

# Re: Computer vs. User configuration

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*Source:*

[http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.group\\_policy/2005-06/msg00045.html](http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.group_policy/2005-06/msg00045.html)

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- *From:* "Bart-man" <[Bartman@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:Bartman@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Fri, 3 Jun 2005 10:55:33 -0700
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Steven,

Thanks for your reply.

My DNS/AD is working perfectly, no problems there. I am interested only in this one question about two versions of configuration settings and two versions of OU's, and should Users settings always stay with User OU's, and Computer settings always stay with Computer OU's.

So according to your post below, one would never assign a GPO with User Configuration settings in it to an OU with computers. Makes sense.

Would one also never apply a GPO with Computer Configuration settings in it to an OU with Users?

This is my one question, and I'm surprised that I can't find any info about this—it's such a basic issue.

It seems like you would always put your users into OU's, then assign to those OU's GPO's that have User Configuration Settings exclusively. Similarly, it seems like you would always put your computers into OU's, then assign to those OU's GPO's that have Computer Configuration Settings exclusively. I've never seen this written anywhere.

Thanks, Bart

"Steven L Umbach" wrote:

- > If you have user configuration settings defined in an OU that contains only
- > computers then there is no user to apply the user configuration settings to.
- > The only exception would be if you have loopback processing enabled on the
- > computer container which is for special situations and not the norm. I have
- > never had a problem nor seen a best practice that you should only define

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> user configuration to an OU that contains strictly users or vice versa. If  
> you are having inconsistent application of Group Policy settings to users or  
> computers I would first verify that DNS is configured correctly for the  
> domain as dns misconfiguration is by far the main cause of Group Policy and  
> Active Directory problems. The tools netdiag, gpresult, and gpoutil are  
> invaluable in troubleshooting Group Policy/AD problems. ---- Steve  
>  
> <http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb%3Ben-us%3B291382> ---- DNS  
> FAQ  
>  
> "Bart-man" <Bartman@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message  
> <news:181450B9-6D46-48E1-A499-333D3AC92472@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>  
>> I do understand your post below. However, I'm still wondering if all user  
>> configuration settings will be effective if I apply them to an OU  
>> containing  
>> computers, and vice versa. It seems hit and miss to me, and I was  
>> wondering  
>> if there was a "best practices" to applying user config settings only to  
>> user  
>> OU's, etc.  
>>  
>> Thanks for you help,  
>>  
>> Bart  
>>  
>> "Steven L Umbach" wrote:  
>>  
>>> OU's may also contain both computer and users or have sub OUs that  
>>> contain  
>>> only computer or only users. Best practice is to design your OU and Group  
>>> Policy structure that suits your needs keeping in mind that OUs can be  
>>> used  
>>> for logical organization by managed groups users/computers, geographical  
>>> organization, or combination of both and for delegation of authority and  
>>> applying Group Policy. There is not stamped in stone correct way. However  
>>> if  
>>> you have a Group Policy that is not meant to apply any settings to a user  
>>> or  
>>> computer then disable that configuration part of the Group Policy. I hope  
>>> that was not too confusing. ---- Steve  
>>>  
>>>  
>>> "Bart-man" <Bart-man@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message  
>>> <news:E37EA7EF-96B2-4F7B-BECF-EC394E8CF9@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>  
>>>> In creating Group Policies you can set both User Configuration and  
>>>> Computer  
>>>> configuration settings. Then, you can apply these gpo's to OU's  
>>>> containing  
>>>> either Computers or Users.  
>>>>  
>>>> Do you always assign GPO's with Computer Configuration settings to OU's

