

Local Group Recursion, Creation, and GP

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- *From:* "Toby Considine \(\UNC\) " <Toby.Considine.nospam@xxxxxxxxxxxxx>
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I have hundreds of embedded systems spread across a college campus. I administer them largely by Group Policy. Our Group policy administration was quirky with many rights needing to be set, many issues solved, and hence many bugs created when creating policies or discovering changes in policies that needed to be propagated to other policies. Some systems have a distinct local groups needing access to functions for that machine only.

All this is made much harder by manufacturers of many embedded systems requiring Admin rights for their software to run. We also have need to manage rights for different brands of low-bid systems, and their factory reps, to work across campus.

All this was made easier [we thought] by creating a standard group policy for embedded systems. It included references to two local groups:

System Specialists
Local System Operators.

We made both of these members of Administrators (so they could run the software). We also created these groups by script. Two reboots puts the plan into place. The first re-boot runs the script and creates the groups. The second group places the groups into "Administrators" if they exist. The group shows up in the UI with an appropriate "group" symbol next to it.

The standard policy also prevents anyone not in one of these groups from logging in – an important thing to do with PCs in the closet on a college campus.

We then have rather simple policies for each class of equipment (with different maintenance personnel) and each brand of equipment (with different contractors).

For example, I can take HVAC Equipment made by Honeywell and apply a group policy that does no more than make the RequiredGroup System Specialists contain

"DOMAIN\HVACTechs"
"DOMAIN\HoneywellTechs"

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Looking at the UI, this looks like it works. The only problem is, the system never allows members of System Specialists to log in. And it never thinks they are members of Administrators.

How can I solve this? Is there a way to enable recursive processing for members of local groups?

thanks

tc

"Computers are useless. They can only give you answers." — Pablo Picasso

Toby Considine
Facilities Technology Office
University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, NC

mail: Toby.Considine@unc.edu
Phone: (919)962-9073
<http://www.newdaedalus.com>