

# WPA2 support + Group Policy

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*Source:*

[http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.group\\_policy/2006-11/msg00007.html](http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.group_policy/2006-11/msg00007.html)

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- From: [bklassen@xxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:bklassen@xxxxxxxxxxx)
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Hi all,

On 17/10/06, Microsoft released a security advisory notifying us of support for WPA2 to be defined in group policies in Windows XP SP2 (<http://www.microsoft.com/technet/security/...ory/917021.mspx>)

When you look into this in more detail, there is an update that can be downloaded and applied to Windows XP PC's to support (among other things) support for WPA2 wireless policies to be defined in GPO's.

.... All looks very promising ... Until you go and try to configure such policies in GPO editor --> Computer Configuration. If you do this from a Windows XP PC, you don't natively get to see the "Wireless Network (IEEE 802.11) Policies" branch.

So then I try to edit it from a Win 2003 computer. Yes, you can drill down into "Wireless Network Policies" and define a new policy, but you don't get the option to select WPA2 in the "Network Authentication" drop down...

After much searching, I located an interesting hack ([http://www.petri.co.il/working\\_with\\_wirele...from\\_xp\\_sp2.htm](http://www.petri.co.il/working_with_wirele...from_xp_sp2.htm)) that allows you to view/edit Wireless policies natively using GP editor on a Win XP machine, but even after doing this (AND having update hotfix 917021 installed), you still don't get to select WPA2 as an authentication method !!!!

.... I feel like I'm chasing my tail ...

Reading the Microsoft blub again, I note the following:–

"On a computer that is running Windows Vista or that is running Microsoft Windows Server Code Name "Longhorn," you can specify WPA2 options when you configure wireless networks by using the Wireless Network (IEEE 802.11) Policies node of Computer Configuration Group Policy."

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.... So Microsoft ... Does this mean that to successfully implement WPA2 via group policy we MUST be using a Vista or Longhorn machine to edit the group policy? My interpretation is that this is a big YES – but I'm curious if other people are reading this the same way as I am.... or even better still if someone had managed to get this working (sans-Vista).

It does seem kinda counter-productive that Microsoft releases an update for WinXP that you can't actually make use of until you use a Beta OS to implement.... Then again, gauging by the amount of newsgroup flak Microsoft has copped over their lag in support for WPA2 maybe I shouldn't be too surprised :-)

Cheers,  
Brendan.

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