

# HOW TO: Limit User Logon Time in a Domain in Windows Server 2003

## Change Logon Times for a User Account

You can set logon hours for a user account by using one of the following methods:

- Edit the user account properties from the Active Directory directory service Users and Computers snap-in.
- Edit the user account properties by using the **net user** command.

### Method 1: Using the Active Directory Users and Computers Snap-in

1. Start the Active Directory Users and Computers snap-in. To do this, click **Start**, point to **Administrative Tools**, and then click **Active Directory Users and Computers**.
2. In the console tree, click the container that contains the user account that you want.
3. In the right pane, right-click the user account, and then click **Properties**.
4. Click the **Account** tab, and then click **Logon Hours**.
5. Click **All** to select all available times, and then click **Logon Denied**.
6. Select the time blocks that you want to allow this user to log on to the domain, and then click **Logon Permitted**.

A status line under the logon hours table displays the currently selected logon times. For example, **Monday through Friday from 8 A.M. to 5 P.M.**

7. When you are finished configuring logon hours, click **OK**, and then click **OK** in the **user account Properties** dialog box.
8. Quit the Active Directory Users and Computers snap-in.

## Enforce Logon Time Restrictions Using Group Policy

You can use Group Policy to enforce the logon time restrictions that you apply.

### Step 1: Create a Group Policy object

To create a Group Policy object (GPO) that you use to enforce client logon restrictions:

1. Start the Active Directory Users and Computers snap-in. To do this, click **Start**, point to **Programs**, point to **Administrative Tools**, and then click **Active Directory Users and Computers**.
2. In the console tree, right-click your domain or the organizational unit that contains the domain controllers that you want, and then click **Properties**.
3. Click the **Group Policy** tab, and then click **New**.
4. Type a name for this policy (for example, **Account logon restrictions**), and then press ENTER.
5. Click **Properties**, and then click the **Security** tab.
6. Click to clear the **Apply Group Policy** check box for the security groups that you want to prevent from having this policy applied. Click to select the **Apply Group Policy** check box for the groups that you want to have this policy applied. When you are finished, click **OK**.

### Step 2: Enforce Logon Hours Restrictions

1. Start the Active Directory Users and Computers snap-in. To do this, click **Start**, point to **Programs**, point to **Administrative Tools**, and then click **Active Directory Users and Computers**.
2. In the console tree, right-click your domain or the organizational unit that contains the domain controller GPO that you want to edit, and then click **Properties**.
3. Click the **Group Policy** tab, select the GPO that you want, and then click **Edit**.
4. Under **Computer Configuration**, expand **Windows Settings**, expand **Security Settings**,

expand **Local Policies**, and then click **Security Options**.

5. In the right pane of the Group Policy snap-in, double-click **Microsoft network server: Disconnect clients when logon hours expire**.
6. Click to select the **Define this policy setting** check box, click **Enabled**, and then click **OK**.
7. Close the Group Policy snap-in, and then click **OK**.

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## Troubleshoot

Group Policy changes are not immediately enforced. Group Policy background processing can take up to 5 minutes to be refreshed on domain controllers, and up to 120 minutes to be refreshed on client computers. To force background processing of Group Policy settings, use the **gpupdate** command.

**Noteseccedit /refreshpolicy** has been replaced with **gpupdate**. For more information about the **gpupdate** command, see Windows Server 2003 help. To do this, follow these steps:

1. Click **Start**, and then click **Run**.
2. In the **Open** box, type **cmd**, and then click **OK**.
3. Type **gpupdate**, and then press ENTER.
4. Type **exit**, and then press ENTER.