

Group Policy Slow-Link Detection and Network-Location Awareness

Group Policy uses several mechanisms to determine whether a policy should be processed. One of the mechanisms used by the Group Policy client computer is called slow-link detection. By default, network tests are performed between the client computer and the domain controller to determine the speed of the link between the systems. If the speed is determined to be less than 500Kbps, the Group Policy client does not process any policies. Slow-link detection default settings, along with the ability to disable slow-link detection, is configurable with each policy.

In earlier versions, Group Policy used Internet Control Message Protocol (ICMP) or ping to detect slow links. With Windows Vista, Windows Server 2008, and later OSs, Group Policy now uses the Windows Network Location Awareness service to determine network status. The slow-link detection settings are controlled within the Policies\Administrative Templates\System\Group Policy sections of the GPO. Starting with Windows Server 2012 policy templates, administrators can also configure links detected at 3G connections to be treated as slow links.