

# Back Up, Restore, Import, and Copy Group Policy Objects

## Back Up a Group Policy Object

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Updated: April 17, 2012

Applies To: Windows 8, Windows Server 2008 R2, Windows Server 2012

### To back up a Group Policy object

1. In the Group Policy Management Console (GPMC) console tree, open **Group Policy Objects** in the forest and domain containing the Group Policy object (GPO) to back up.
2. To back up a single GPO, right-click the GPO, and then click **Back Up** . To back up all GPOs in the domain, right-click **Group Policy objects** and click **Back Up All** .
3. In the **Backup Group Policy object** dialog box, in the **Location** box, enter the path for the location in which you want to store the GPO backups, or click **Browse** , locate the folder in which you want to store the GPO backups, and then click **OK** .
4. In the **Description** box, type a description for the GPOs that you want to back up, and then click **Back Up** . If you are backing up multiple GPOs, the description will apply to all GPOs you back up.
5. After the operation completes, click **OK** .

### Important

To secure backed-up GPOs, ensure that only authorized administrators have permission to access the folder to which you are exporting the GPOs.

### Additional considerations

- You must have Read permissions on the GPO and Write permissions on the folder containing the GPO backup to perform this procedure.
- The backup function also serves as the export capability for GPOs.

## Restore a Deleted or Previous Version of an Existing Group Policy Object

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Updated: April 17, 2012

Applies To: Windows 8, Windows Server 2008 R2, Windows Server 2012

### **To restore a deleted or previous version of an existing Group Policy object**

1. In the Group Policy Management Console (GPMC) console tree, in the forest and domain containing the Group Policy object (GPO) that you want to restore, locate **Group Policy Objects** .
2. Right-click **Group Policy Objects** and then click **Manage Backups** .
3. In the **Manage Backups** dialog box, in the **Backup location** box, type the path for the backup folder. You can also use **Browse** to locate the backup folder.
4. In the **Backed up GPOs** box, select the GPO that you want to restore from the list of GPO backups shown, and then click **Restore** .
5. When prompted to confirm the restore operation, click **OK** .
6. After the operation completes, click **OK** and then click **Close** .

#### **Additional considerations**

- You must have privileges to create GPOs in the domain and Read permissions on the file system location of the backed-up GPO to restore a GPO that has been deleted.
- You can also restore an existing or deleted GPO using the **Manage Backups** function by right-clicking **Domains** .

## **Copy a Group Policy Object**

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Updated: April 17, 2012

Applies To: Windows 8, Windows Server 2008 R2, Windows Server 2012

You can copy a Group Policy object (GPO) either by using the drag-and-drop method or right-click method. Both methods are described in this topic.

### **To copy a Group Policy object (drag-and-drop method)**

1. In the Group Policy Management Console (GPMC) console tree, click the Group Policy object (GPO) that you want to copy.
2. Do one of the following:

- To create a copy of the GPO on the same domain as the source GPO, drag and drop the GPO you want to copy to **Group Policy Objects** , select a permissions option under **Specify the permissions for the new GPO** , and then click **OK** .
- To create a copy of the GPO in a different domain, double-click the destination domain, then drag and drop the GPO you want to copy to **Group Policy objects** . Answer all the questions in the cross-domain copying wizard that appears, and then click **Finish** .

### To copy a Group Policy object (right-click method)

1. In the GPMC console tree, right-click the GPO that you want to copy, and then click **Copy** .
2. Do one of the following:
  - To create a copy of the GPO in the same domain as the source GPO, right-click **Group Policy objects** , click **Paste** , specify permissions for the new GPO in the **Copy GPO** box, and then click **OK** .
  - To create a copy of the GPO in a different domain, double-click the destination domain, right-click **Group Policy objects** , and then click **Paste** . Answer all the questions in the cross-domain copying wizard that appears, and then click **Finish** .

### Additional considerations

- You must have privileges to create GPOs in the destination domain to complete this procedure.
- For copy operations to another domain, you may need to specify a migration table.

## Import Settings from a Group Policy Object

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Updated: April 17, 2012

Applies To: Windows 8, Windows Server 2008 R2, Windows Server 2012

### To import settings from a Group Policy object

1. In the Group Policy Management Console (GPMC) console tree, expand the **Group Policy Objects** node in the forest and domain containing the Group Policy object (GPO) to import settings.
2. Right-click the GPO and click **Import Settings** .
3. Follow the instructions in the **Import Settings Wizard** .

### Additional considerations

- To complete this procedure, you must have Edit permissions on the GPO into which you want to import settings.
- For import operations to another domain or forest, you may need to specify a migration table.