

How to export .adm settings .inf style?

Source:

http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.group_policy/2007-01/msg00292.html

- *From:* "verviflox" <dontsendhere@xxxxxxxxxxx>
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With a better understanding (but still confused about import/export) I am back with a new Q:

We would like to provide our customers with an .inf template that they can import into a GPO. We have been able to do this for the standard security templates. However some of the settings are configured using System.adm. The syntax of the .inf used for a standard security template and the System.adm settings that end up in Registry.pol are quite different.

I thought there would be a uniform text-based format where I could place all of these settings for import into a GPO. We like the .inf because we can place this file in our source control.

Is there a way to do this other than a complete backup/restore of the GPO? Such a backup/restore might capture more than we want to export, and hard to put into version control.

p.s. Some might ask why we want to do this. Here is the reason below from an earlier thread:

If I explain the application a little maybe the question will make more sense. The application relies heavily on network collaboration XML based workflow with anywhere from 5 to 100 client workstations in the hospital. The entire system is delivered as one package (domain controller, workstations, OS, network cable, ...). The hospital technical staff will set everything up, and coordinate installation of third party modules that are designed specifically for our application. These third party applications in some cases even create their own instance of MSDE SQL Server. A variety of software will exist on the clients.

The workstations will share some very sensitive information. We must ensure that the domain controller policies lock down the system as much as possible while allowing the application to run, and without causing problems for the third party modules. Our application also sets specific rights on the

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filesystem for the various privilege levels. We can't trust that the technical staff will be experienced enough in all cases to create their own home-grown domain policies, but we can trust them to follow some instructions in the install manual. Our application requires specific application exceptions for the Windows Firewall domain profile, for example, for which there is a setting in the default Microsoft .adm template. We also have to lock down some other standard machine security settings that exist in the Microsoft provided .adm, and a few reg keys where we have to disable workstation features even beyond what exists in the standard templates.

We are putting the final installer package together, and trying to figure out a way to get these specific settings into the domain controller while minimizing human error during configuration. It would be fine if we could provide some .inf files that the domain administrator would have to import, as long as the settings could be applied in a way that the administrator could merge without wiping out their entire domain policy setup (in some environments customers want to re-use existing domain controllers and workstations, bring them up to our higher security compliance regulatory requirements, and make it all work).