

IT Security

Windows Server Hardening Guide (English Version)

August 2022

Education Bureau

Table of Contents

1. Windows Installation.....	3
2. Security Configuration.....	3
2.1 Network Security and Access Management.....	3
2.2 Account Security.....	20
2.2.1 User Account and Rights	20
2.2.2 Password Policy.....	24
2.2.3 Account Lockout Policy.....	26
2.2.4 Screen Saver	28
2.3 Local Security Policy	30
2.4 Registry Security Configuration	33
2.5 Firewall	42
2.6 NTP (Time Synchronization)	45
2.7 Remote Desktop Configuration.....	47
2.8 Unquoted Service Path.....	53
2.9 Event Log Setting	55

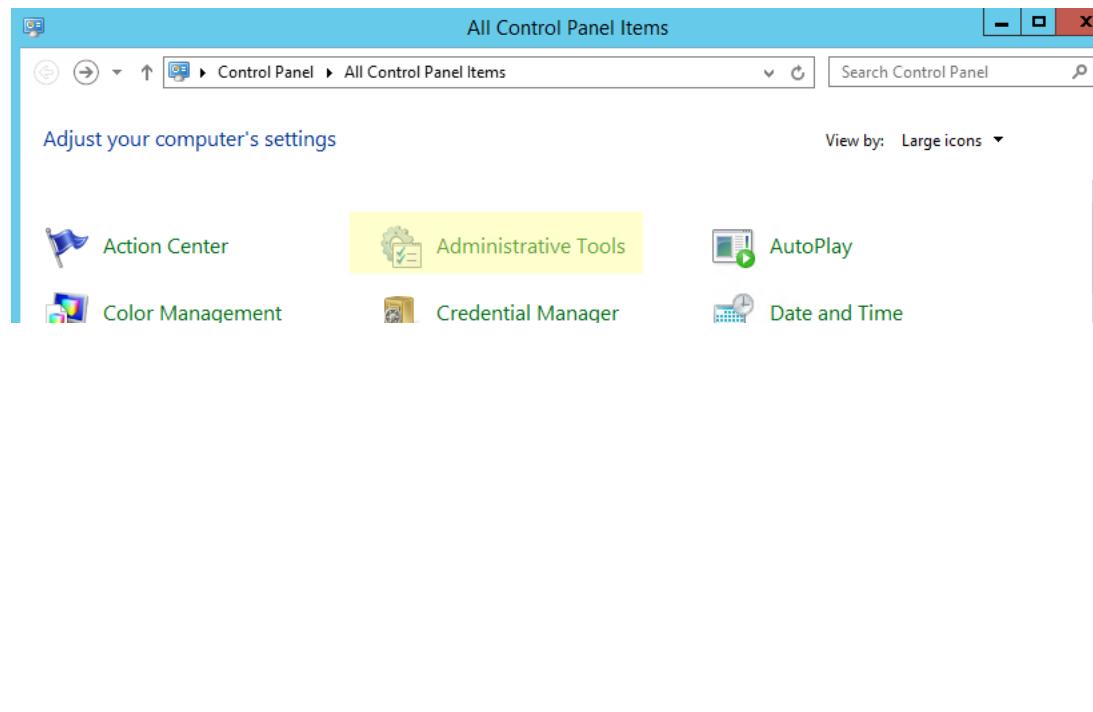
1. Windows Installation

- ✓ Disable any unneeded services included in the default installation
- ✓ Remove unnecessary Windows Server roles and features
- ✓ Consider to use EFS with NTFS file system or BitLocker encryption for restricted data
- ✓ Assign a static IP for server
- ✓ Run Windows update to install all security updates or patches
- ✓ Run Antivirus update to install the latest antivirus definition
- ✓ Enable automatic notification of patch availability and make sure that all appropriate patches, hotfixes and service packs are reviewed, tested and applied in a timely manner
- ✓ It is not recommended to install client-side software, such as Chrome, Adobe Flash, pdf viewers etc. on server

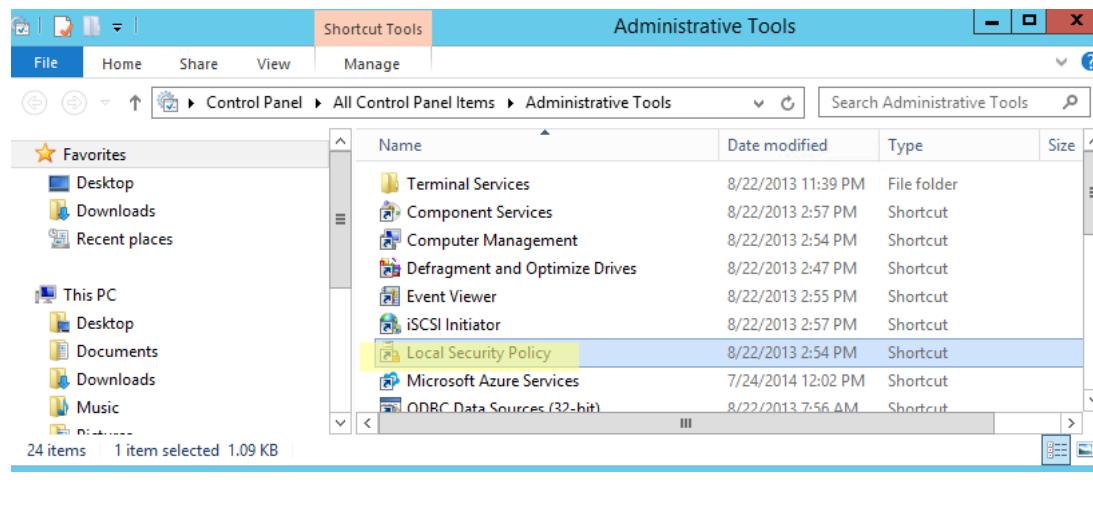
2. Security Configuration

2.1 Network Security and Access Management

In All Control Panel Items , click Administrative Tools

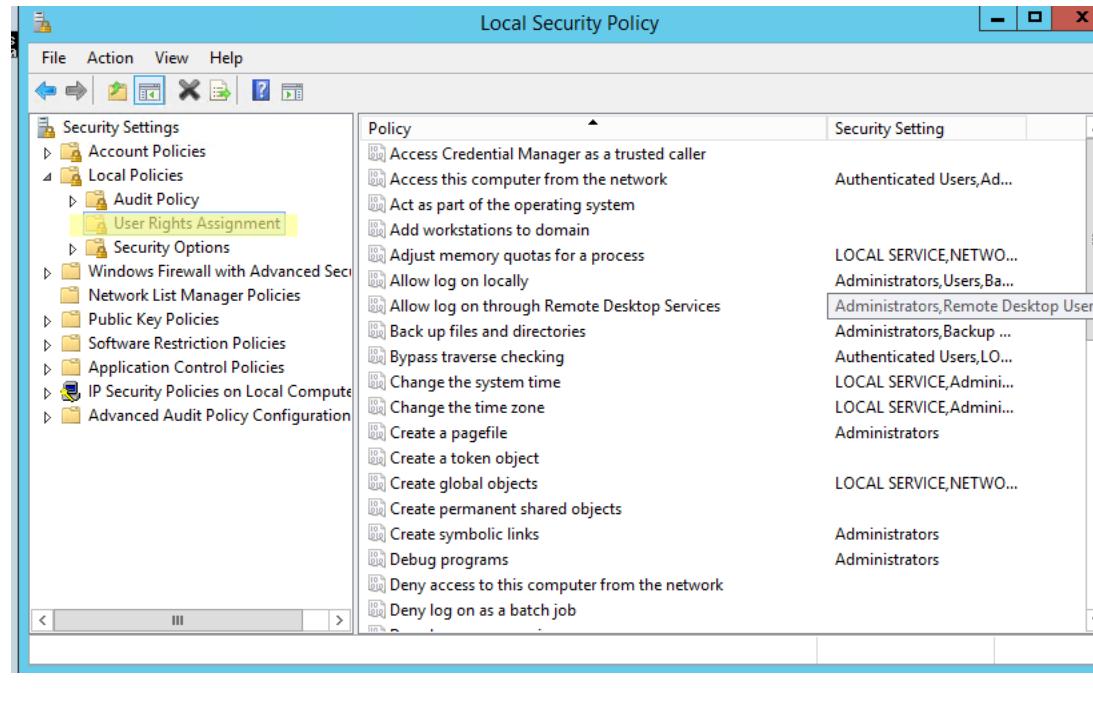


Click Local Security Policy



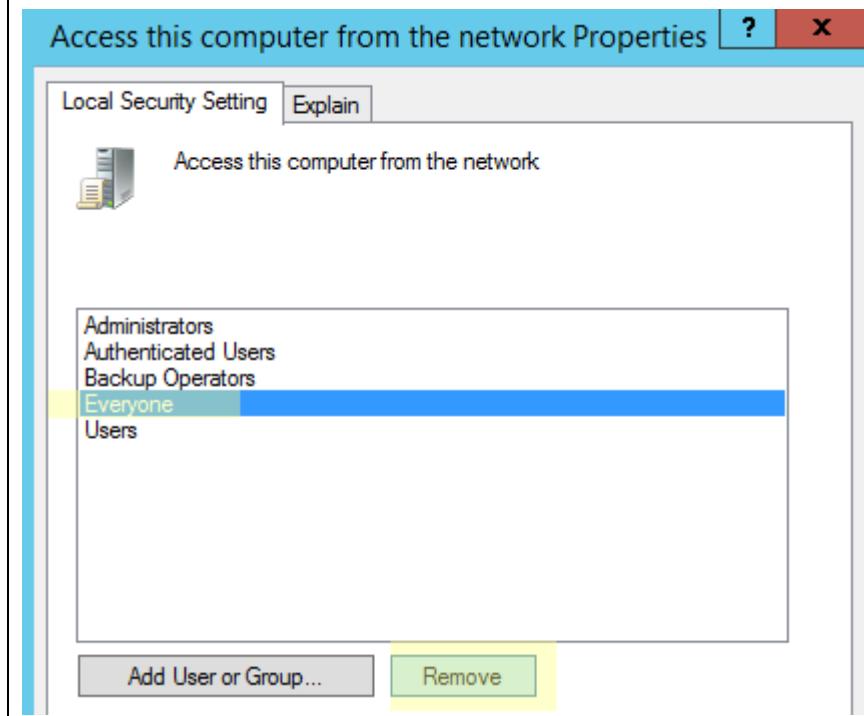
Navigate to

Security Settings – Local Policies – User Rights Assignment



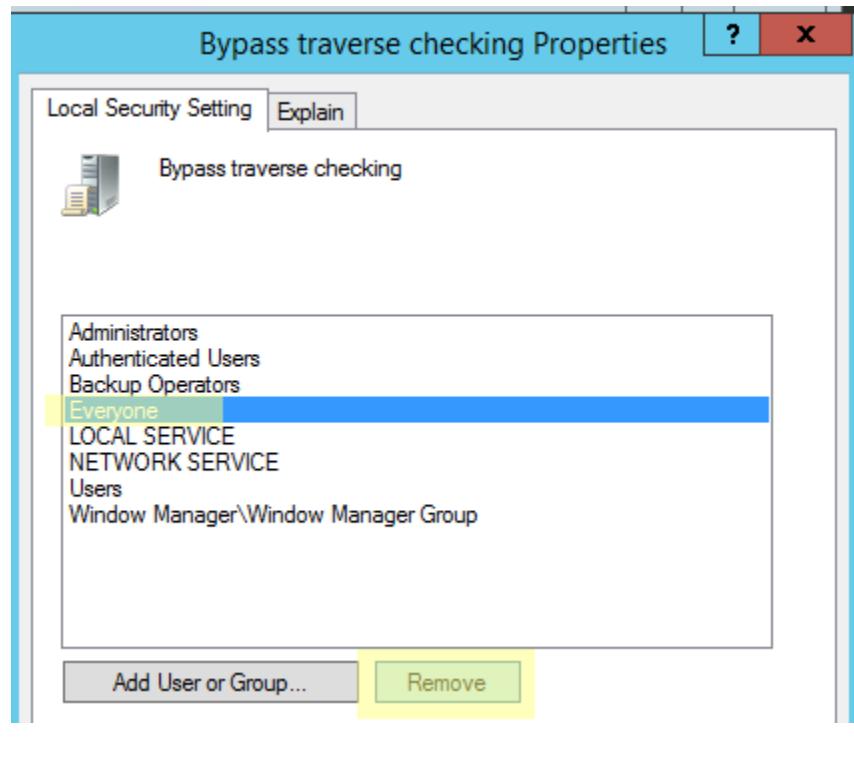
Click Access this computer from the network

Remove Everyone



Click Bypass traverse checking

Remove Everyone



Navigate to

Security Settings – Local Policies – Security Options

The screenshot shows the Windows Local Security Policy snap-in window titled "Local Security Policy". The left pane displays a tree view of security settings, with "Security Options" selected under "Local Policies > Audit Policy". The right pane lists policy settings with their current security settings:

Policy	Security Setting
Accounts: Administrator account status	Enabled
Accounts: Block Microsoft accounts	Not Defined
Accounts: Guest account status	Disabled
Accounts: Limit local account use of blank passwords to co...	Enabled
Accounts: Rename administrator account	AdministratorEDB
Accounts: Rename guest account	Guest
Audit: Audit the access of global system objects	Disabled
Audit: Audit the use of Backup and Restore privilege	Disabled
Audit: Force audit policy subcategory settings (Windows Vis...	Not Defined
Audit: Shut down system immediately if unable to log secur...	Disabled
DCOM: Machine Access Restrictions in Security Descriptor D...	Not Defined
DCOM: Machine Launch Restrictions in Security Descriptor ...	Not Defined
Devices: Allow undock without having to log on	Enabled
Devices: Allowed to format and eject removable media	Not Defined
Devices: Prevent users from installing printer drivers	Enabled
Devices: Restrict CD-ROM access to locally logged-on user ...	Not Defined
Devices: Restrict floppy access to locally logged-on user only	Not Defined
Domain controller: Allow server operators to schedule tasks	Not Defined
Domain controller: LDAP server signing requirements	Not Defined

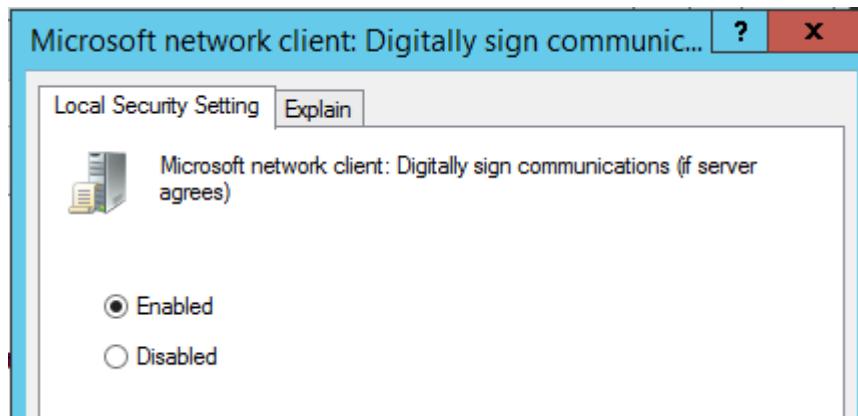
Click Microsoft network client : Digitally sign communications (always)

Select Disabled

The screenshot shows the "Microsoft network client: Digitally sign communications (always)" properties dialog box. It has tabs for "Local Security Setting" and "Explain". The setting is currently set to "Enabled" (radio button is not selected). To change it to "Disabled", the user needs to click the radio button next to "Disabled".

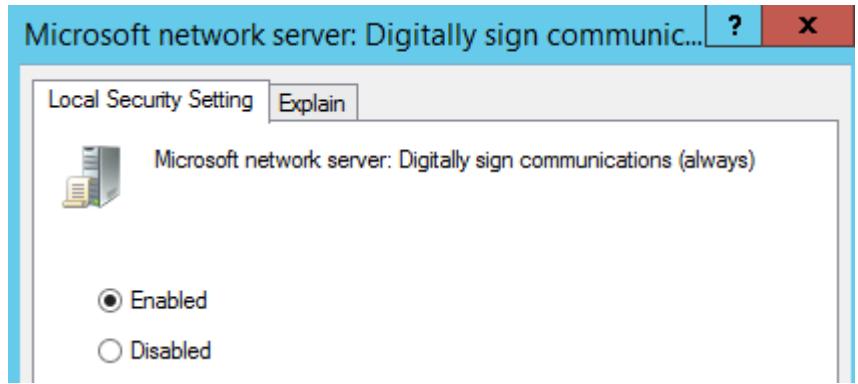
Click Microsoft network client : Digitally sign communications (if server agrees)

Select Enabled



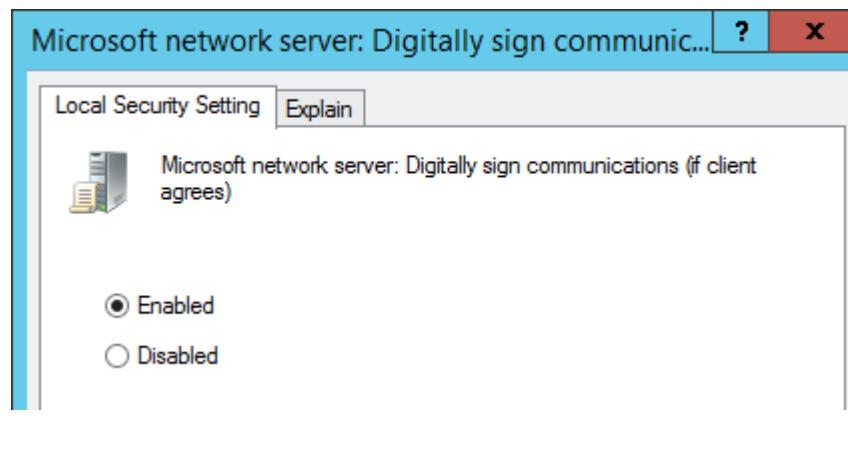
Click Microsoft network server : Digitally sign communications (always)

Select Enabled



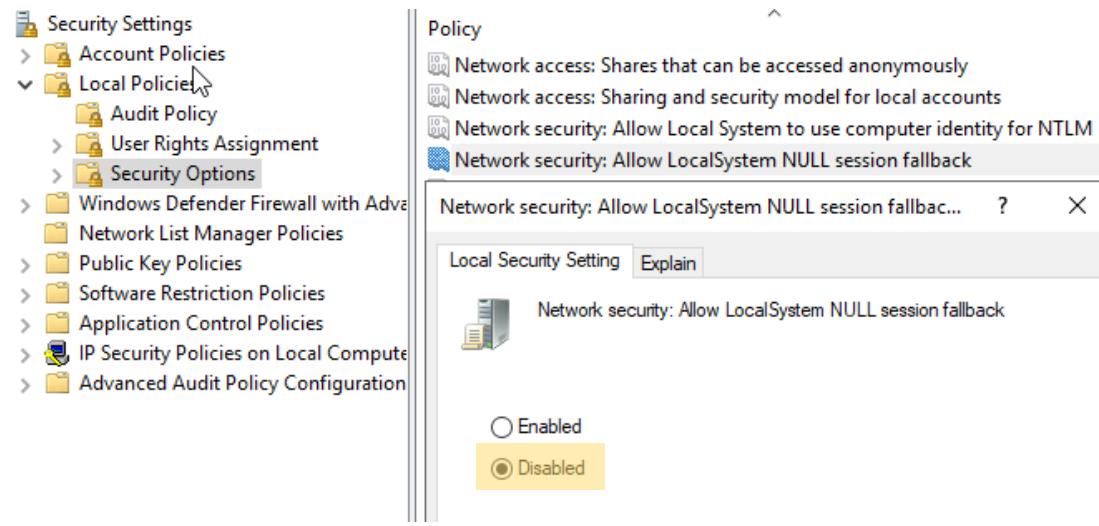
Click Microsoft network server : Digitally sign communications (if client agrees)

Select Enabled



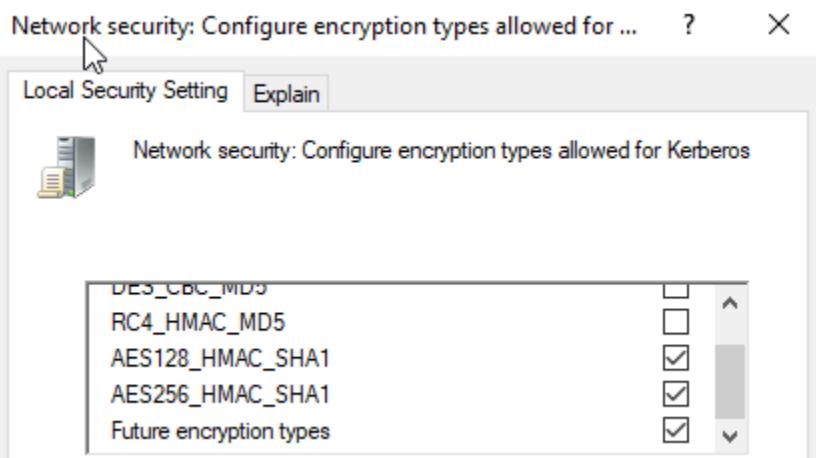
Click network security : Allow LocalSystem NULL session fallback

Select Disabled

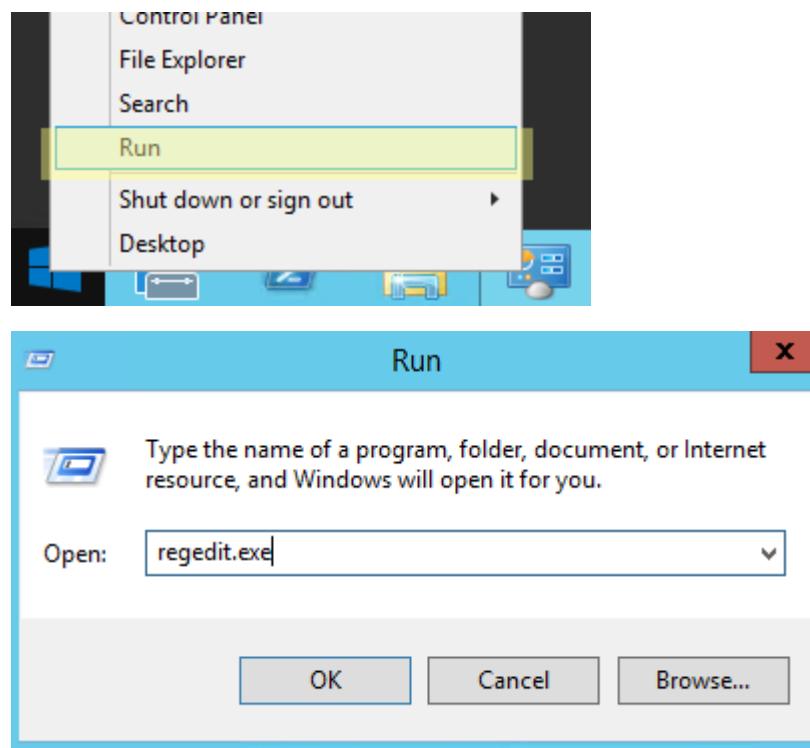


Click Network security: Configure encryption types allowed for Kerberos

Select AES128_HMAC_SHA1, AES256_HMAC_SHA1 and Future encryption types



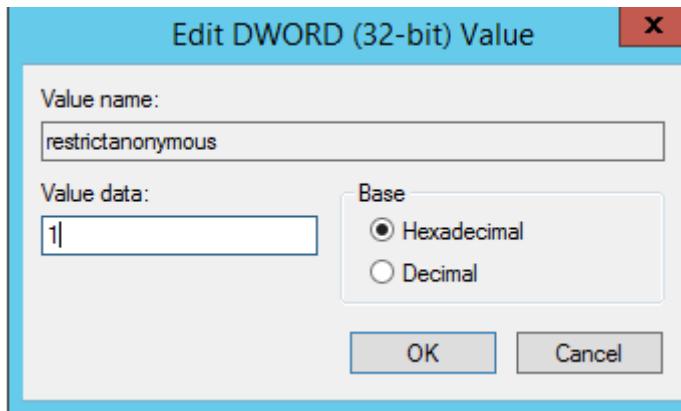
Run regedit.exe (registry editor)



Navigate to

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\Lsa

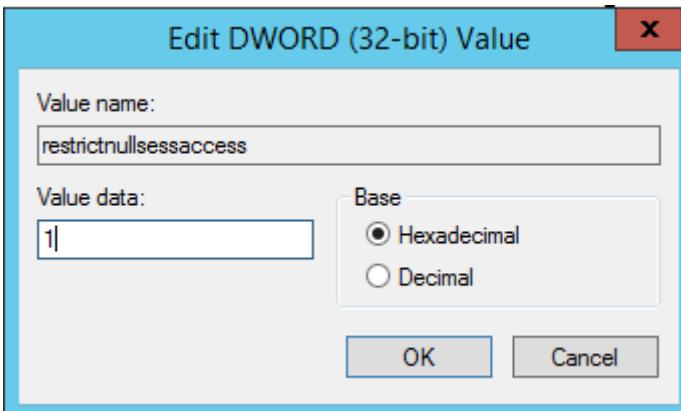
Set restrictanonymous=1



Navigate to

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\
SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Services\LanmanServer\Parameters

Set restrictnullsessaccess=1

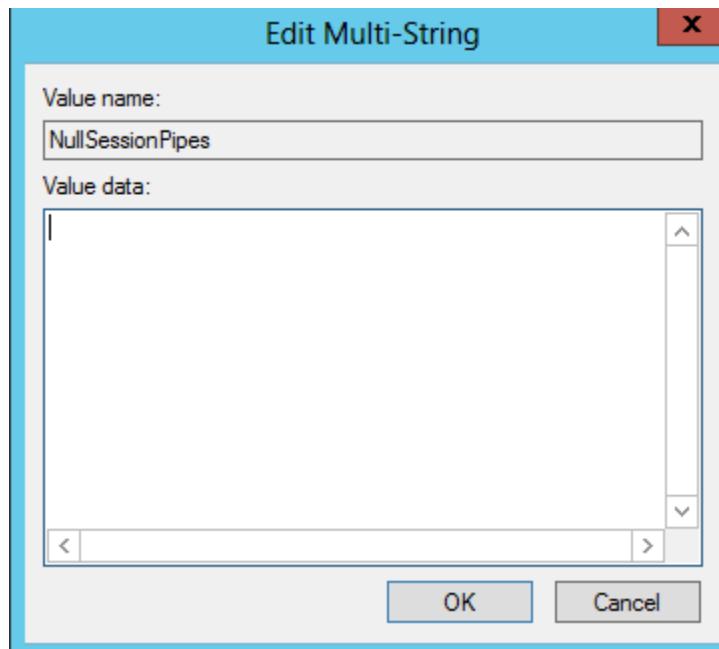


Navigate to

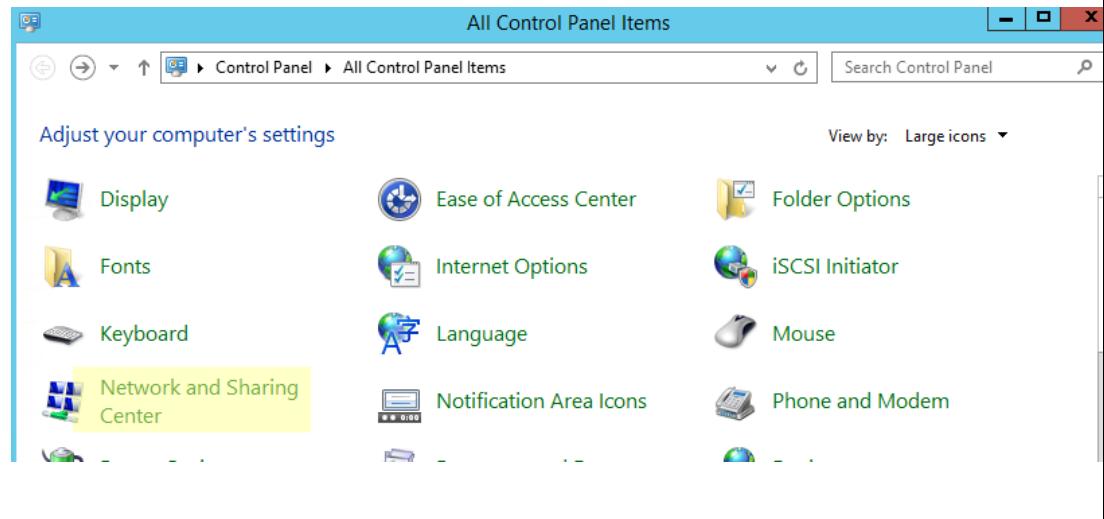
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Services\LanmanServer\Parameters

NullSessionPipes

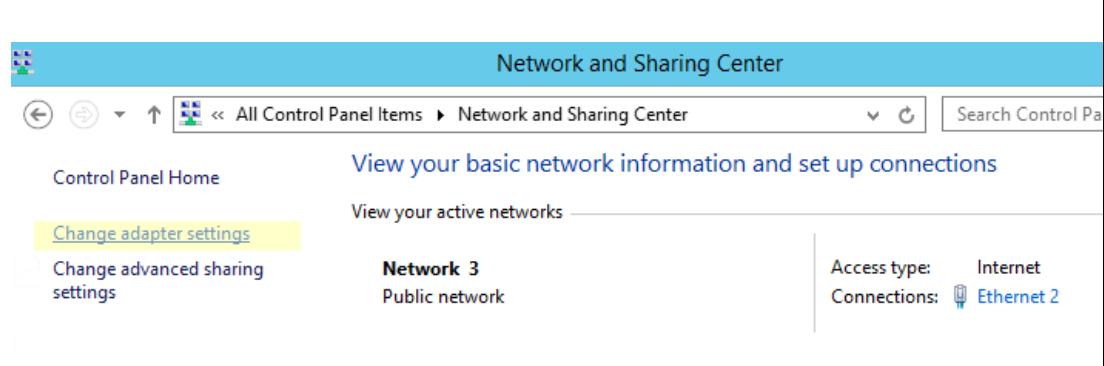
Remove BROWSER if have



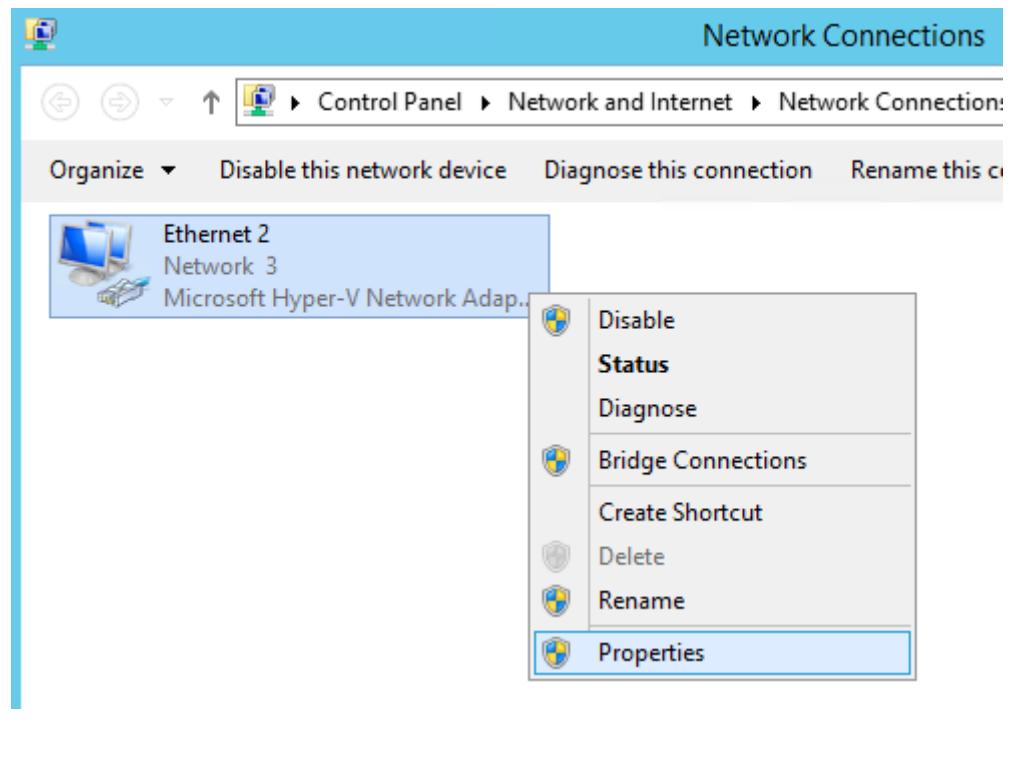
In All Control Panel Items, click Network and Sharing Center



Click Change adapter settings

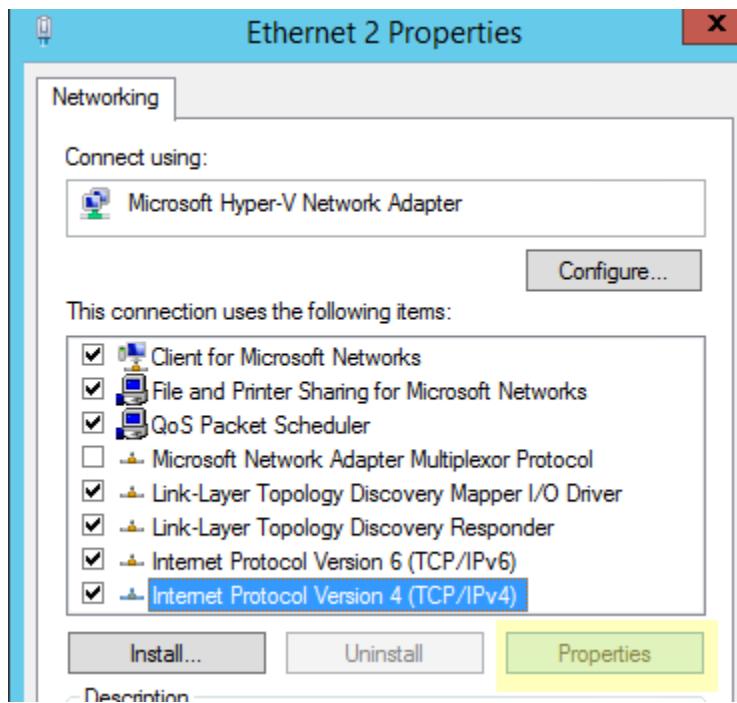


Right click the Ethernet and click properties

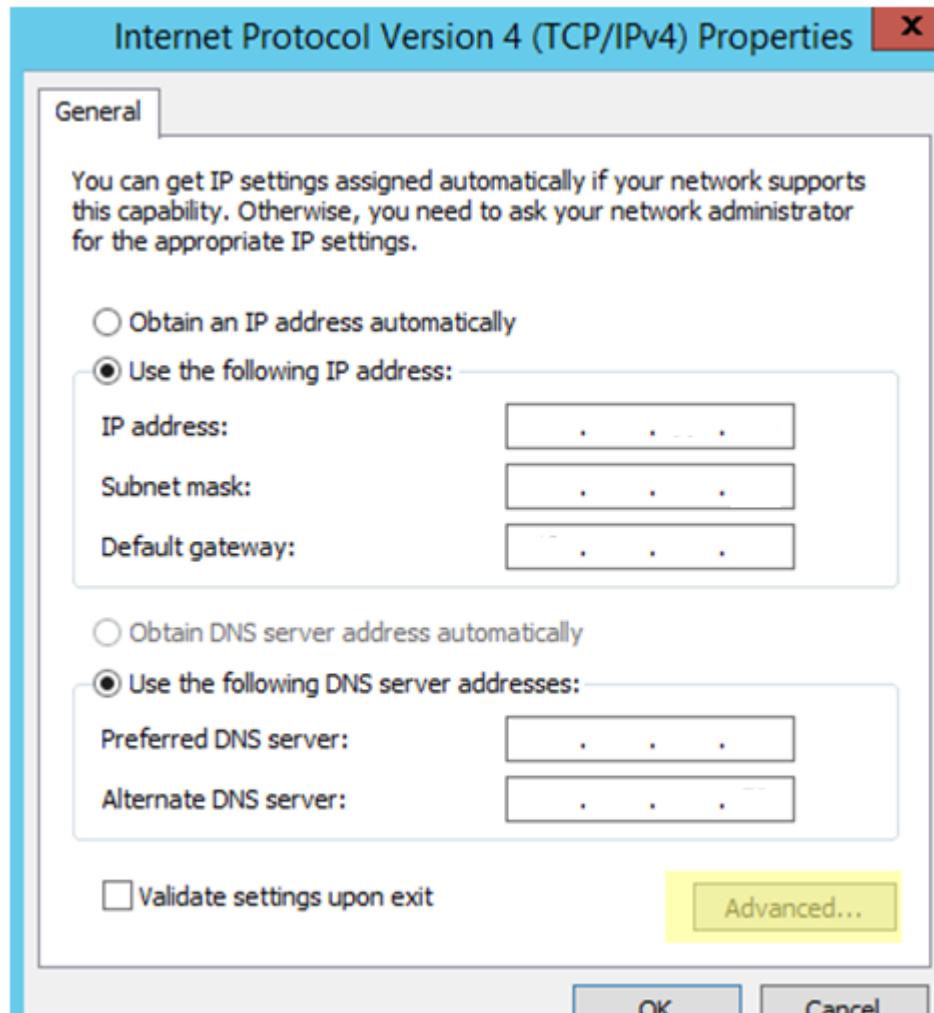


Select Internet Protocol Version 4(TCP/IPv4)

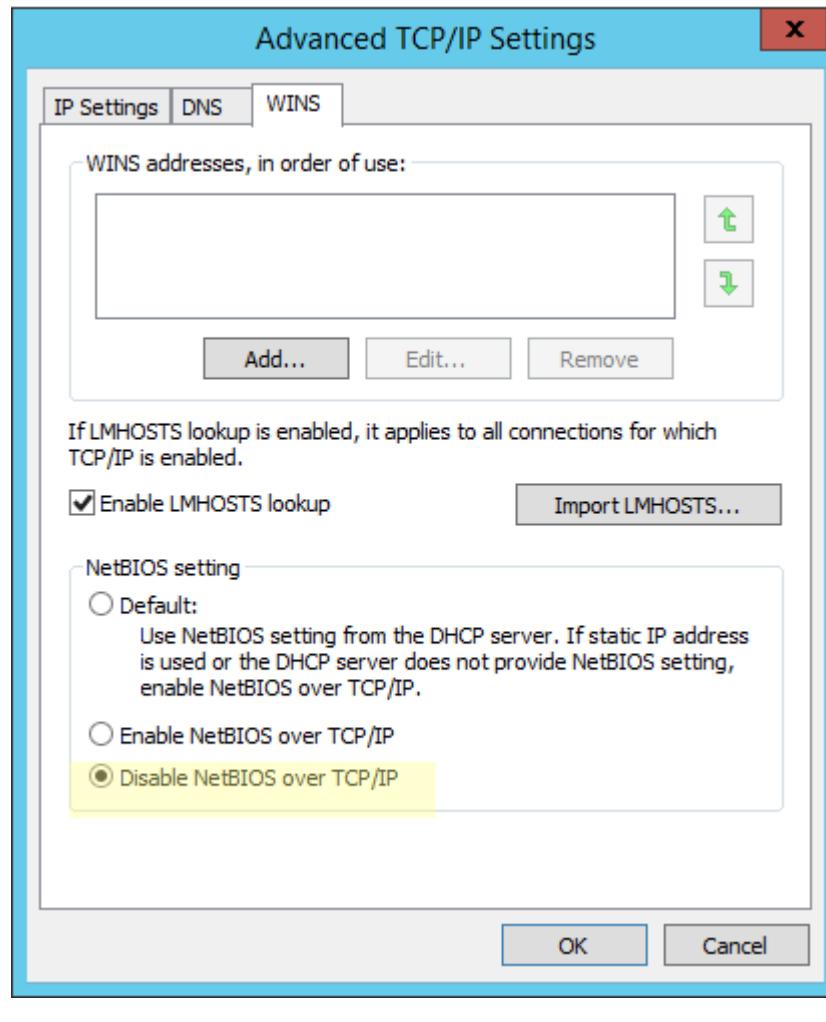
Click Properties



Click Advanced



Select Disable NetBIOS over TCP/IP



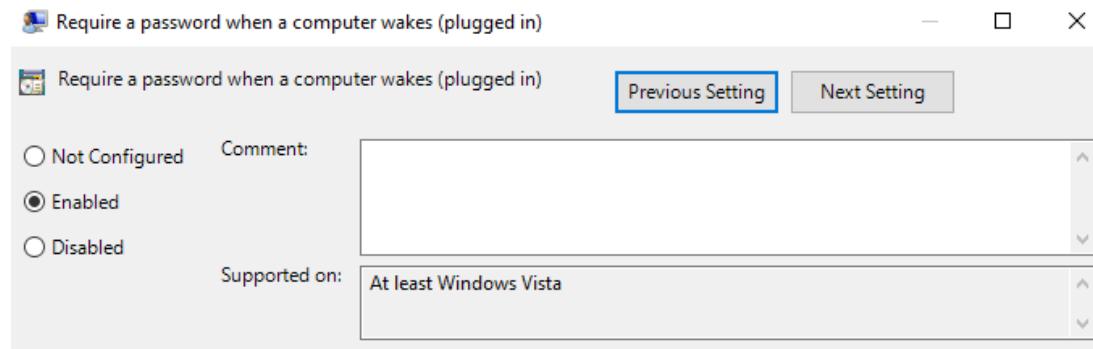
Run gpedit.msc

Navigate to

Computer Configuration – Administrative Templates – System – Power Management – Sleep Settings

Click Require a password when a computer wakes (plugged in)

Select Enabled

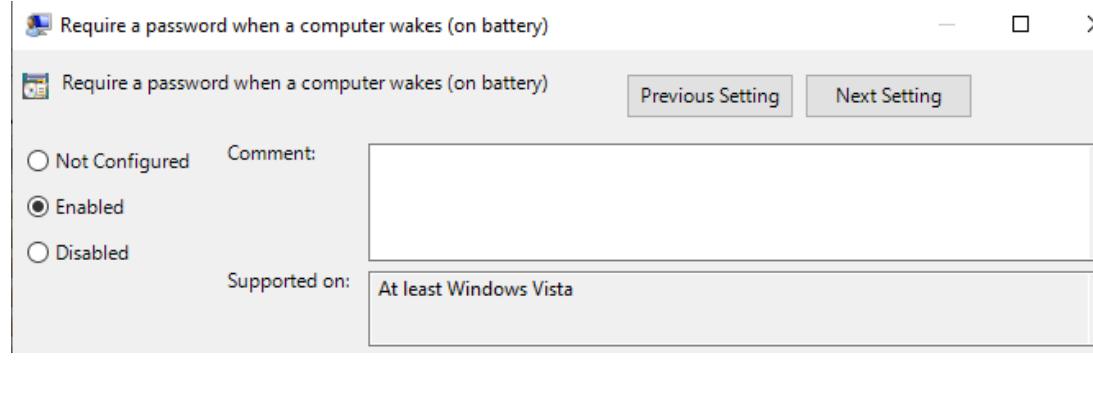


Navigate to

Computer Configuration – Administrative Templates – System – Power Management – Sleep Settings

Click Require a password when a computer wakes (on battery)

Select Enabled



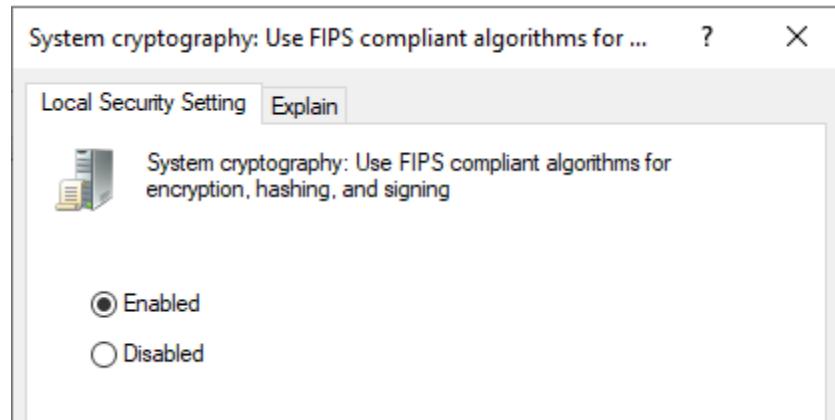
Run gpedit.msc

Navigate to

Computer Configuration – Windows Settings – Security Settings – Local Policy – Security Options

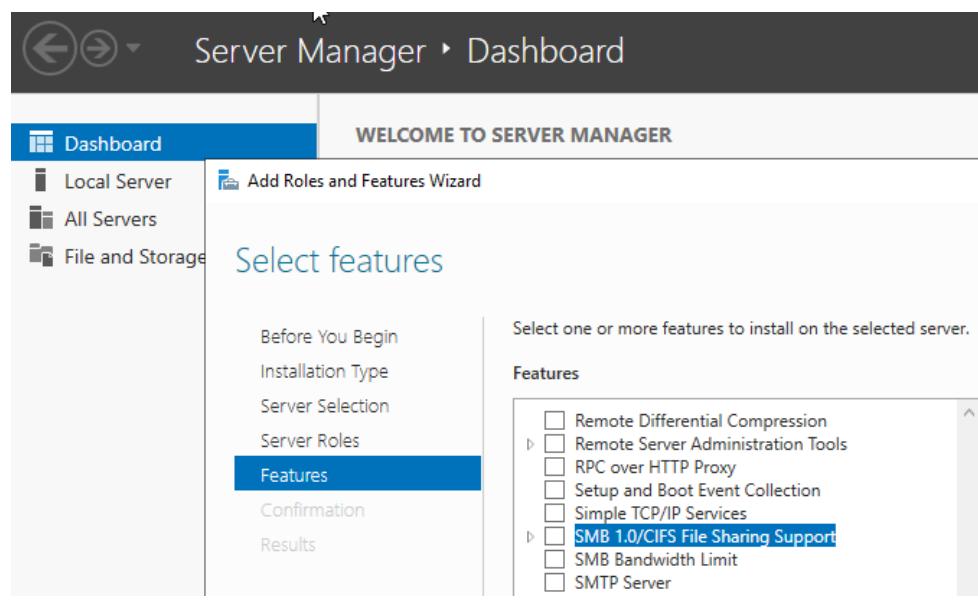
Click System cryptography: Use FIPS compliant algorithms for encryption, hashing, and signing

Select Enabled



Go to Server Manager Dashboard

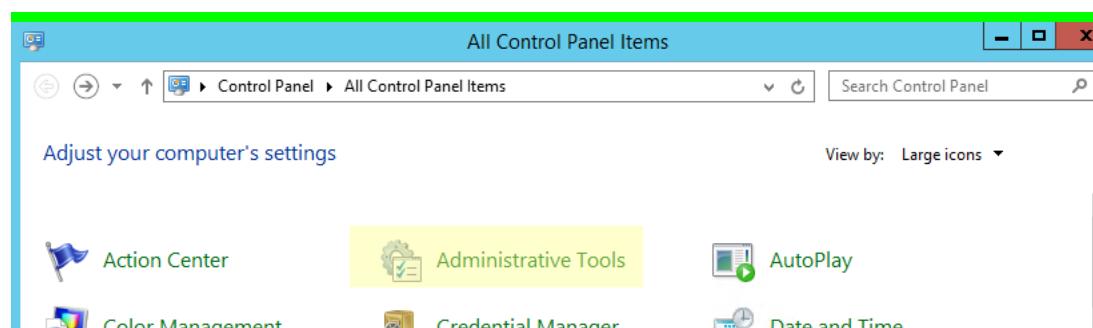
Deselect the SMB 1.0/CIFS File Sharing Support option



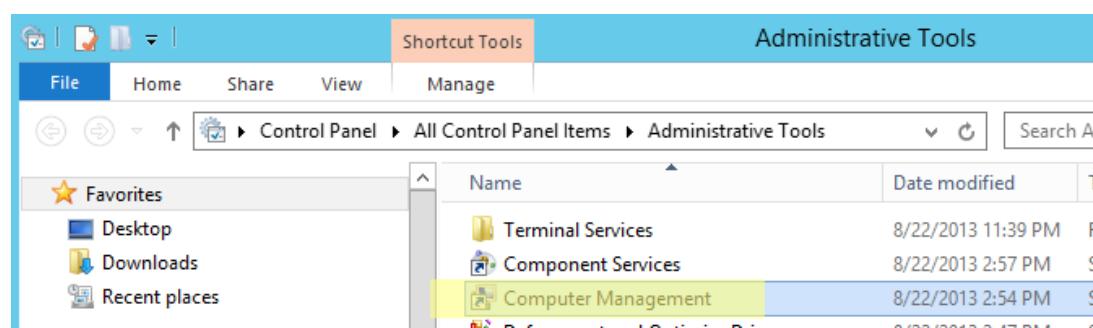
2.2 Account Security

2.2.1 User Account and Rights

In All Control Panel Items , click Administrative Tools



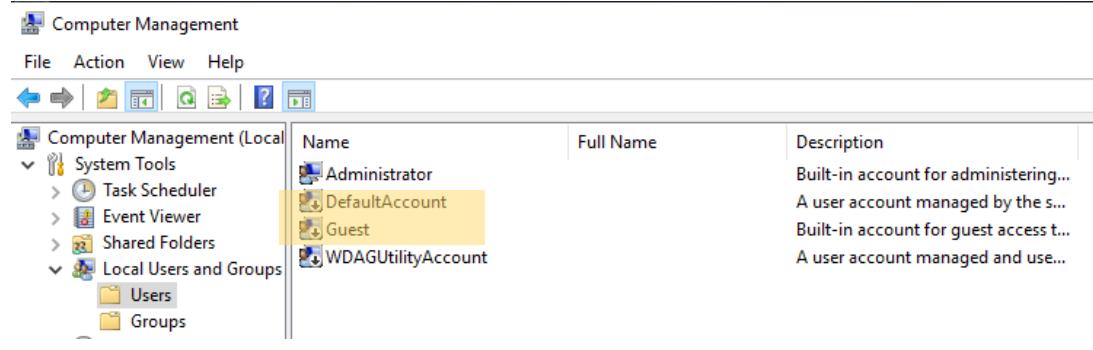
Click Computer Management



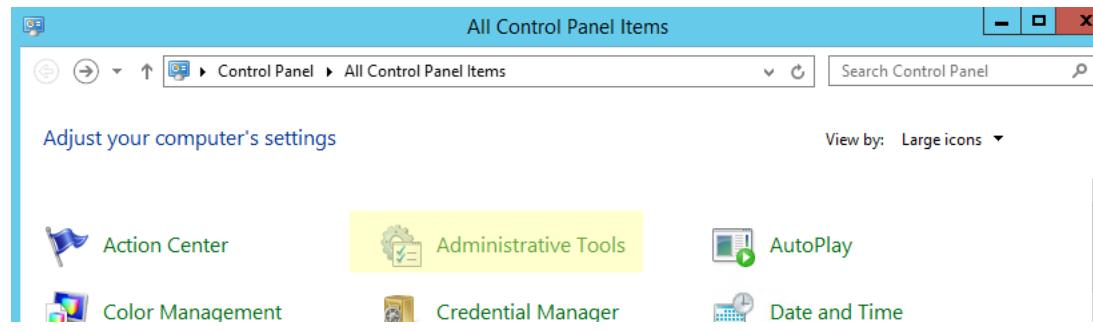
Click Local Users and Groups and Users

Disable or remove any unused accounts, such as DefaultAccount and Guest etc.

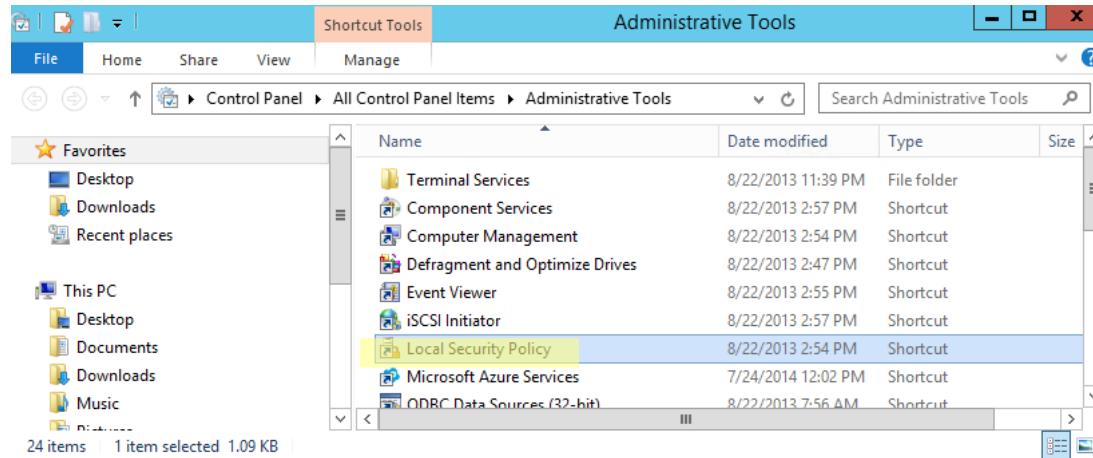
It is not recommended to use a default administrator account name, such as "administrator" or "admin". You may either rename the default administrator account or create an account and set it as an administrative account.



In All Control Panel Items , click Administrative Tools



Click Local Security Policy



Navigate to

Local Policies-User Rights Assignment

Click Allow log on locally, remove all groups except Administrators, you may add your administrative account(s) to this group.

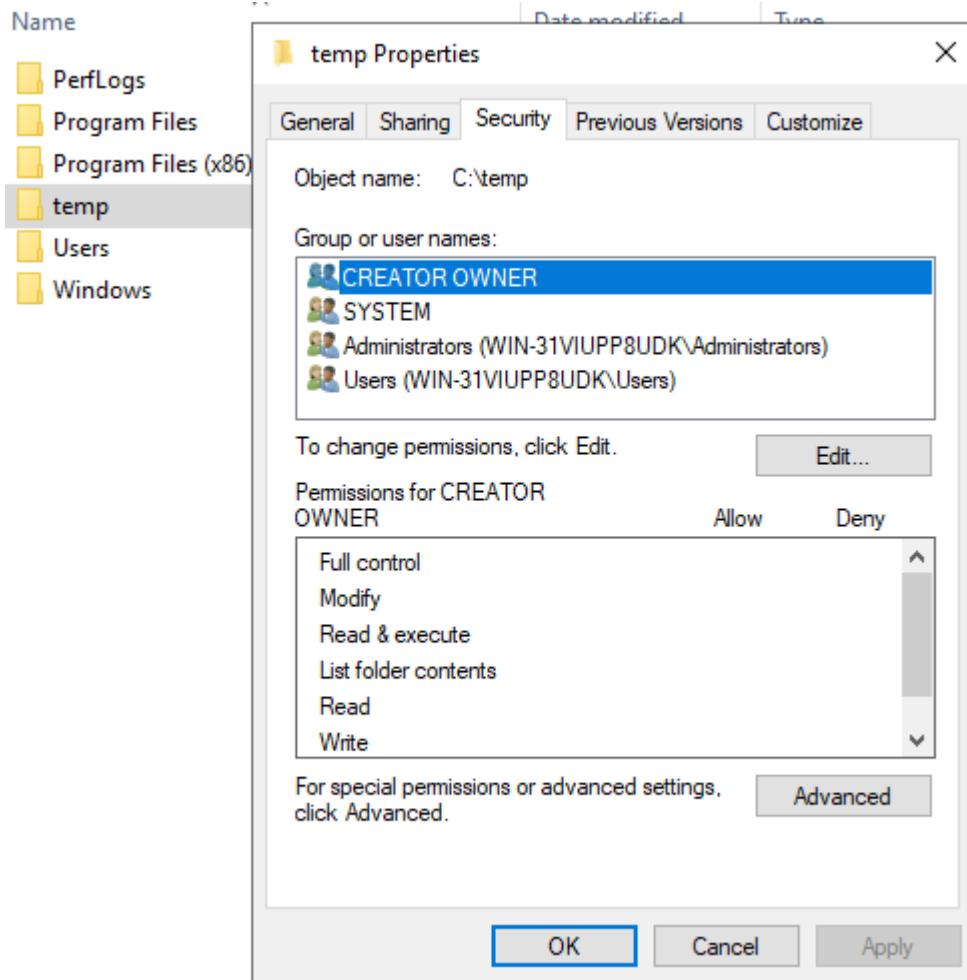
The screenshot shows the Windows Local Policies - User Rights Assignment dialog box. On the left, a navigation pane lists security settings like Account Policies, Local Policies (selected), Audit Policy, User Rights Assignment (selected), Security Options, and others. The main pane displays a list of user rights with their current assignments:

Policy	Security Set
Access Credential Manager as a trusted caller	Everyone, Ad
Access this computer from the network	Everyone, Ad
Act as part of the operating system	Everyone, Ad
Add workstations to domain	Everyone, Ad
Adjust memory quotas for a process	LOCAL SERV
Allow log on locally	Administrat

A detailed view of the "Allow log on locally" policy is shown in a modal window. It shows the local security setting as "Allow log on locally". The "Users" tab is selected, listing "Administrators", "Backup Operators", and "Users". The "Administrators" entry is highlighted with a blue background. At the bottom are "Add User or Group..." and "Remove" buttons.

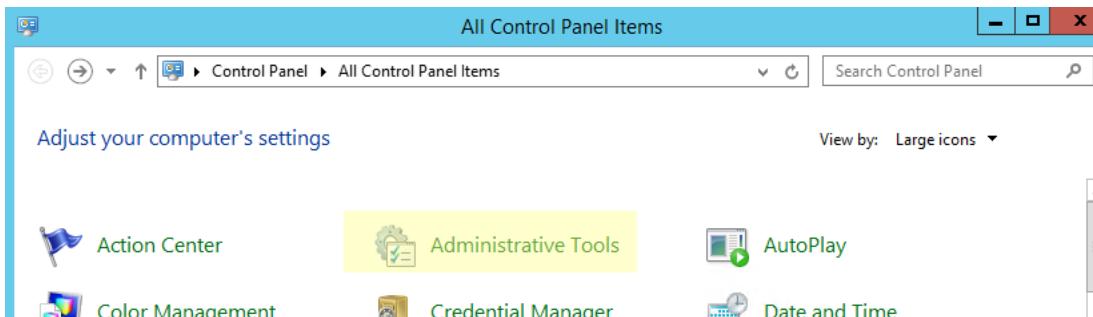
Reminders:

- ✓ Full permissions should NOT be granted to everyone or guest group in the configuration of file or folder.
- ✓ Sharing should NOT be allowed for anonymous access.
- ✓ The principle of least privilege (POLP) should always be strictly executed.

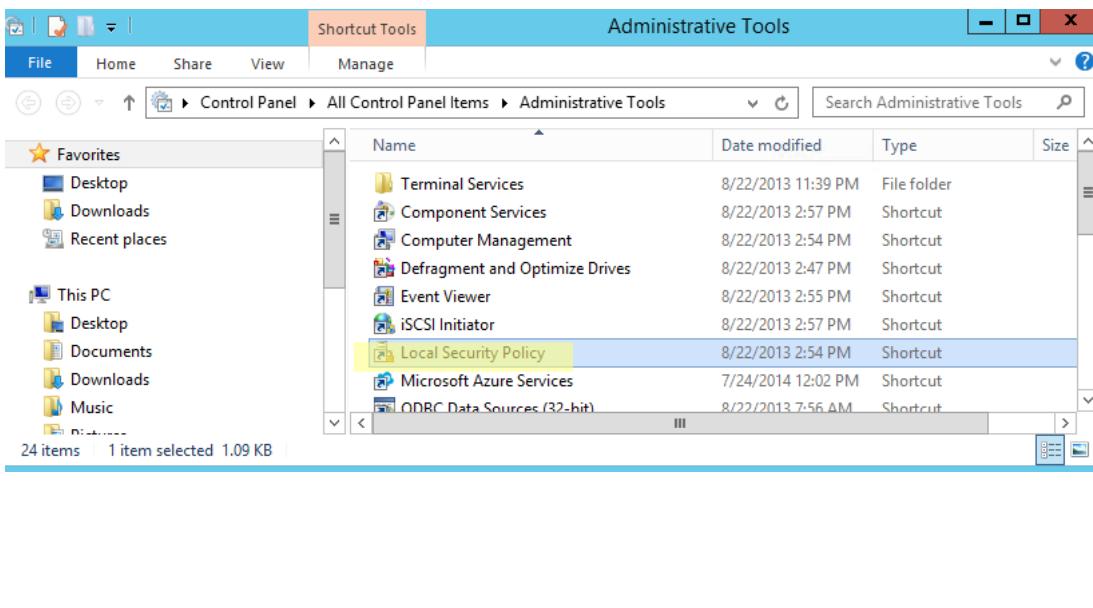


2.2.2 Password Policy

In All Control Panel Items , click Administrative Tools



Click Local Security Policy

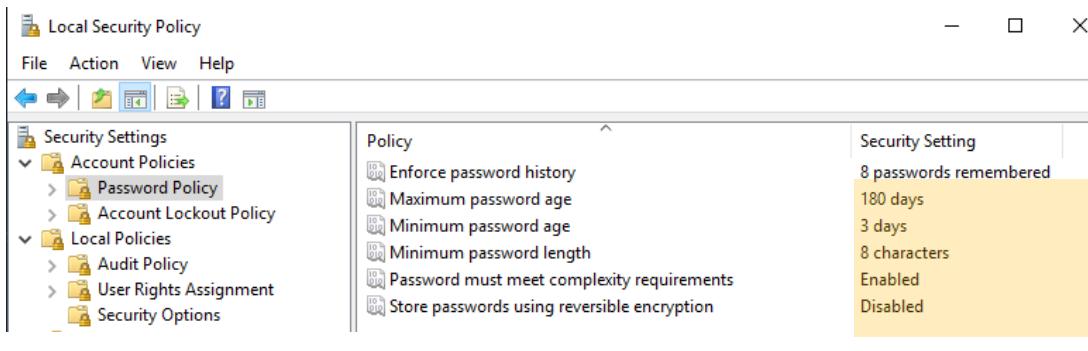


Navigate to

Security Settings – Account Policies – Password Policy

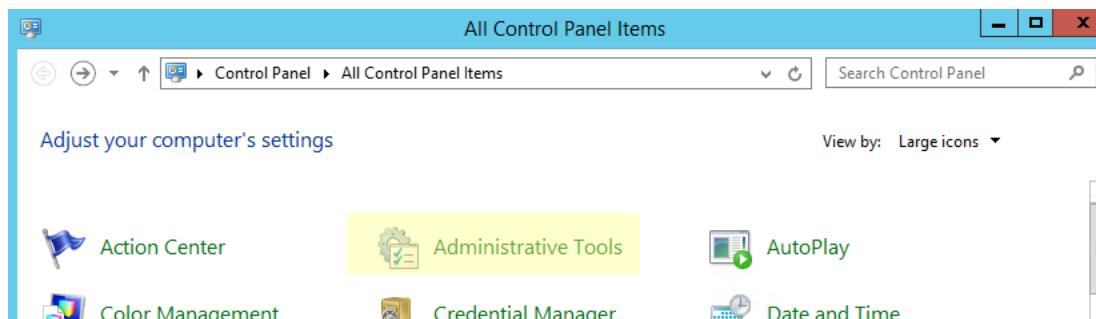
Policy	Security Setting
Enforce password history	8 passwords remembered
Maximum password age	180 days
Minimum password age	3 days
Minimum password length	8 characters
Password must meet complexity requirements	Enabled
Store passwords using reversible encryption	Disabled

Result is

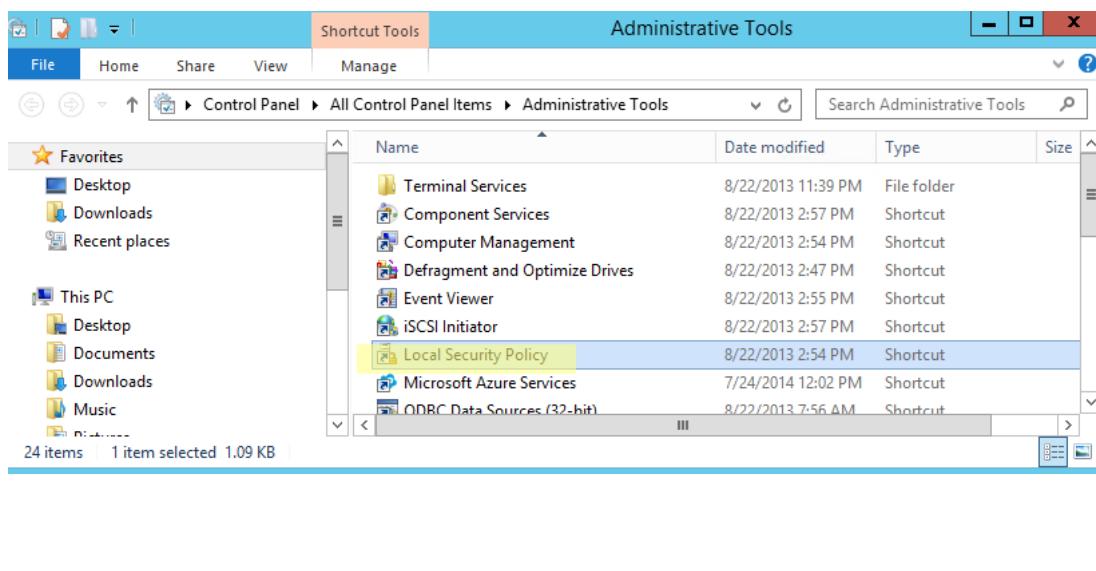


2.2.3 Account Lockout Policy

In All Control Panel Items , click Administrative Tools



Click Local Security Policy

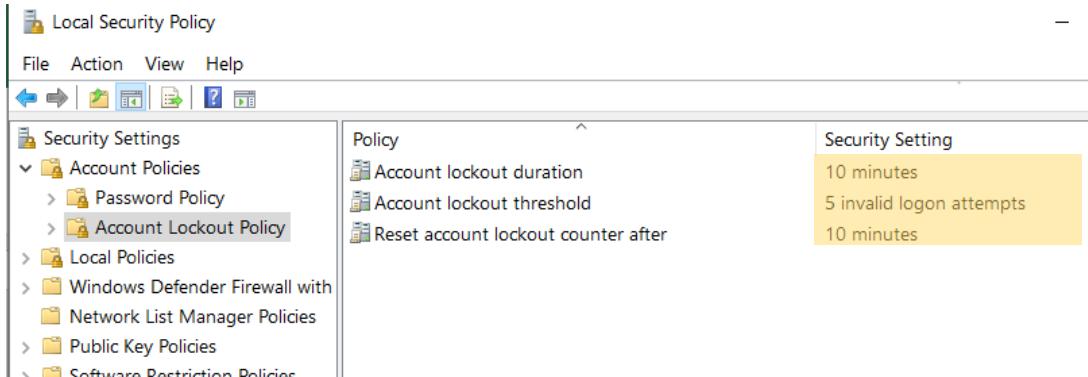


Navigate to

Security Settings – Account Policies – Account Lockout Policy

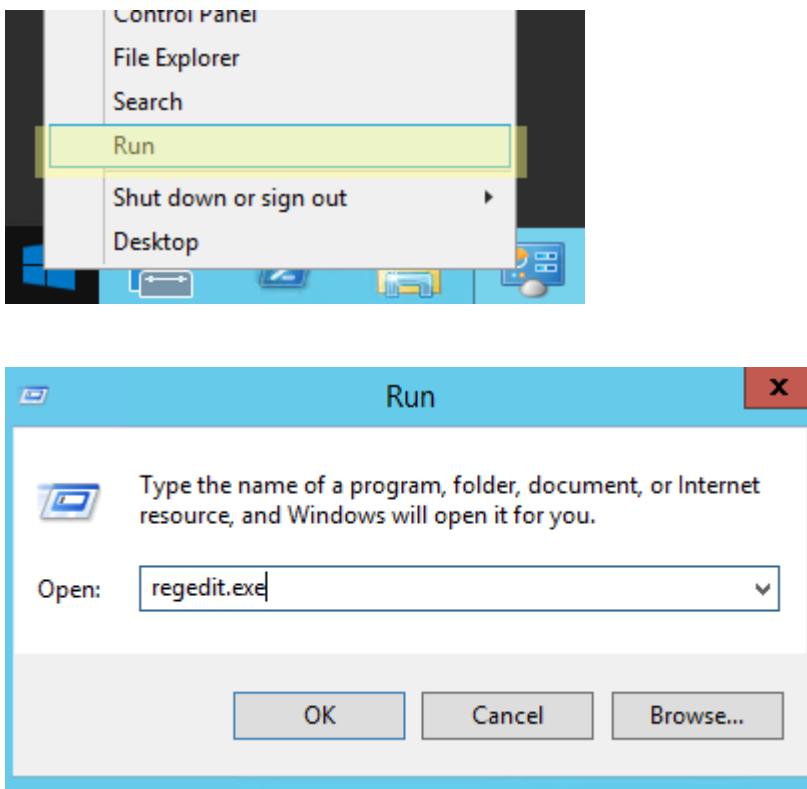
Policy	Security Setting
Account lockout duration	10 minutes
Account lockout threshold	5 invalid logon attempts
Reset account lockout counter after	10 minutes

Result is



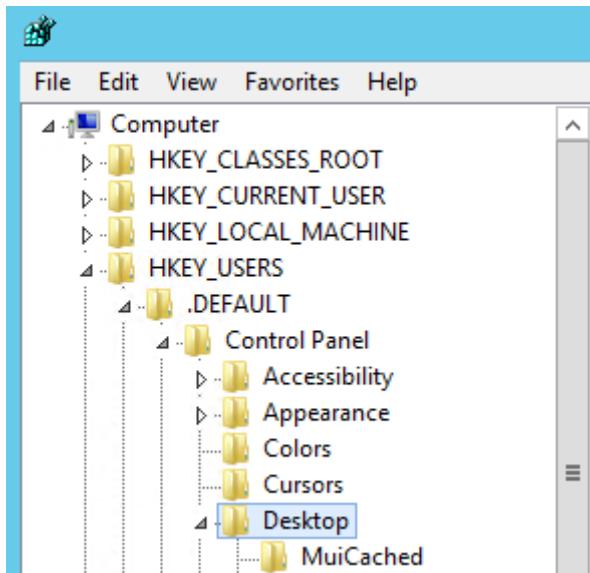
2.2.4 Screen Saver

Run regedit.exe (registry editor)

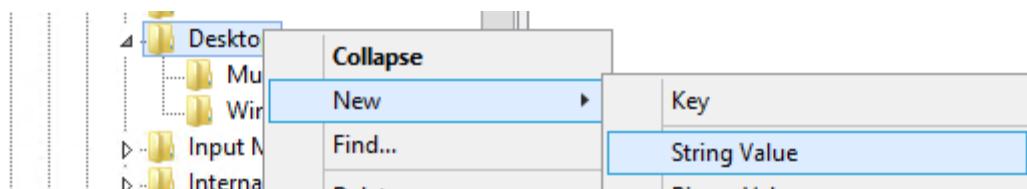


Navigate to

HKEY_USERS – .DEFAULT – Control Panel – Desktop



Right click to add new String Value as

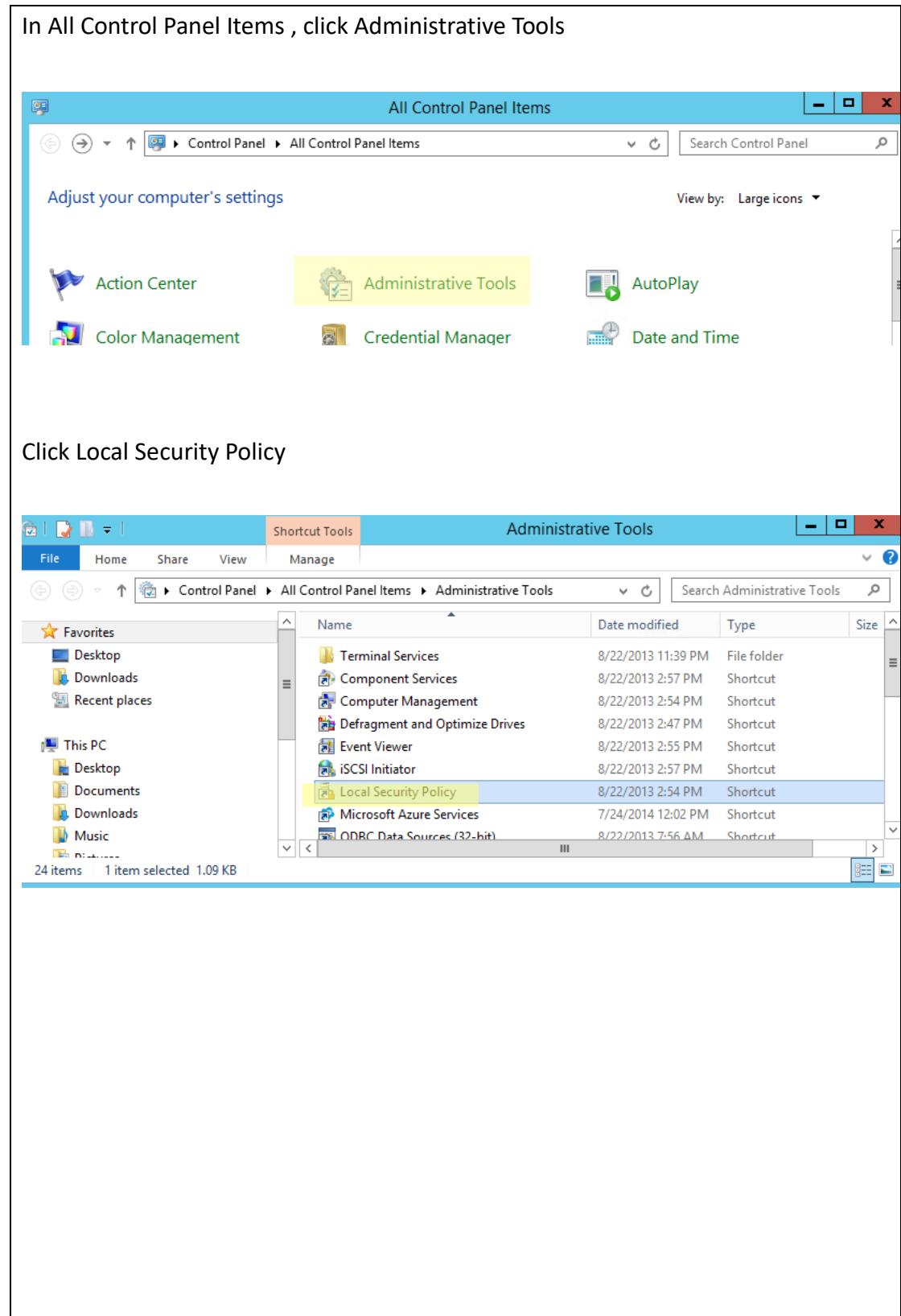


ScreenSaveActive	1
ScreenSavesSecure	1
ScreenSaveTimeOut	900

Result is

Name	Type	Data
(Default)	REG_SZ	(value)
DragFullWindows	REG_SZ	1
FontSmoothing	REG_SZ	2
FontSmoothingOrientation	REG_DWORD	0x00000002
FontSmoothingType	REG_DWORD	0x00000001
ScreenSaveActive	REG_SZ	1
ScreenSavesSecure	REG_SZ	1
ScreenSaveTimeOut	REG_SZ	900
UserPreferencesMask	REG_BINARY	9e3e000000000000

2.3 Local Security Policy



Navigate to Local Policies-Security Options

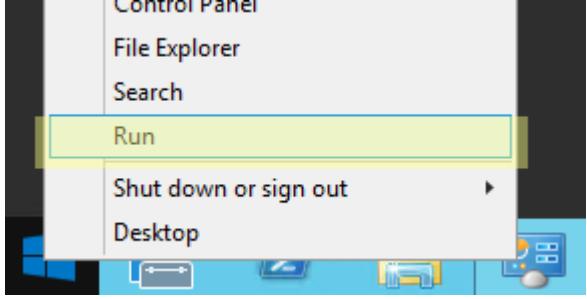
Policy	Security Setting
Accounts: Administrator account status	Enabled
Accounts: Block Microsoft accounts	Not Defined
Accounts: Guest account status	Disabled
Accounts: Limit local account use of blank passwords to co...	Enabled
Accounts: Rename administrator account	Administrator
Accounts: Rename guest account	schrnd
Audit: Audit the access of global system objects	Disabled
Audit: Audit the use of Backup and Restore privilege	Disabled
Audit: Force audit policy subcategory settings (Windows Vis...	Not Defined
Audit: Shut down system immediately if unable to log secur...	Disabled
DCOM: Machine Access Restrictions in Security Descriptor D...	Not Defined
DCOM: Machine Launch Restrictions in Security Descriptor ...	Not Defined
Devices: Allow undock without having to log on	Enabled
Devices: Allowed to format and eject removable media	Not Defined
Devices: Prevent users from installing printer drivers	Enabled
Devices: Restrict CD-ROM access to locally logged-on user ...	Not Defined
Devices: Restrict floppy access to locally logged-on user only	Not Defined
Domain controller: Allow server operators to schedule tasks	Not Defined
Domain controller: LDAP server signing requirements	Not Defined
Domain controller: Refuse machine account password chan...	Not Defined
Domain member: Digitally encrypt or sign secure channel d...	Enabled
Domain member: Digitally encrypt secure channel data (wh...	Enabled
Domain member: Digitally sign secure channel data (when ...	Enabled

Set the additional Security Options by referring below table.

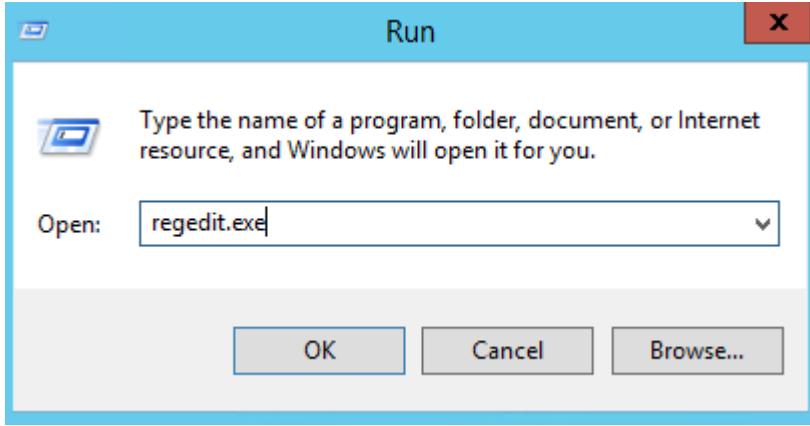
Policy	Security Setting
Accounts: Guest account status	Disabled
Accounts: Rename guest account	Assign any name other than the default name such as schrnd
Audit: Shut down system immediately if unable to log security audits	Disabled
Domain member: Digitally encrypt or sign secure channel data (always)	Enabled
Domain member: Digitally encrypt secure channel data (when possible)	Enabled
Domain member: Digitally sign secure channel data (When possible)	Enabled
Interactive logon: Do not display username at sign-in	Enabled
Interactive logon: Message text for	“Authenticated User Only”

users attempting to log on	
Interactive logon: Message title for users attempting to log on	"Authenticated User Only"
Interactive logon: Number of previous logons to cache (in case domain controller is not available)	0 logons
Interactive logon: Prompt user to change password before expiration	5 days
Recovery console: Allow automatic administrative logon	Disabled
Recovery console: Allow floppy copy and access to all drives and all folders	Disabled

2.4 Registry Security Configuration



1. Run regedit.exe (registry editor)



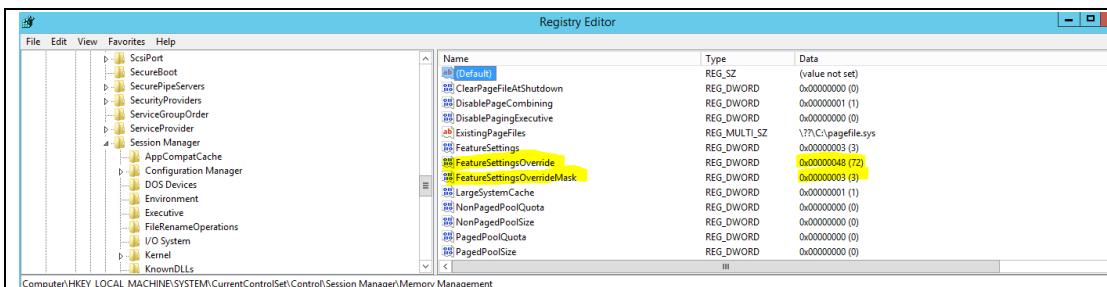
2. Navigate to
[HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\Session Manager\Memory Management]

3. Configure the following Dwords
If Hyper-Threading enabled

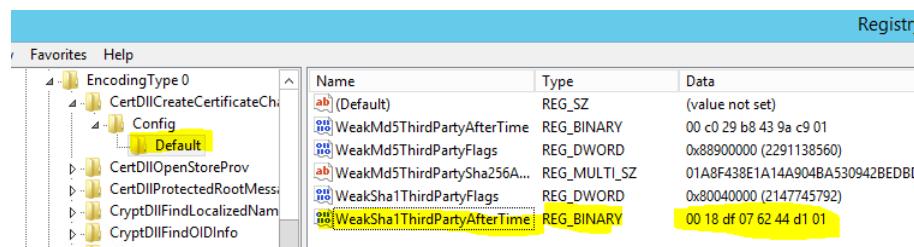
"FeatureSettingsOverride"=dword:00000048
"FeatureSettingsOverrideMask"=dword:00000003

If Hyper-Threading disabled

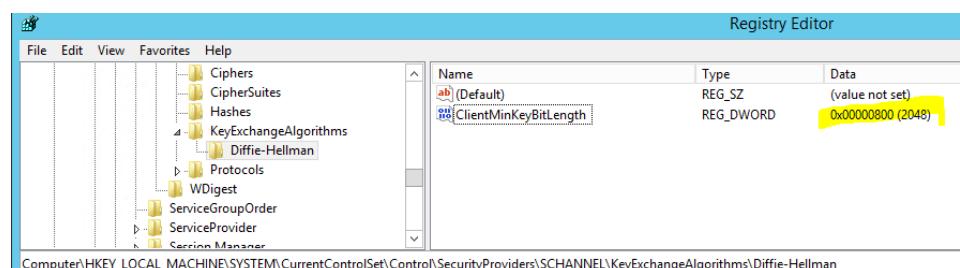
"FeatureSettingsOverride"=dword:00002048
"FeatureSettingsOverrideMask"=dword:00000003



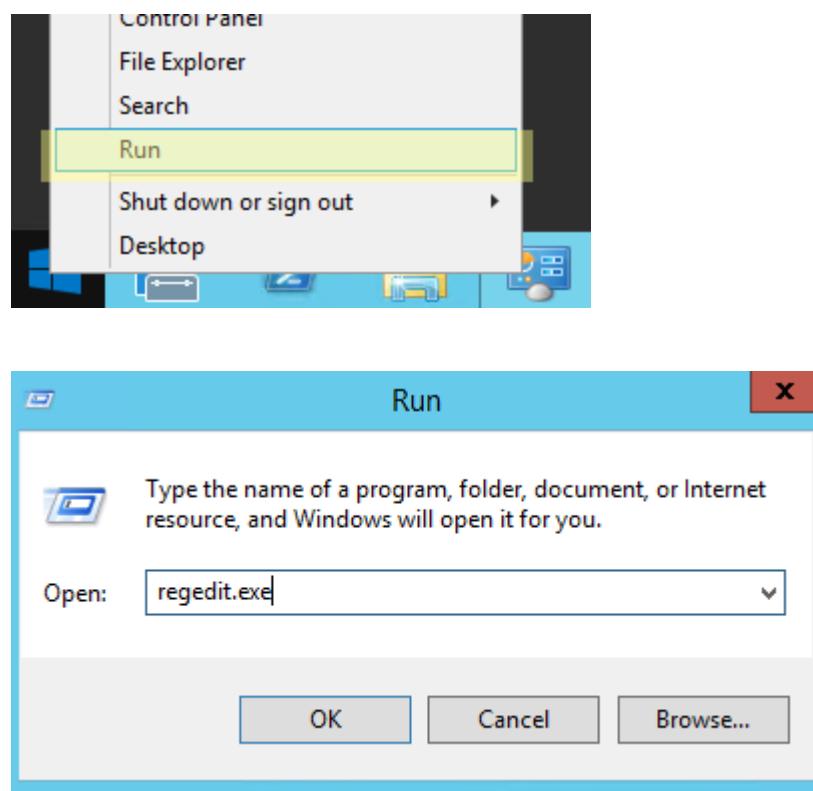
4. Navigate to
[HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Software\Microsoft\Cryptography\OID\EncodingType 0\CertDIICreateCertificateChainEngine\Config\default]
5. Configure the following binary value
"WeakSha1ThirdPartyAfterTime"=0018df076244d101



6. Navigate to
[HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\SecurityProviders\SCHANNEL\KeyExchangeAlgorithms\Diffie-Hellman]
7. Configure the following Dword
"ClientMinKeyBitLength"=dword: 00000800



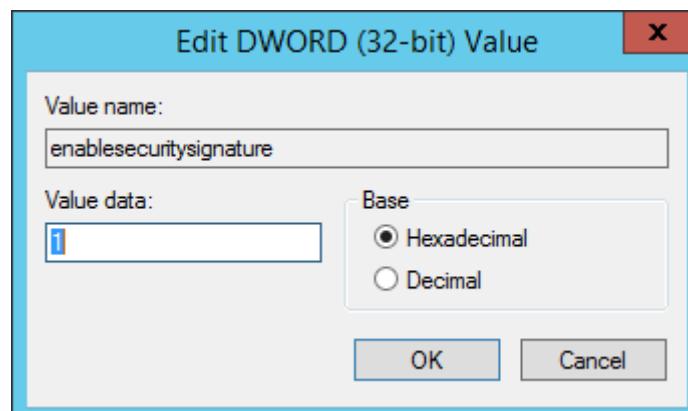
Run regedit.exe (registry editor)



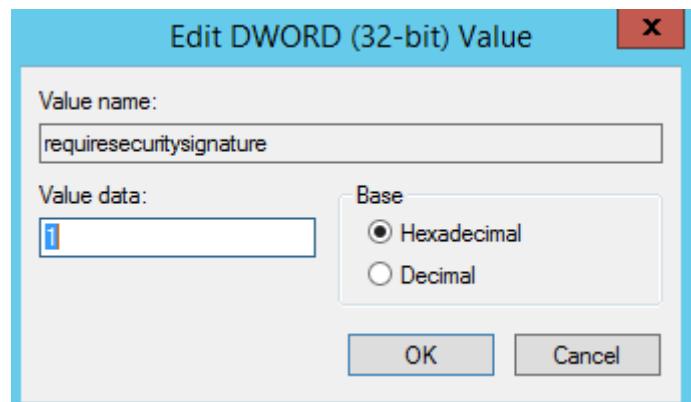
Navigate to

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Services\LanmanServer\
Parameters

Change enablesecuritysignature to 1



Change requiresecuritysignature to 1

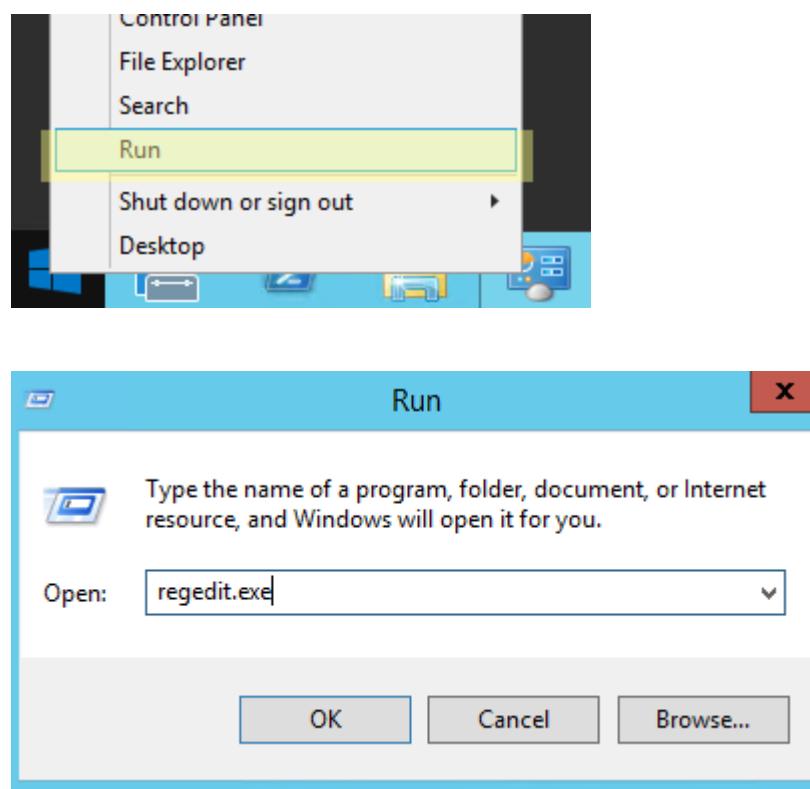


Result is

The Registry Editor window displays the following table for the 'requiresecuritysignature' key:

Name	Type	Data
(Default)	REG_SZ	(value not set)
AdjustedNullSessionPipes	REG_DWORD	0x00000002 (2)
autodisconnect	REG_DWORD	0x0000000f (15)
CachedOpenLimit	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)
enableforcedlogoff	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)
enablesecuritysignature	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)
Guid	REG_BINARY	9f 4f 0f 9c b3 cf 10 47 94 9a e8 e7 06 c9 cf fc
Lmannounce	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)
NullSessionPipes	REG_MULTI_SZ	
requiresecuritysignature	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)
restrictnullsessaccess	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)
ServiceDll	REG_EXPAND_SZ	%SystemRoot%\system32\srvsvc.dll
ServiceDllUnloadOnStop	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)
Size	REG_DWORD	0x00000003 (3)

Run regedit.exe (registry editor)



Navigate to

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\SecurityProviders\SCHANNEL\Ciphers

Set 0 to

NULL

DES 56/56

RC2 40/128

RC2 56/128

RC2 128/128

RC4 40/128

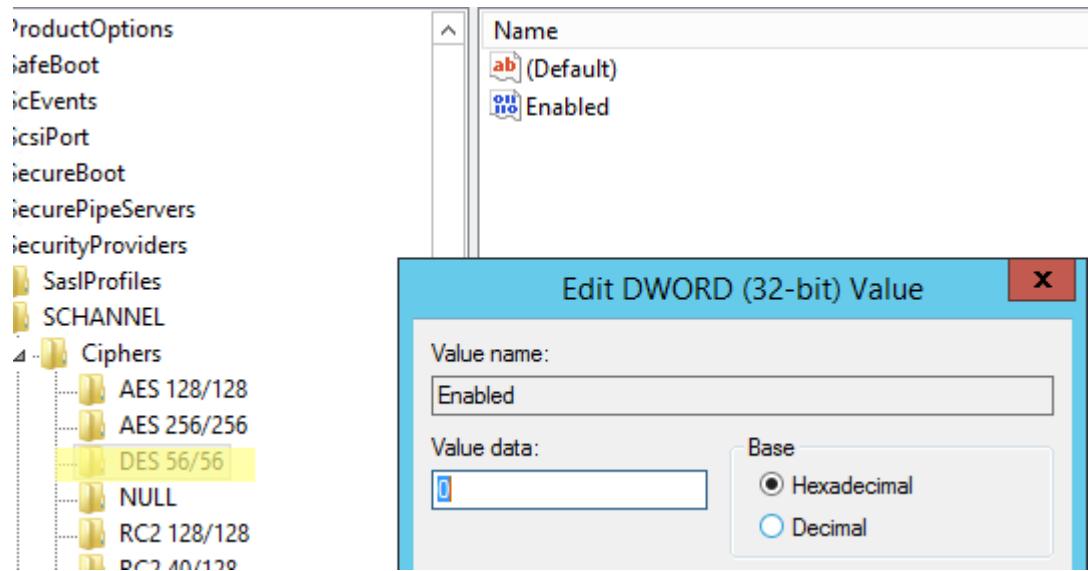
RC4 56/128

RC4 64/128

RC4 128/128

Triple DES 168

Take DES 56/56 as example



Navigate to

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\SecurityProviders
\SCHANNEL\Protocols

Set key as below

SSL 2.0

Key: Client DWORD: DisabledByDefault (1)

Key: Client DWORD: Enabled (0)

Key: Server DWORD: DisabledByDefault (1)

Key: Server DWORD: Enabled (0)

SSL 3.0

Key: Client DWORD: DisabledByDefault (1)

Key: Client DWORD: Enabled (0)

Key: Server DWORD: DisabledByDefault (1)

Key: Server DWORD: Enabled (0)

TLS 1.0 *

Key: Client DWORD: DisabledByDefault (1)

Key: Client DWORD: Enabled (0)

Key: Server DWORD: DisabledByDefault (1)

Key: Server DWORD: Enabled (0)

TLS 1.1

Key: Client DWORD: DisabledByDefault (1)

Key: Client DWORD: Enabled (0)

Key: Server DWORD: DisabledByDefault (1)

Key: Server DWORD: Enabled (0)

TLS 1.2

Key: Client DWORD: DisabledByDefault (0)

Key: Client DWORD: Enabled (1)

Key: Server DWORD: DisabledByDefault (0)

Key: Server DWORD: Enabled (1)

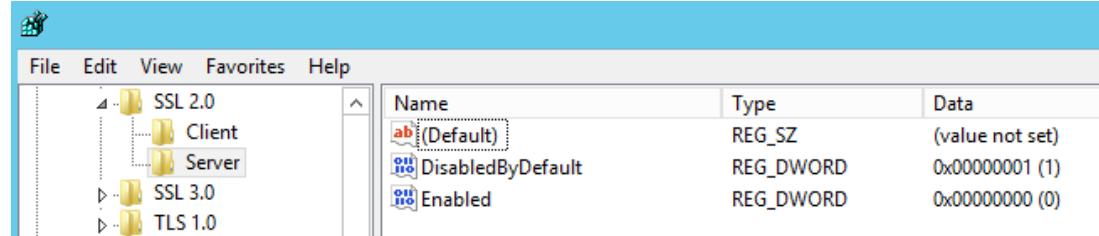
Result is

SSL 2.0



The screenshot shows the Windows Registry Editor with the path `HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\SecurityProviders\SCHANNEL\Protocols\SSL 2.0`. The right pane displays three registry keys:

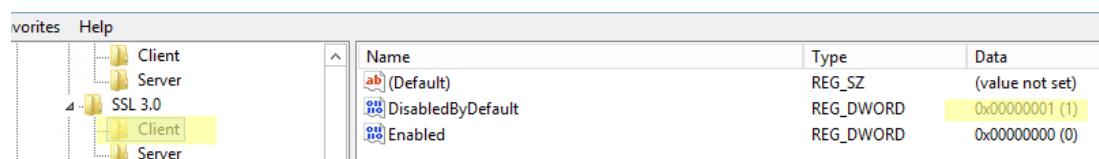
Name	Type	Data
(Default)	REG_SZ	(value not set)
DisabledByDefault	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)
Enabled	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)



The screenshot shows the Windows Registry Editor with the path `HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\SecurityProviders\SCHANNEL\Protocols\SSL 2.0`. The right pane displays three registry keys:

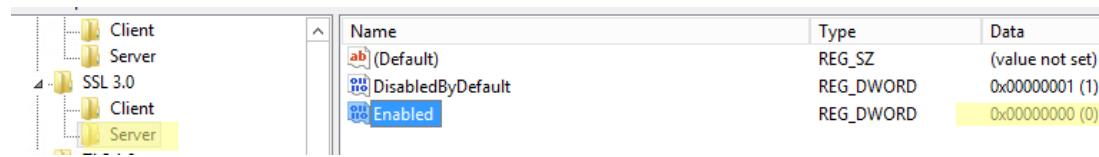
Name	Type	Data
(Default)	REG_SZ	(value not set)
DisabledByDefault	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)
Enabled	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)

SSL 3.0



The screenshot shows the Windows Registry Editor with the path `HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\SecurityProviders\SCHANNEL\Protocols\SSL 3.0`. The right pane displays three registry keys:

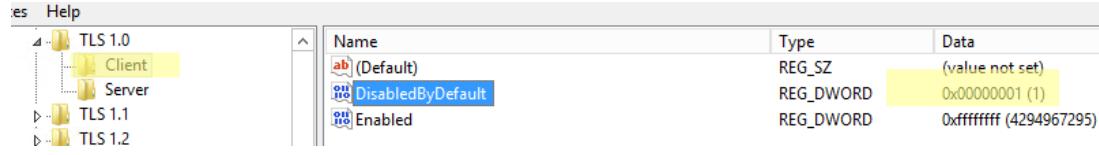
Name	Type	Data
(Default)	REG_SZ	(value not set)
DisabledByDefault	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)
Enabled	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)



The screenshot shows the Windows Registry Editor with the path `HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\SecurityProviders\SCHANNEL\Protocols\SSL 3.0`. The right pane displays three registry keys:

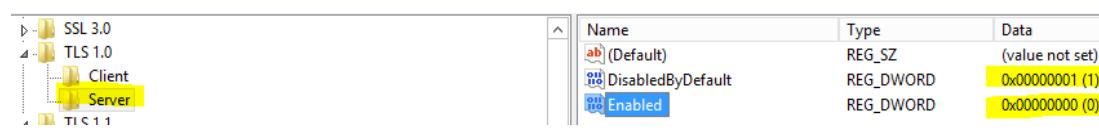
Name	Type	Data
(Default)	REG_SZ	(value not set)
DisabledByDefault	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)
Enabled	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)

TLS 1.0



The screenshot shows the Windows Registry Editor with the path `HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\SecurityProviders\SCHANNEL\Protocols\TLS 1.0`. The right pane displays three registry keys:

Name	Type	Data
(Default)	REG_SZ	(value not set)
DisabledByDefault	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)
Enabled	REG_DWORD	0xffffffff (4294967295)



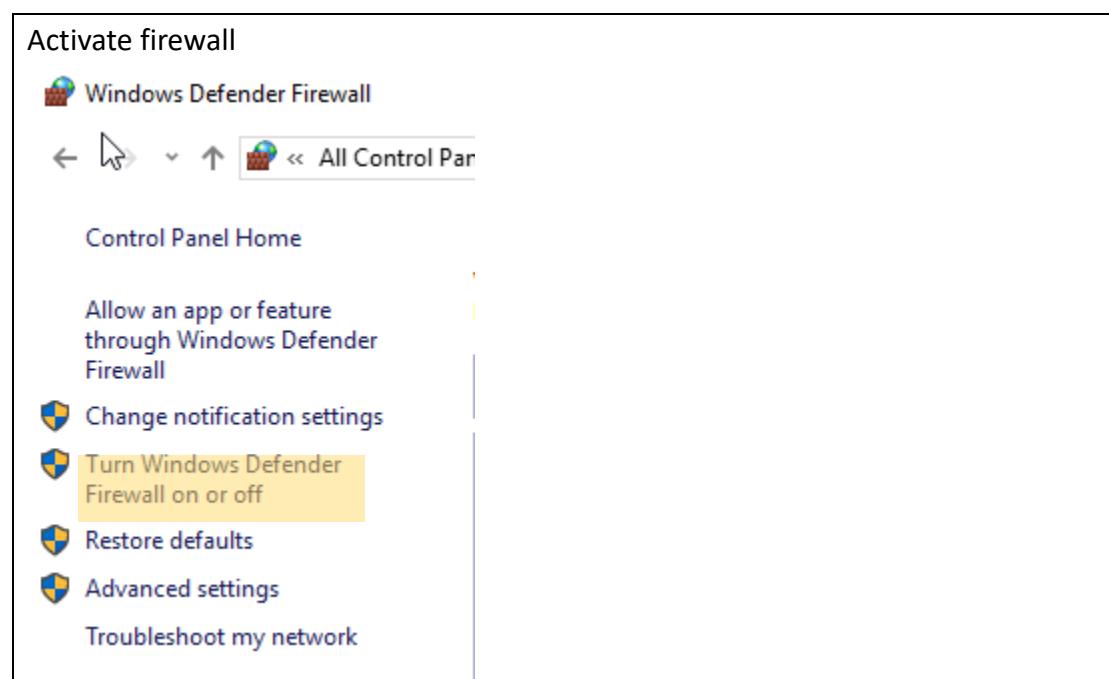
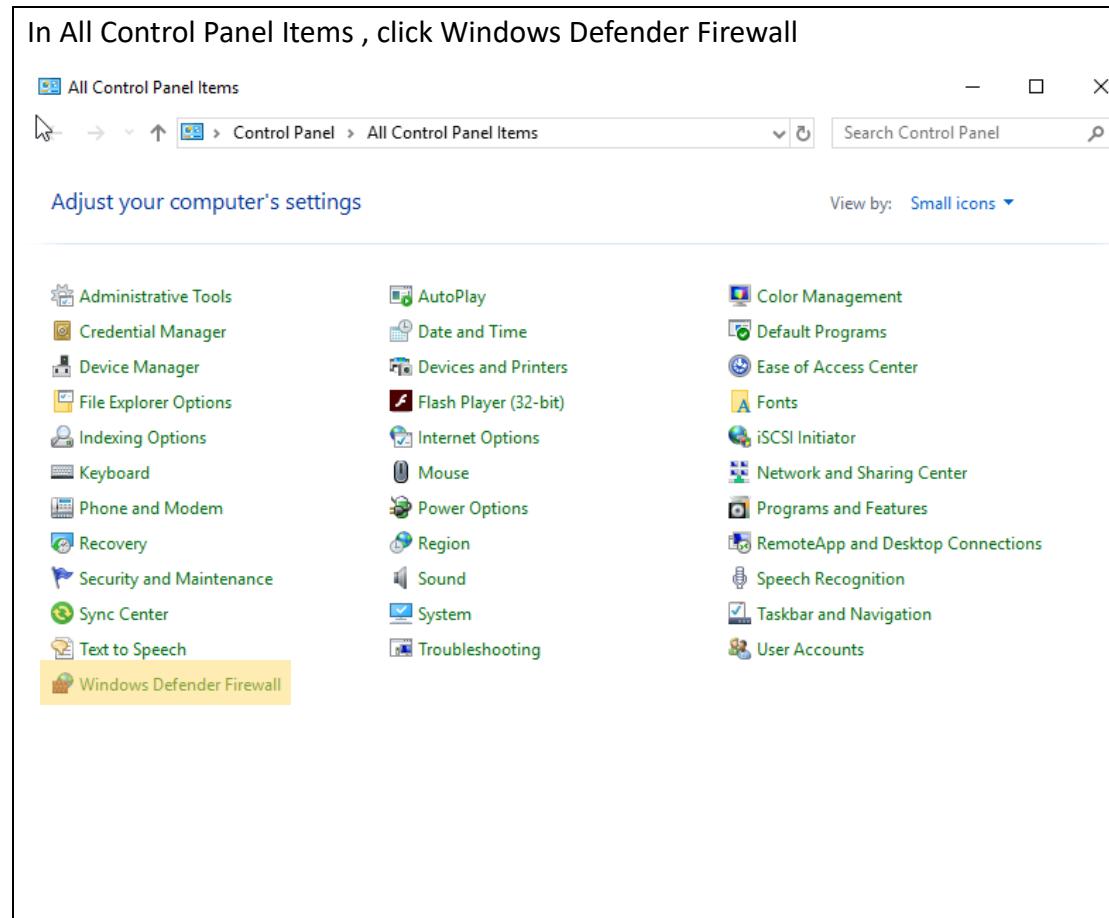
The screenshot shows the Windows Registry Editor with the path `HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\SecurityProviders\SCHANNEL\Protocols\TLS 1.0`. The right pane displays three registry keys:

Name	Type	Data
(Default)	REG_SZ	(value not set)
DisabledByDefault	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)
Enabled	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)

TLS1.1				
		Name	Type	Data
		(Default)	REG_SZ	(value not set)
		DisabledByDefault	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)
		Enabled	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)

TLS1.2				
		Name	Type	Data
		(Default)	REG_SZ	(value not set)
		DisabledByDefault	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)
		Enabled	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)

2.5 Firewall



Customize settings for each type of network

You can modify the firewall settings for each type of network that you use.

Private network settings



Turn on Windows Defender Firewall

- Block all incoming connections, including those in the list of allowed apps
- Notify me when Windows Defender Firewall blocks a new app



Turn off Windows Defender Firewall (not recommended)

Public network settings



Turn on Windows Defender Firewall

- Block all incoming connections, including those in the list of allowed apps
- Notify me when Windows Defender Firewall blocks a new app

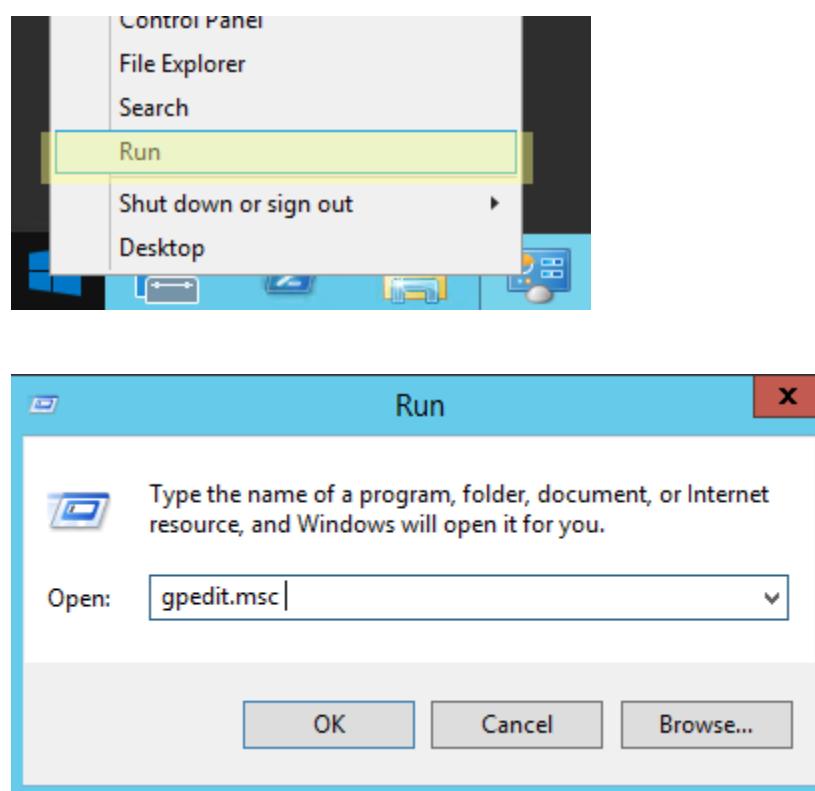


Turn off Windows Defender Firewall (not recommended)

Result is

The screenshot shows the Windows Control Panel interface for managing the Windows Defender Firewall. On the left, there's a sidebar with links like 'Control Panel Home', 'Allow an app or feature through Windows Defender Firewall', 'Change notification settings', 'Turn Windows Defender Firewall on or off', 'Restore defaults', 'Advanced settings', and 'Troubleshoot my network'. The main content area has a title 'Help protect your PC with Windows Defender Firewall' and a sub-section 'Windows Defender Firewall can help prevent hackers or malicious software from gaining access to your PC through the Internet or a network.' It displays two network types: 'Private networks' (status: Not connected) and 'Guest or public networks' (status: Connected). Below these, it shows the 'Windows Defender Firewall state' is 'On', 'Incoming connections' are set to 'Block all connections to apps that are not on the list of allowed apps', 'Active public networks' are listed as 'Network', and 'Notification state' is 'Do not notify me when Windows Defender Firewall blocks a new app'.

Run gpedit.msc

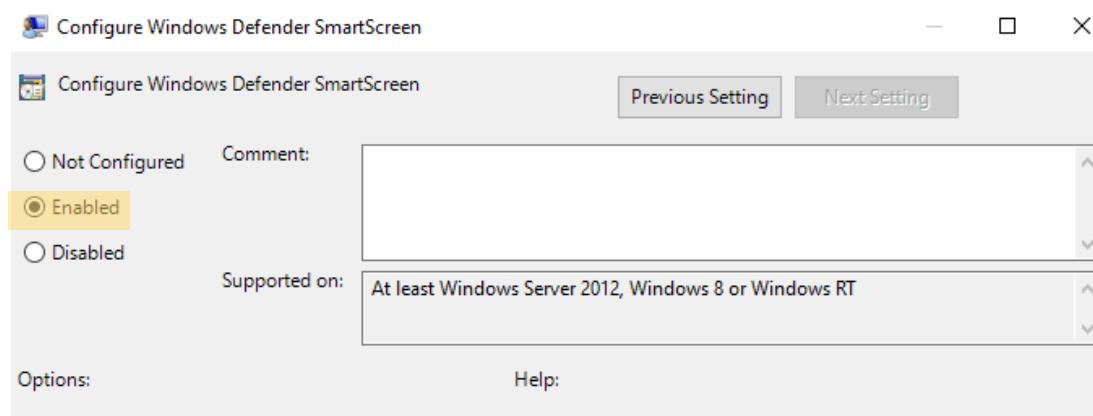


Navigate to

Computer Configuration – Administrative Template – Windows Components –
Windows Defender SmartScreen – Explorer

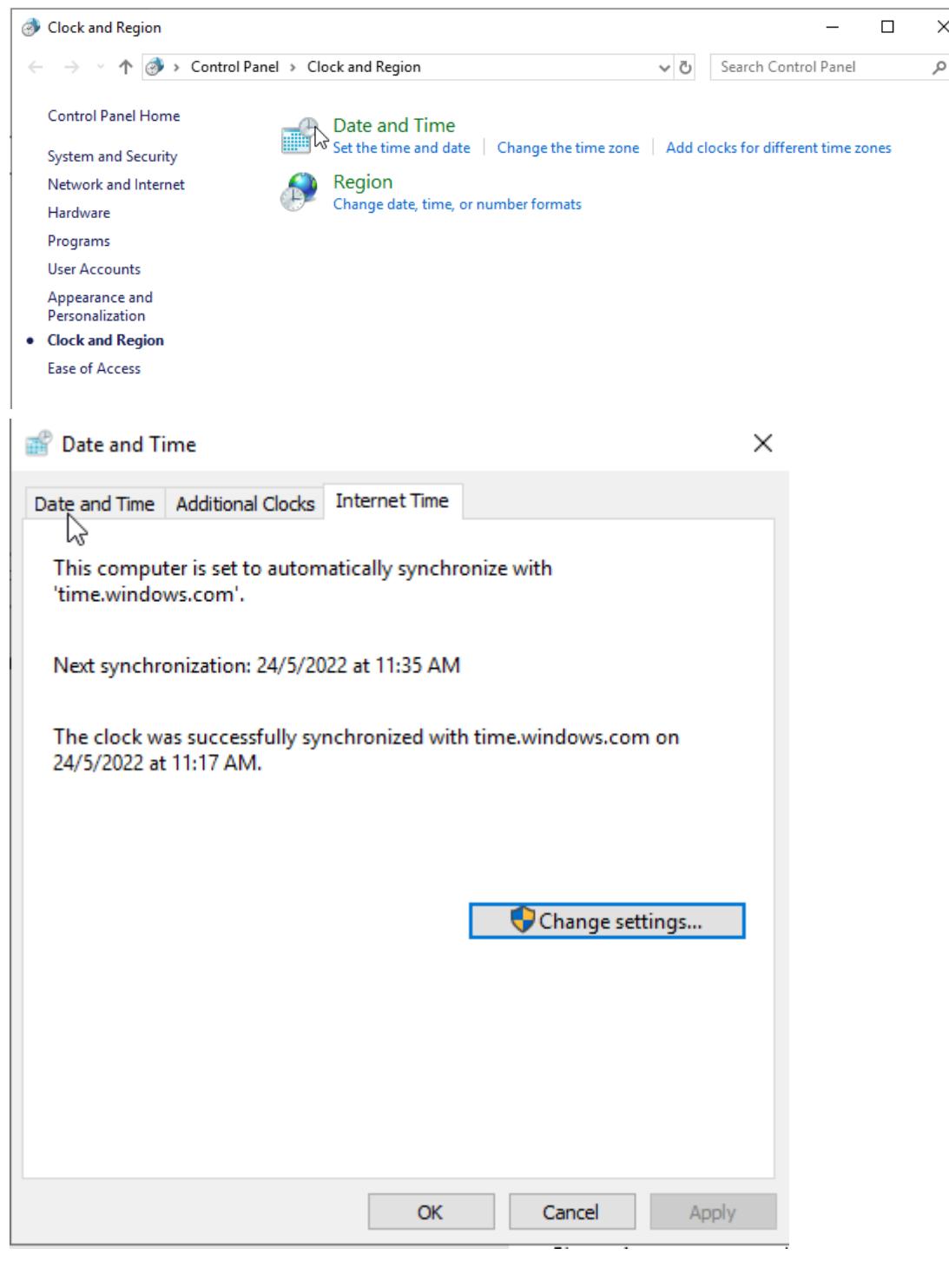
Click Configure Windows Defender SmartScreen

Select Enabled



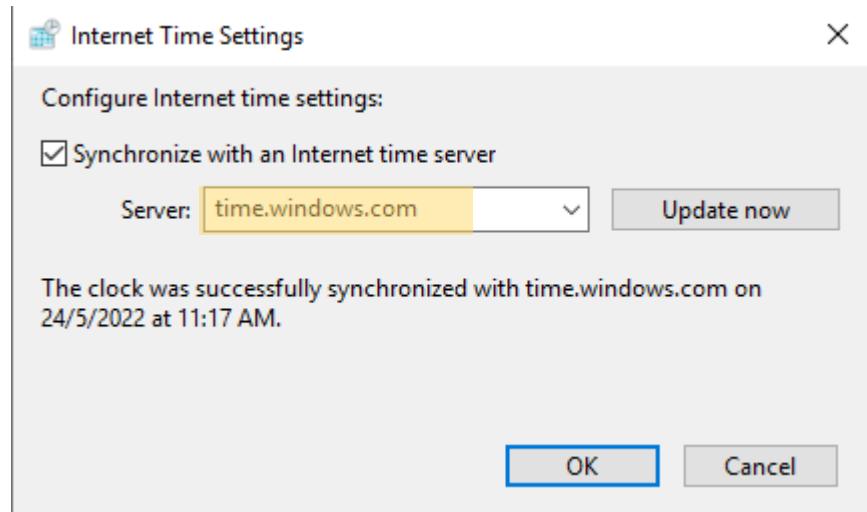
2.6 NTP (Time Synchronization)

Open Control Panel, navigate to Clock and Region, click Date and Time



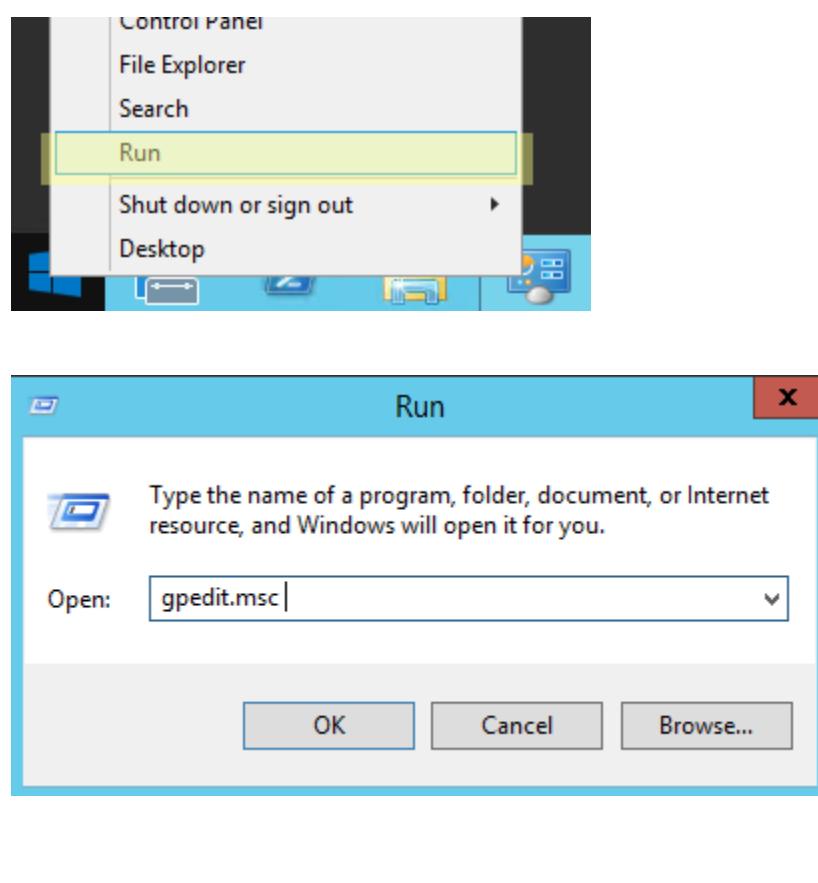
Click Change settings

Set your preferred time source, such as your internal domain server or internet time server.



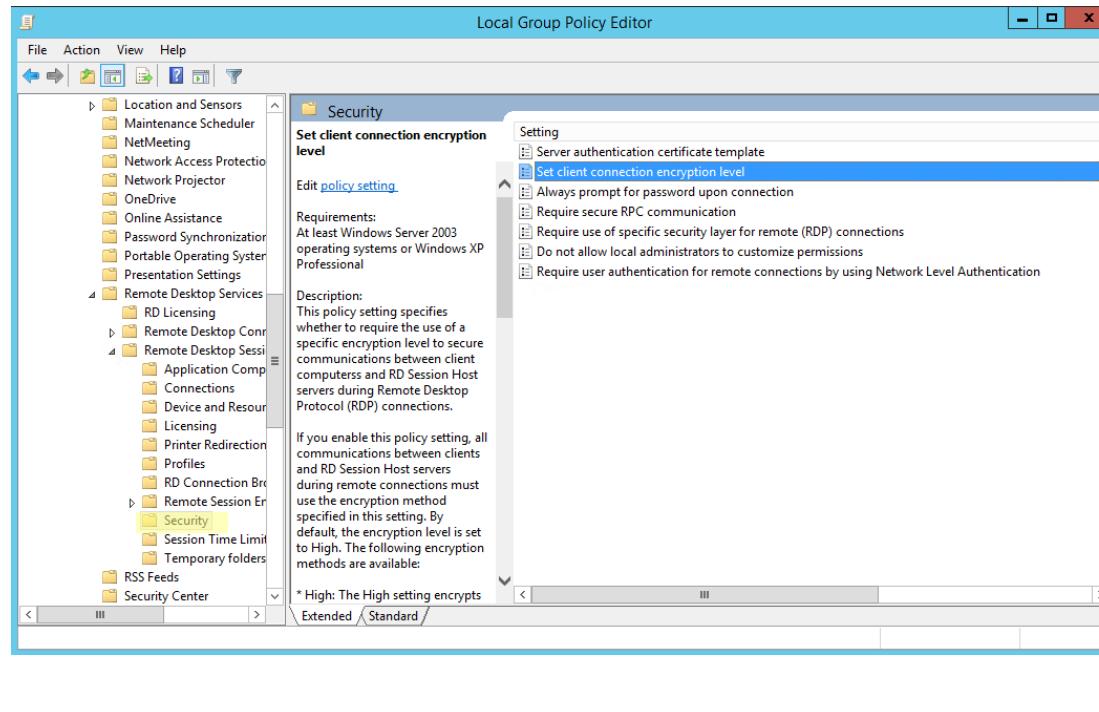
2.7 Remote Desktop Configuration

Run gpedit.msc



Navigate to

Computer Configuration - Administrative Templates - Windows Components -
Remote Desktop Services - Remote Desktop Session Host - Security



Click Set client connection encryption level

The screenshot shows the 'Security' section of the Group Policy Management Editor. Under 'Set client connection encryption level', the 'Edit policy setting' link is visible. The 'Requirements' section specifies 'At least Windows Server 2003 operating systems or Windows XP Professional'. The 'Description' section is empty. On the right, a table lists several settings with their status:

Setting	Status
Server authentication certificate template	Not config
Set client connection encryption level	Enabled
Always prompt for password upon connection	Not config
Require secure RPC communication	Not config
Require use of specific security layer for remote (RDP) connections	Enabled
Do not allow local administrators to customize permissions	Not config
Require user authentication for remote connections by using Network...	Enabled

Select High Level

The screenshot shows the 'Set client connection encryption level' dialog box. The 'Enabled' radio button is selected. The 'Comment' field is empty. The 'Supported on:' field contains 'At least Windows Server 2003 operating systems or Windows XP Professional'. In the 'Options' section, the 'Encryption Level' dropdown is set to 'High Level'. The 'Help' text provides information about the policy setting:

This policy setting specifies whether to require the use of a specific encryption level to secure communications between client computers and RD Session Host servers during Remote Desktop Protocol (RDP) connections.

If you enable this policy setting, all communications between

Click **Require use of specific security layer for remote (RDP) connections**

The screenshot shows the 'Security' section of the Group Policy Management Editor. On the left, under 'Requirements', it says 'At least Windows Vista'. Under 'Description', it states: 'This policy setting specifies whether to require the use of a specific security layer to secure communications between clients and RD Session Host servers during Remote Desktop Protocol (RDP) connections.' On the right, there is a table titled 'Setting' with columns 'Setting' and 'State'. The table lists several settings:

Setting	State
Server authentication certificate template	Not configured
Set client connection encryption level	Enabled
Always prompt for password upon connection	Not configured
Require secure RPC communication	Not configured
Require use of specific security layer for remote (RDP) conn...	Enabled
Do not allow local administrators to customize permissions	Not configured
Require user authentication for remote connections by usin...	Enabled

Select SSL

The screenshot shows the configuration dialog for the 'Require use of specific security layer for remote (RDP) connections' policy. It has tabs for 'Previous Setting' and 'Next Setting'. The 'Enabled' radio button is selected. The 'Supported on:' dropdown is set to 'At least Windows Vista'. In the 'Options' section, the 'Security Layer' dropdown is set to 'SSL'. A tooltip for 'SSL' says: 'Choose the security layer from the drop-down list.' To the right, a 'Help' box provides a detailed description of the policy setting.

This policy setting specifies whether to require the use of a specific security layer to secure communications between clients and RD Session Host servers during Remote Desktop Protocol (RDP) connections.

Click Require secure RPC communication

The screenshot shows the Local Group Policy Editor window. The left pane displays a tree structure of policy settings under 'Computer Configuration' > 'Administrative Templates' > 'Windows Components' > 'Remote Desktop Services' > 'Remote Desktop Session Host'. The right pane lists policy settings with their current state:

Setting	State
Server authentication certificate template	Not configured
Set client connection encryption level	Enabled
Always prompt for password upon connection	Not configured
Require secure RPC communication	Enabled
Require use of specific security layer for remote (RDP) conn...	Enabled
Do not allow local administrators to customize permissions	Not configured
Require user authentication for remote connections by usin...	Enabled

Select Enabled

The screenshot shows the properties dialog for the 'Require secure RPC communication' policy. The 'Enabled' radio button is selected. The 'Supported on:' dropdown shows 'At least Windows Server 2003'.

Setting	Value
Comment:	[Empty text area]
Enabled	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Disabled	<input type="radio"/>
Supported on:	At least Windows Server 2003

Click **Require user authentication for remote connections by using Network Level Authentication**

The screenshot shows the 'Security' section of the Group Policy Management Editor. A policy setting named 'Require user authentication for remote connections by using Network Level Authentication' is selected. The 'Edit policy setting' link is visible. Requirements are listed as 'At least Windows Vista'. The description states: 'This policy setting allows you to specify whether to require user authentication for remote connections to the RD Session Host'. A table titled 'Setting' lists several configuration options:

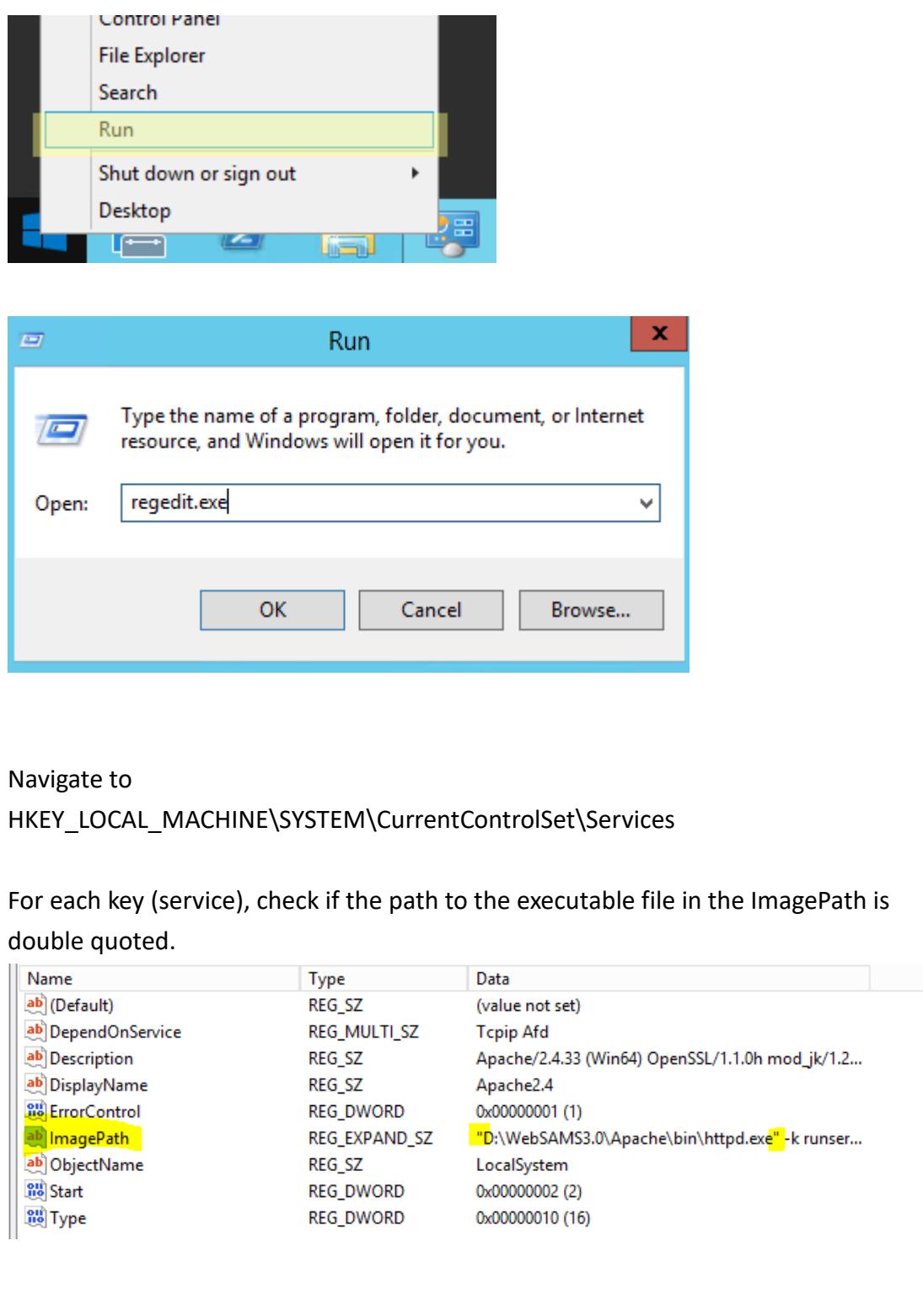
Setting	State
Server authentication certificate template	Not configured
Set client connection encryption level	Enabled
Always prompt for password upon connection	Not configured
Require secure RPC communication	Not configured
Require use of specific security layer for remote (RDP) connections	Enabled
Do not allow local administrators to customize permissions	Not configured
Require user authentication for remote connections by using Network...	Enabled

Select Enabled

The screenshot shows the configuration dialog for the selected policy setting. The 'Enabled' radio button is selected. The 'Comment' field is empty. The 'Supported on:' field contains 'At least Windows Vista'. The 'Options' field is empty. A 'Help:' link provides the following description: 'This policy setting allows you to specify whether to require user authentication for remote connections to the RD Session Host'.

2.8 Unquoted Service Path

Run regedit.exe (registry editor)



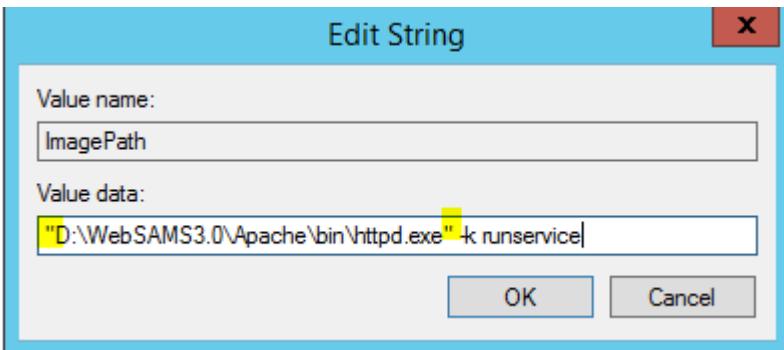
Navigate to

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Services

For each key (service), check if the path to the executable file in the ImagePath is double quoted.

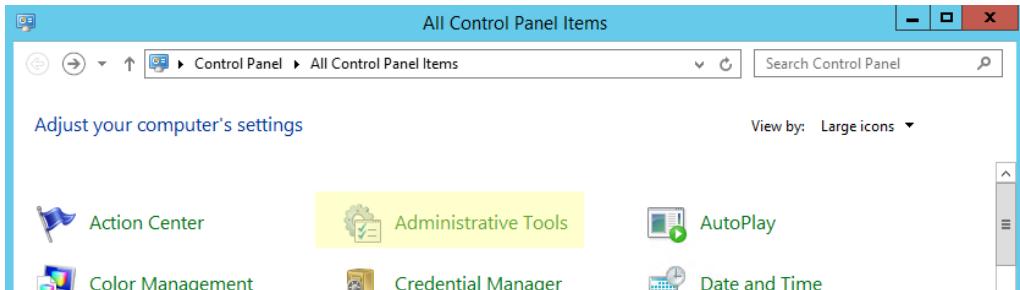
Name	Type	Data
ab (Default)	REG_SZ	(value not set)
ab DependOnService	REG_MULTI_SZ	Tcpip Afd
ab Description	REG_SZ	Apache/2.4.33 (Win64) OpenSSL/1.1.0h mod_jk/1.2...
ab DisplayName	REG_SZ	Apache2.4
ab ErrorControl	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)
ab ImagePath	REG_EXPAND_SZ	"D:\WebSAMS3.0\Apache\bin\httpd.exe" -k runser...
ab ObjectName	REG_SZ	LocalSystem
ab Start	REG_DWORD	0x00000002 (2)
ab Type	REG_DWORD	0x00000010 (16)

If there is any service executable not double quoted, double click on ImagePath and edit the value data to double quote it.



2.9 Event Log Setting

In All Control Panel Items , click Administrative Tools



Adjust your computer's settings

View by: Large icons

Action Center

Administrative Tools

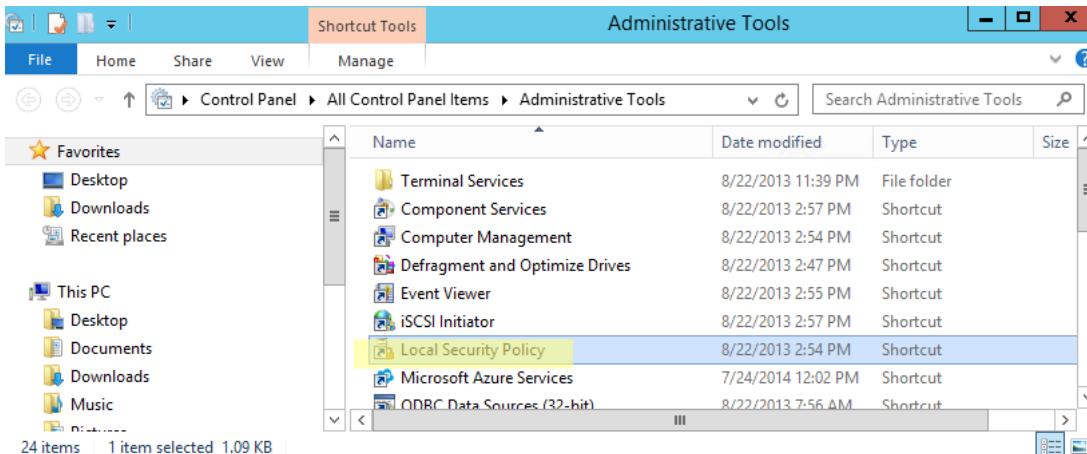
AutoPlay

Color Management

Credential Manager

Date and Time

Click Local Security Policy



Administrative Tools

File Home Share View Manage

Control Panel > All Control Panel Items > Administrative Tools

Favorites

- Desktop
- Downloads
- Recent places

This PC

- Desktop
- Documents
- Downloads
- Music

24 items | 1 item selected 1.09 KB

Name	Date modified	Type
Terminal Services	8/22/2013 11:39 PM	File folder
Component Services	8/22/2013 2:57 PM	Shortcut
Computer Management	8/22/2013 2:54 PM	Shortcut
Defragment and Optimize Drives	8/22/2013 2:47 PM	Shortcut
Event Viewer	8/22/2013 2:55 PM	Shortcut
iSCSI Initiator	8/22/2013 2:57 PM	Shortcut
Local Security Policy	8/22/2013 2:54 PM	Shortcut
Microsoft Azure Services	7/24/2014 12:02 PM	Shortcut
ODBC Data Sources (32-bit)	8/22/2013 7:56 AM	Shortcut

Navigate to

Security Settings – Local Policies – Audit Policy

Check both “Success” & “Failure” options :

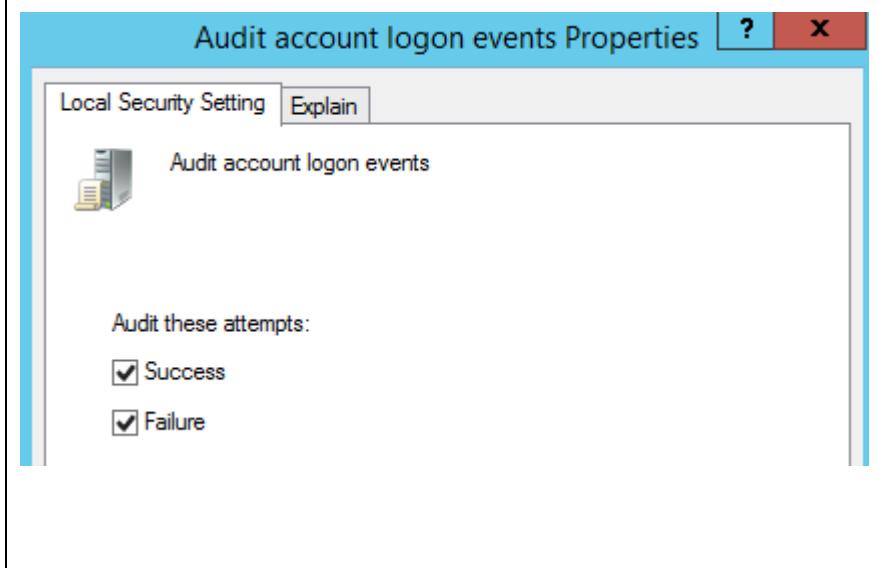
- (1) Audit account logon events
- (2) Audit account management
- (3) Audit directory service access
- (4) Audit logon events
- (5) Audit object access
- (6) Audit policy change
- (7) Audit system events

Check “Failure” option for :

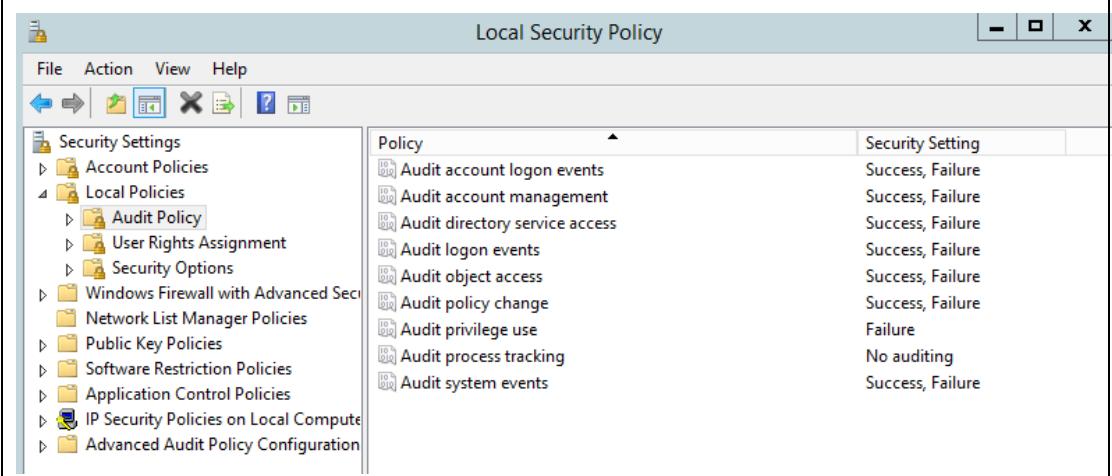
- (1) Audit privilege use

Uncheck both “Success” & “Failure” options, which means “No auditing” option for :

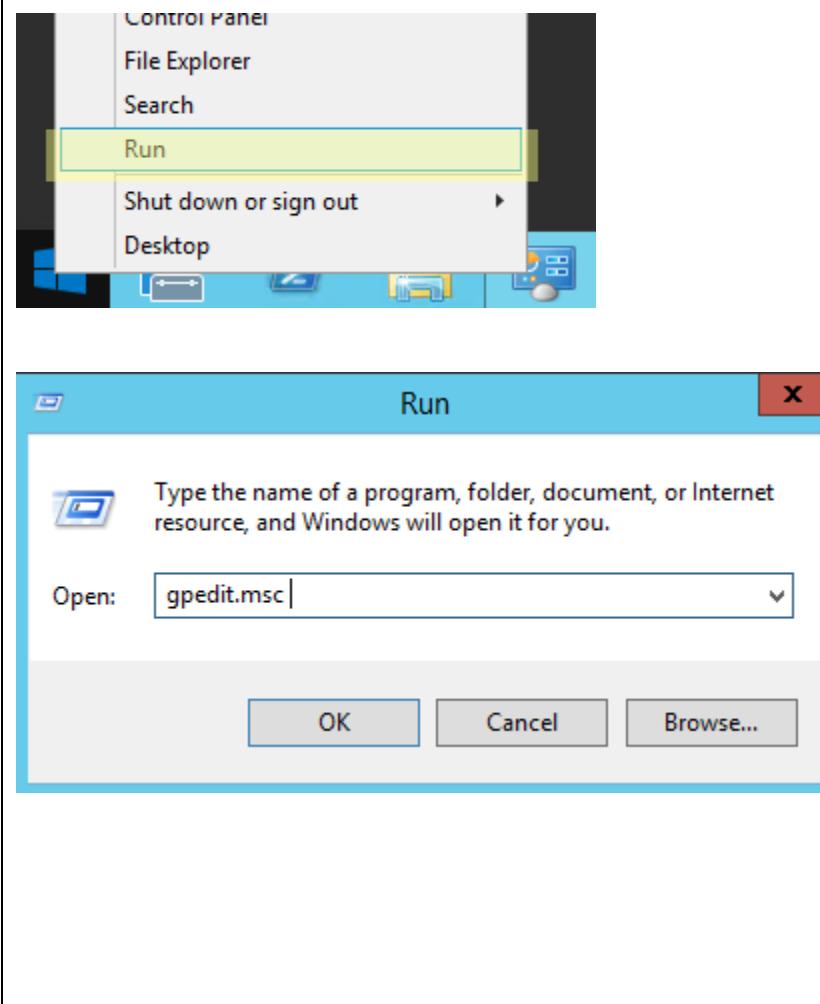
- (1) Audit process tracking



Result is



Run gpedit.msc

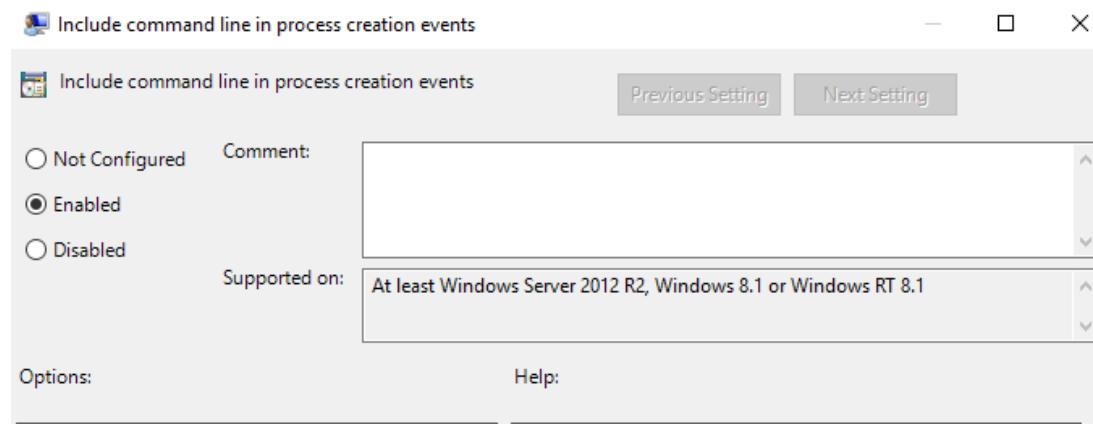


Navigate to

Computer Configuration – Administrative Templates – System – Audit Process Creation

Click Include command line in process creation events

Select Enabled

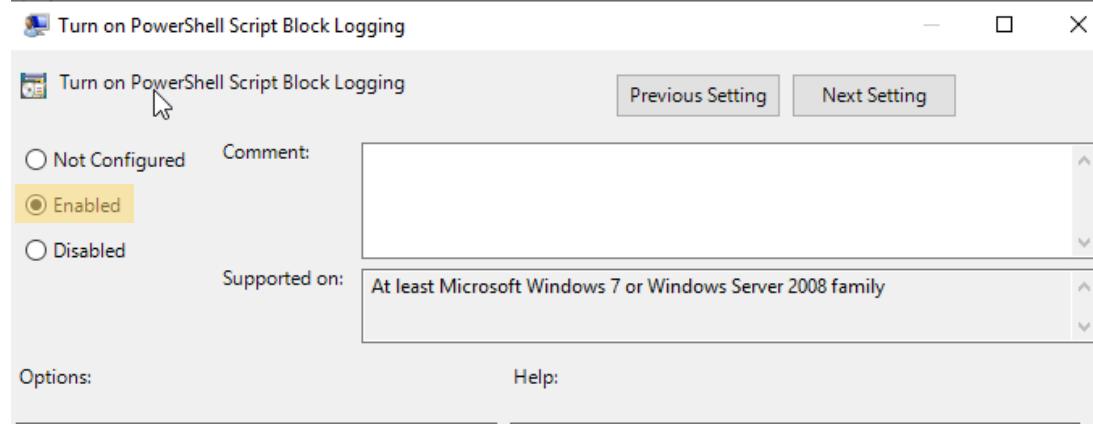


Navigate to

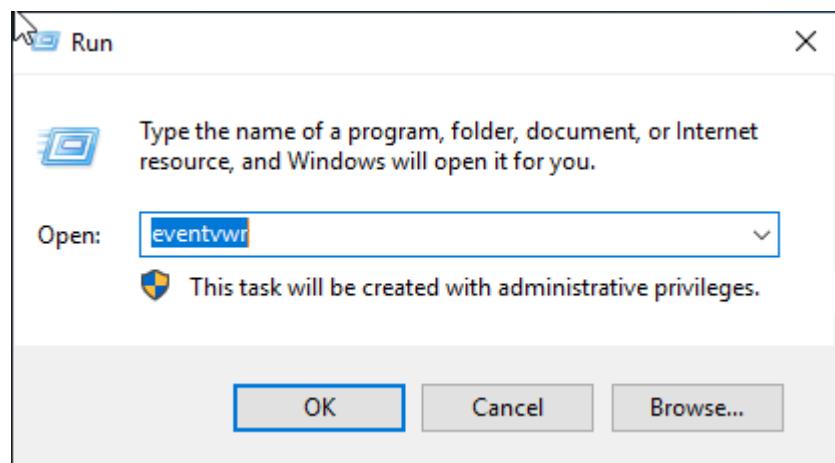
Computer Configuration – Administrative Templates – Windows Components – Windows PowerShell

Click Turn on PowerShell Script Block Logging

Select Enabled



Run eventvwr



Go to Event Viewer(Local) – Windows Logs, right click System and selectProperty, set Maximum log size, such as 2GB for System log as below. Apply the same setting for all components under Windows Logs.

A screenshot of the Event Viewer (Local) interface. On the left is a navigation pane with "Event Viewer (Local)", "Custom Views", "Windows Logs" (selected), "Application", "Security", "Setup", "System", "Forwarded Events", "Applications and Services Log", and "Subscriptions". The main pane shows "Windows Logs" with a table of logs:

Name	Type	Number of Events	Size
Application	Administrative	960	2.07 MB
Security	Administrative	7,984	6.07 MB
Setup	Operational	0	68 KB
System	Administrative	4,284	2.07 MB
Forwarded Events	Operational	0	68 KB

. Below this is a "Log Properties - System (Type: Administrative)" window. It has tabs "General" (selected) and "Subscriptions". Under "General": "Full Name: System", "Log path: %SystemRoot%\System32\Winevt\Logs\System.evtx", "Log size: 2.07 MB(2,166,784 bytes)", "Created: Thursday, 19 May 2022 1:21:54 AM", "Modified: Wednesday, 25 May 2022 6:04:49 AM", "Accessed: Wednesday, 25 May 2022 6:04:49 AM", "Enable logging checked", "Maximum log size (KB): 2048000", "When maximum event log size is reached: Overwrite events as needed (oldest events first) (radio button selected)", "Archive the log when full, do not overwrite events", "Do not overwrite events (Clear logs manually)". At the bottom right is a "Clear Log" button.