documents" (Since it's already being backed up). When I attempt to access the GPO cache for the OU, I get the message:

```
Windows cannot access the file gpt.ini for GPO
CN={31B2F340-016D-11D2-945F-00C04FB984F9},CN=Policies,CN=System,DC=thisdomain,DC=local. The file must be present at the location
<\\thisdomain.local\sysvol\thisdomain.local\Policies\{31B2F340-016D-11D2-945F-00C04FB984F9}\gpt.ini>. (Configuration information could not be read from the domain controller, either because the machine is unavailable, or access has been denied. ). Group Policy processing aborted.
```

The event ID is 1058.

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Just to get you started, there are no SMB signing conflicts and the "everyone" group has read and execute permissions to the root.

Give it your best shot, I'll post hints as required and tell you when you're getting warmer!