ADML/ADMX TEMPLATE FILES

Microsoft Windows Windows 7 and Windows Server 2008 introduce a new format for displaying registry-based policy settings. Registry-based policy settings (located under the Administrative Templates category in the Group Policy Object Editor) are defined using a standards-based, XML file format known as ADMX files. These new files replace ADM files, which used their own markup language. The Group Policy tools —Group Policy Object Editor and Group Policy Management Console—remain largely unchanged. In the majority of situations, you will not notice the presence of ADMX files during your day-to-day Group Policy administration tasks.

Some situations require an understanding of how ADMX files are structured and the location where they are stored. ADMX files provide an XML-based structure for defining the display of the Administrative Template policy settings in the Group Policy tools. The Group Policy tools will recognize ADMX files only if you are using a Windows Vista–based, Windows 7 or Windows Server 2008–based computer.

Unlike ADM files, ADMX files are not stored in individual GPOs. For domain-based enterprises, administrators can create a central store location of ADMX files that is accessible by anyone with permission to create or edit GPOs.

To import an ADMX file, copy the ADMX and ADML files to the folder C:\Windows\PolicyDefinitions folder on the machine performing the group policy object editing. If you're using a central store, copy the ADMX and ADML files to the folder SYSVOL\<domain>\policies\PolicyDefinitions\<language

To download the Administrative template files for Windows Server 2008, see Administrative Templates (ADMX) for Windows Server 2008 (http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=116434).