



## About “Group Policy 2.0”:

- **Group Policy Preference Extensions**
- **Brief ROI Analysis**
- **Training Your Administrators**



## What's the Big News?

On November 11th, 2007 Microsoft announced that they will be providing a free update to the existing set of already-powerful Group Policy features. This update is to be known as the **Group Policy Preference Extensions**, or **GPPEs** for short.

The original Group Policy feature set includes items like Administrative Templates, Software Installation, Security Settings, and Folder Redirection Settings. In all, there are 18 things you can do with the original Group Policy.

The Group Policy Preference Extensions feature set adds 21 new features to the existing set, bringing the total number of categories to 39. The goal of the GPPEs is to help you do more with Group Policy and reduce the reliance upon logon scripts. The kinds of things administrators have always wanted to do using Group Policy are now available:

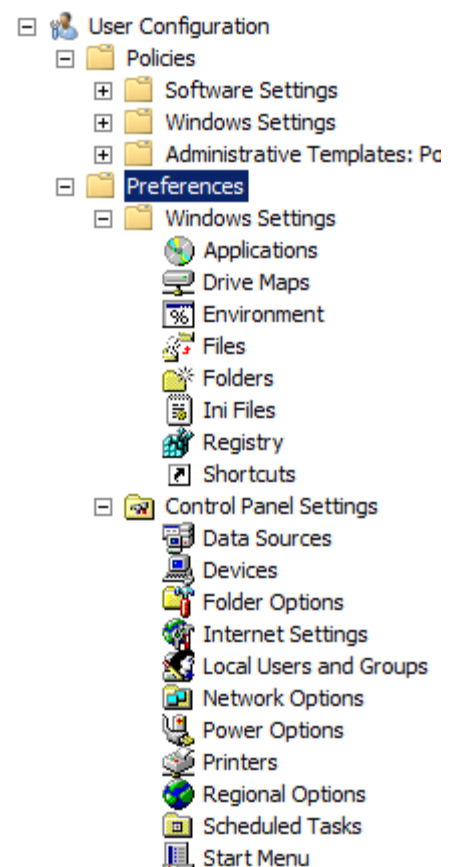
- Deliver shortcuts (file and web) to desktops, start menus, etc.
- Create and delete drive mappings
- Configure difficult attributes like ODBC sources
- Edit specific Registry values for application
- Manage applications like Office XP, 2003, and 2007
- Secure devices like USB drives, Bluetooth devices, and Firewire ports
- Manage Power Settings and Power Schemes

...and lots more.

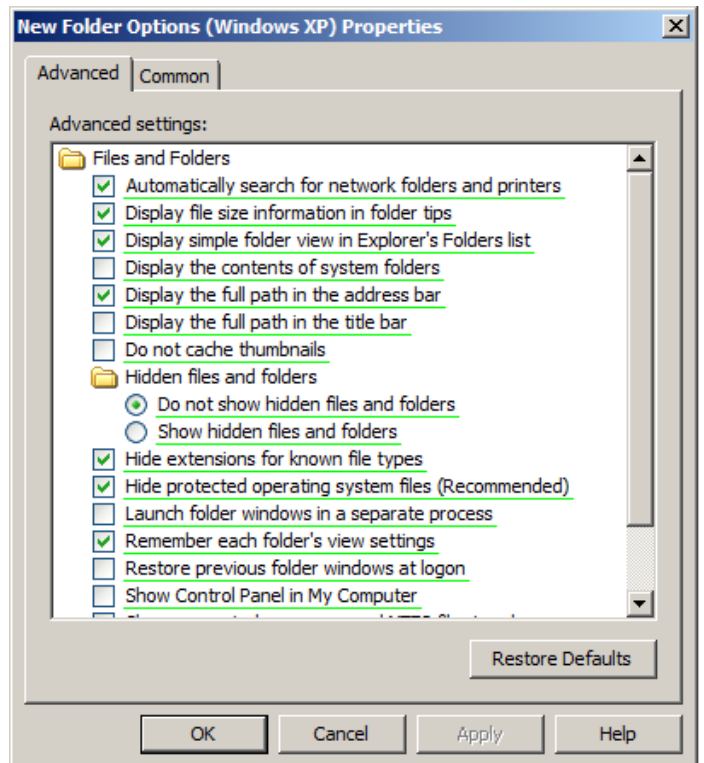
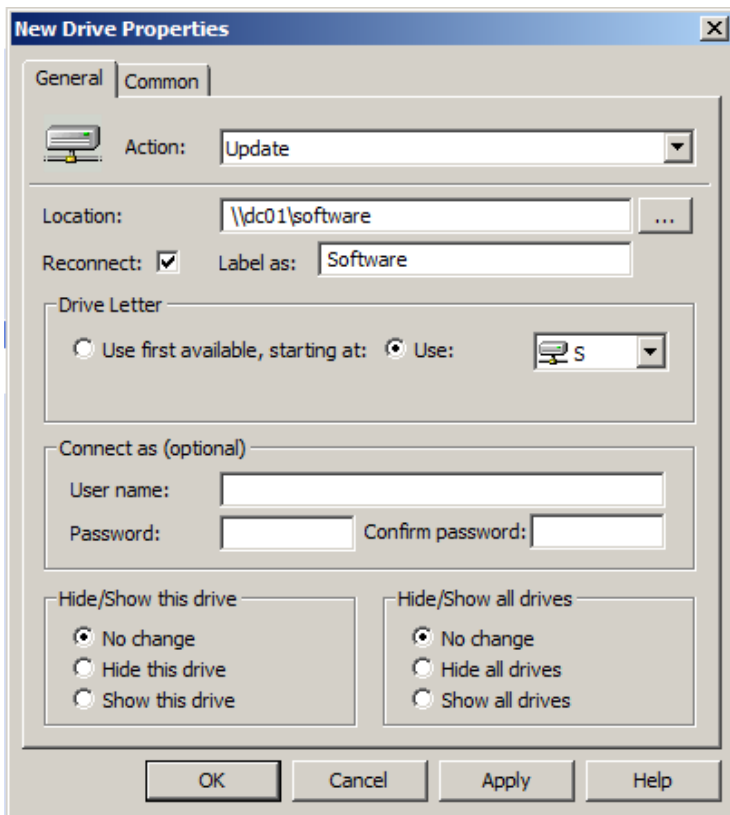
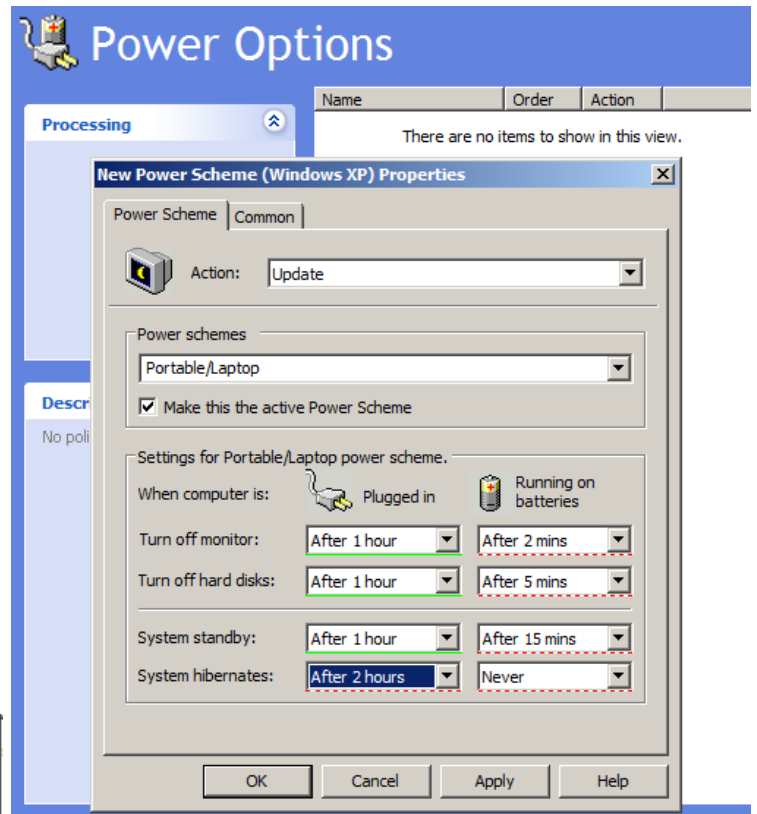
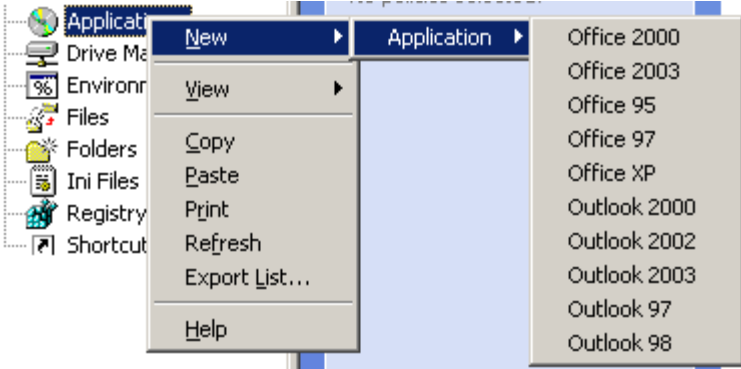
In the figure to the right, you can see a partial list of GPPEs.

On the next page, you can see an at-a-glance montage of some of the features your administrators will have the power to utilize.

Notice how Policies and Preferences are "split" in the Group Policy Editor interface on the right — a fundamental declaration of how "differently" they act vs. regular "original" Group Policy.



## Quick Examples of What's Possible Using Group Policy Preference Extensions



## Q & A about the Group Policy Preference Extensions

Q: Do I need to upgrade any servers to utilize the Group Policy Preference Extensions?

A: No. The Group Policy Preference Extensions require a small client upgrade.

Q: Which clients can use the Group Policy Preference Extensions?

A: You install the Group Policy Preference Extensions "Client" upon Windows XP and Windows Vista as well as Windows Server 2003. The "client piece" is already built-in to Windows Server 2008. There is no client upgrade available for Windows 2000 computers.

Q: What do the new features cost?

A: Nothing. They'll be a free download in January or February.

Q: How do I manage these new features?

A: The Group Policy management station must be either:

- Windows Vista + SP1 + GPMC 2.0 (a free download *within* what's known as the RSAT, or Remote Server Administration tools), or
- Windows Server 2008 (which contains the GPMC 2.0)

Q: Where did the technology come from?

A: This technology came out of the acquisition of DesktopStandard Corporation. This product was originally known as PolicyMaker and cost about \$15 per seat.

Q: Why should I get trained on it now?

A: Because you can seriously reduce your number of desktop images as well as startup and logon scripts because you'll be able to configure a lot more directly using Group Policy.

Q: Why are they called the "Preference Extensions"?

A: Because they don't act precisely like the standard Group Policy set. They needed their own unique name to describe the differences. Note also that they don't "live" in the same places, further emphasizing the important differences.

## **Professional Analysis and Return on Investment**

### **Upside of Group Policy Preference Extensions:**

- The Group Policy Preference Extensions are 100% free.
- You install them on the target computers using the existing Group Policy infrastructure you already have.
- You need only one Windows Vista + SP1 + GPMC 2.0 machine to manage the new features.

### **Challenges for Group Policy Preference Extensions:**

- The Group Policy Preference Extensions do not work and act precisely like original Group Policy.
- The Group Policy Preference Extensions have powers that really must be understood in order to be used safely and effectively.
- There are a lot of new features, and administrators may need to spend time in the test lab to fully understand each GPPE's power.
- You'll want to make sure all administrators who touch Group Policy are trained regarding Group Policy Preference Extensions before using them.

### **Quick ROI study:**

- One immediate use for the Group Policy Preference Extensions is to reduce power consumption across your company. Here is snip from a 2004 eWeek article where one administrator discusses his investment in the original for-a-fee version of the technology.

One [admin] at a medium-sized manufacturing company estimated that the power extension could save his company at least \$60,000 per year in recouped energy costs. "Say there are 2,000 machines that stay on overnight that we can shut down. If we save \$30 per machine per year, that more than pays for the cost of PolicyMaker in the first year alone," said user Bill Van Aacken, senior technology lead at Bemis Company Inc., in Oshkosh, Wis."

Again, the technology is now free. Your ROI is incredible, because the only barrier to entry to use the technology is proper training to make sure it's used properly and handled in a safe manner.

All Group Policy administrators should be trained in Group Policy Preference Extensions before using them to ensure a safe and secure computing environment.

## Two-Day Catch-Up Course

# Group Policy 2.0: Windows Vista, GPMC 2.0, and the Group Policy Preference Extensions

This update course should be taken by anyone who has already taken our Group Policy Essentials course (or has equivalent experience).

This course will update administrators in the core functionality of Windows Vista (and Windows Server 2008) as well as enable administrators to manage and utilize the Group Policy Preference Extensions on Windows XP and Windows Vista.

### **Part I: The GPMC 2.0**

- Getting the GPMC 2.0
- Installing the GPMC 2.0 on Windows Server 2008
- Installing the GPMC 2.0 on Windows Vista
- Understanding the RSAT tools
- GPMC 2.0 new core features
- Using GPMC "Comments"
- Using GPMC "Filters"
- Using GPMC "Starter GPOs"

### **Part II: Group Policy Preference Extensions (Part I)**

- Understanding which clients can utilize GPPEs
- Manually delivering the update to existing clients
- Automatically delivering the update to existing clients
- Preference vs. Policy
- Understanding the 21 new categories of features

### **Part III: Group Policy Preference Extensions (Part II)**

- Action modes
- Common Tab
- Circles and Lines
- Dealing with the "Overlap" of Original Group Policy features vs. GPPEs
- Item Level Targeting
- Group Policy Preference Extensions Reporting
- Sharing your work with other administrators

## **Group Policy 2.0**

### **“Catch up Course”**

*(continued)*

#### **Part IV: What's New in Windows Vista core Group Policy functionality**

- New Client Side Extensions
- Multiple Local GPOs (MLGPOs)
- Understanding ADM vs. ADMX files
- Creating a unified MMC console
- When to bring in a Vista Management station
- Creating and leveraging the Central Store
- Understanding Group Policy and Slow Link Processing for Vista

#### **Part V: Group Policy Troubleshooting for Windows Vista and Group Policy Preference Extensions**

- Where to start troubleshooting Vista problems
- Turning on special Vista Event Logs
- Making lemonade from Logs
- Using Event Filters to hone in on problems
- GPLogview tool
- Other verbose Logs
- Group Policy Preference Extensions Tracing logs

#### **Part VI: Creating the Perfect Desktop with Group Policy, Profiles and Group Policy Preference Extensions**

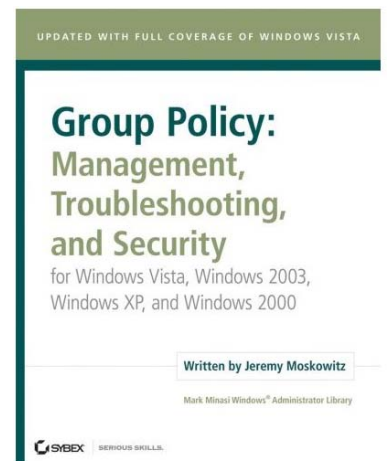
- Understanding Type 0, 1, and 2 profiles
- Making sure XP and Vista machines see the same data in the profile
- How do Vista roaming profiles differ from XP?
- How do Vista roaming profiles react over a slow link?
- How does Vista react to shares over a slow link?
- What happens if other administrators try to manage folder redirection settings?
- How do XP and Vista Offline files differ?
- What is the new way for Windows to deploy machines?
- Leveraging Group Policy Preference Extensions to reduce need on number of images
- Leveraging Group Policy Preference Extensions to reduce need on Logon Scripts

Note: Your course may vary somewhat from the description here based on updated information.

## Final Thoughts from Moskowitz, inc.

- Your administrators will immediately be more productive when they learn this new (Free) technology
- When it comes to Group Policy, no one teaches your administrators better than Moskowitz, inc.
- Students will learn hundreds of real-world uses for this powerful technology.
- When the classes end, the students can be confident in the skills they've learned.
- The courses are a 1-2-3 punch:
  1. Knowledge transfer
  2. Conceptual demonstration
  3. Hands-on lab time
- This training approach helps students understand the material on multiple levels and reinforces the concepts *before* they put their knowledge into practice in production.
- Each student in the two-day private class gets a free copy of the highly-acclaimed Group Policy guidebook shown here.
- Call us at 302-351-8408 to schedule your two day "Group Policy 2.0" training.

See you soon!



# Moskowitz, inc.

making **I.T.** easy

215 Christian Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19147  
[www.moskowitz-inc.com](http://www.moskowitz-inc.com)

[jeremym@moskowitz-inc.com](mailto:jeremym@moskowitz-inc.com)  
302-351-8408

