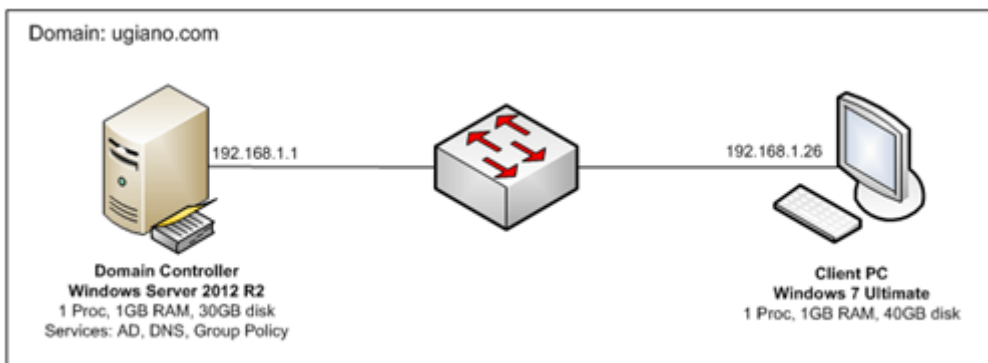


# Change Windows Desktop Background Using Group Policy

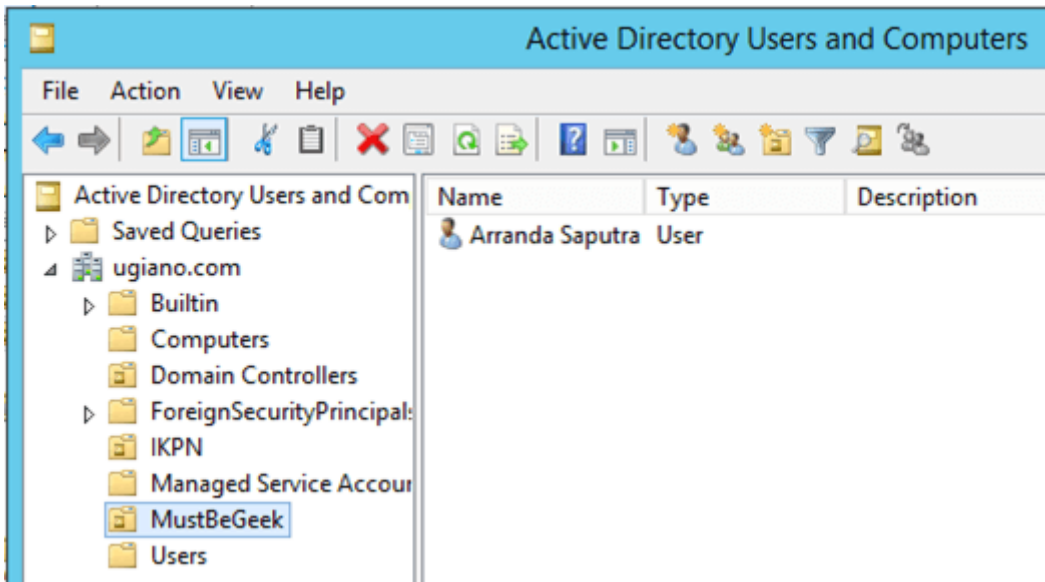
## How to Change Windows Desktop Background Using Group Policy

This demonstration is using a Windows Server 2012 R2 as the Domain Controller and a Windows 7 Ultimate as the client machine. The topology is as follows:



Details:

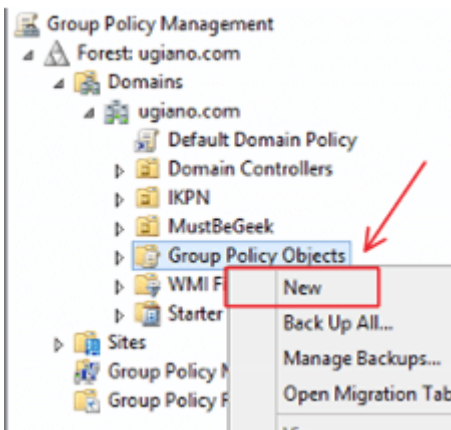
- **Active Directory** and **Domain Name Service (DNS)** has been configured already
- Client machine has been **joined to the domain**
- Policy will be applied at the user level
- Wallpaper image file is stored in the local drive of the Domain Controller server
- Target username is "Arranda Saputra" resides within an OU named "MustBeGeek" with structure as shown below:



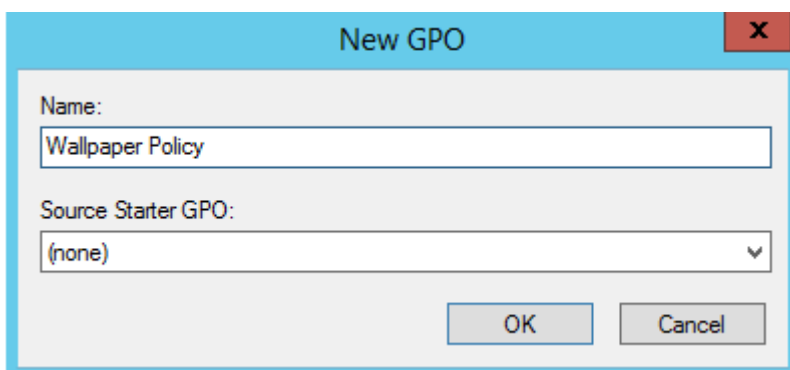
Follow the step by step below to set wallpaper using **Group Policy**:

### 1. Creating the Group Policy Object

On the Group Policy Management console, expand the forest and domain, right click on **Group Policy Objects** and select **“New”**

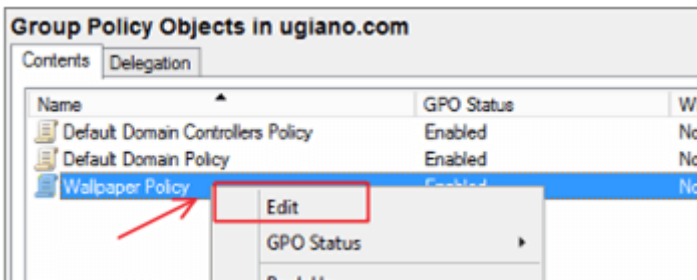


Give name for the new policy object. In this example, the policy name is **“Wallpaper Policy”**

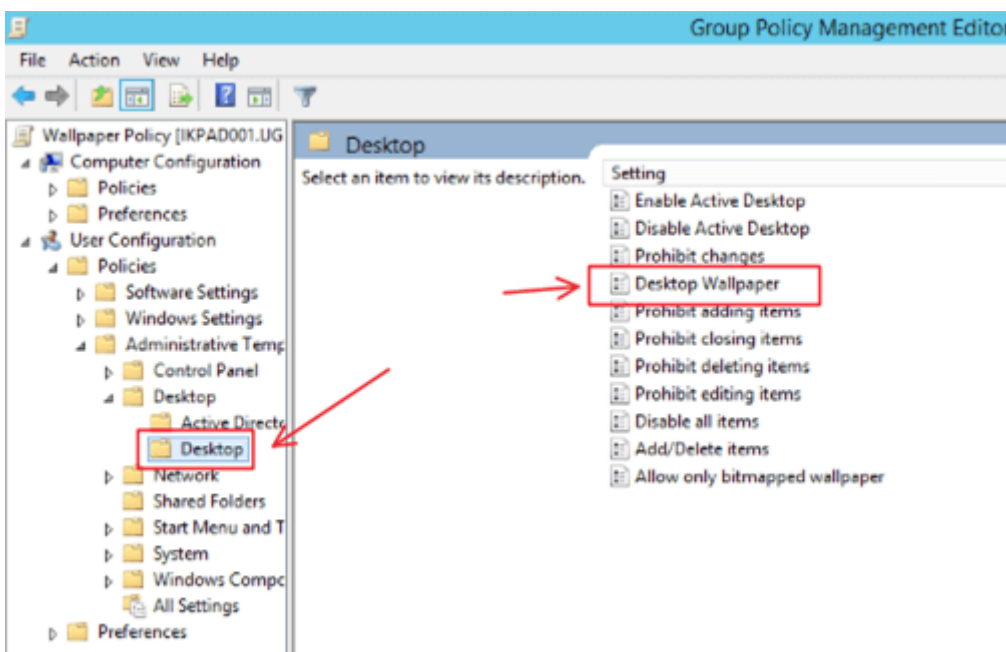


## 2. Editing the policy object

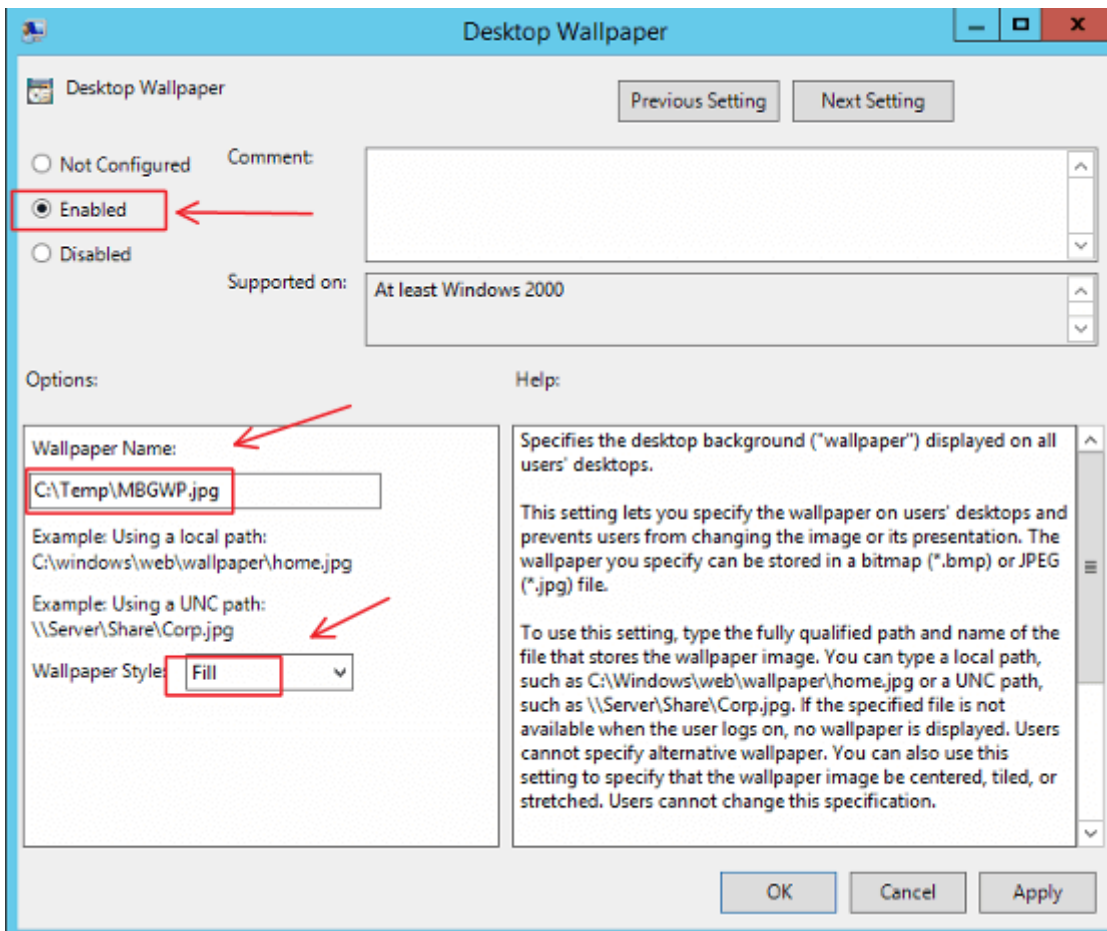
The newly created policy will be listed on the Group Policy object list. Right click on it and select **“Edit”**



An editor window will show up. On the left pane, go to **User Configuration > Administrative Templates > Desktop > Desktop**. On the right pane, double click on **Desktop Wallpaper** setting.



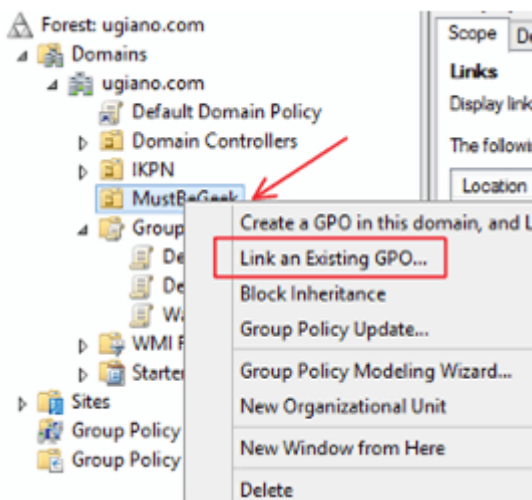
Change the option to **Enabled**, and then specify the **wallpaper location** and the **wallpaper style**. In this example we are specifying a local path because the image file for desktop wallpaper background is stored in the local drive of the Domain Controller server, and the wallpaper style that we used is **“Fill”**.



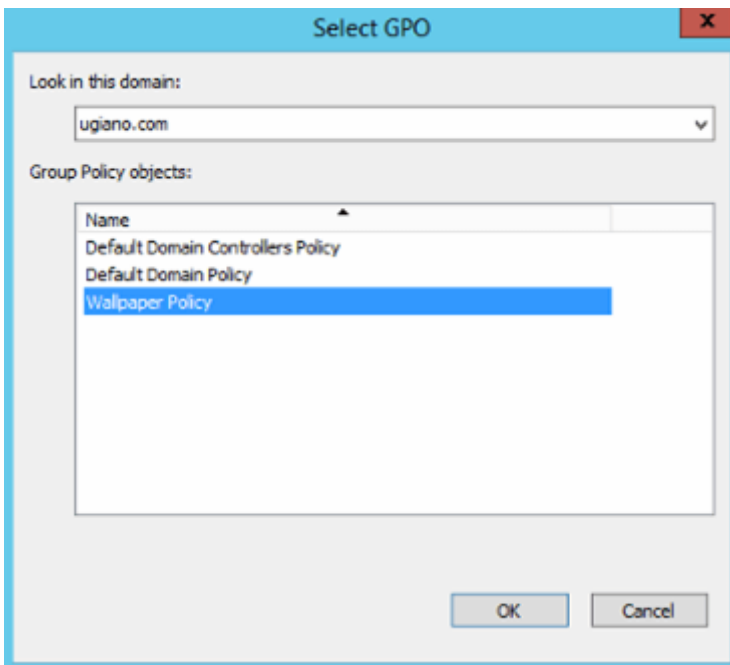
Once configured, click **OK** and close the editor window.

### 3. Applying the policy object

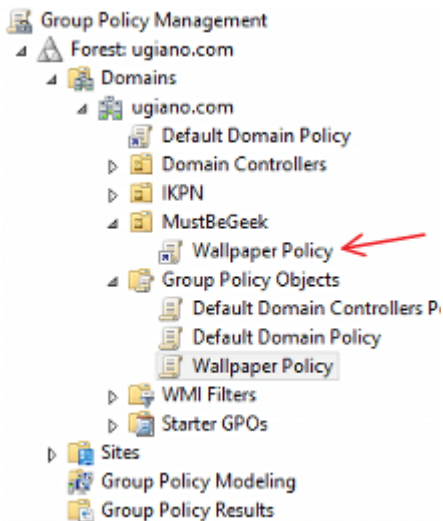
Back to the Group Policy Management console window, right click on "MustBeGeek" OU and select **"Link an Existing GPO"**



Select the **Wallpaper Policy** and click **OK**.

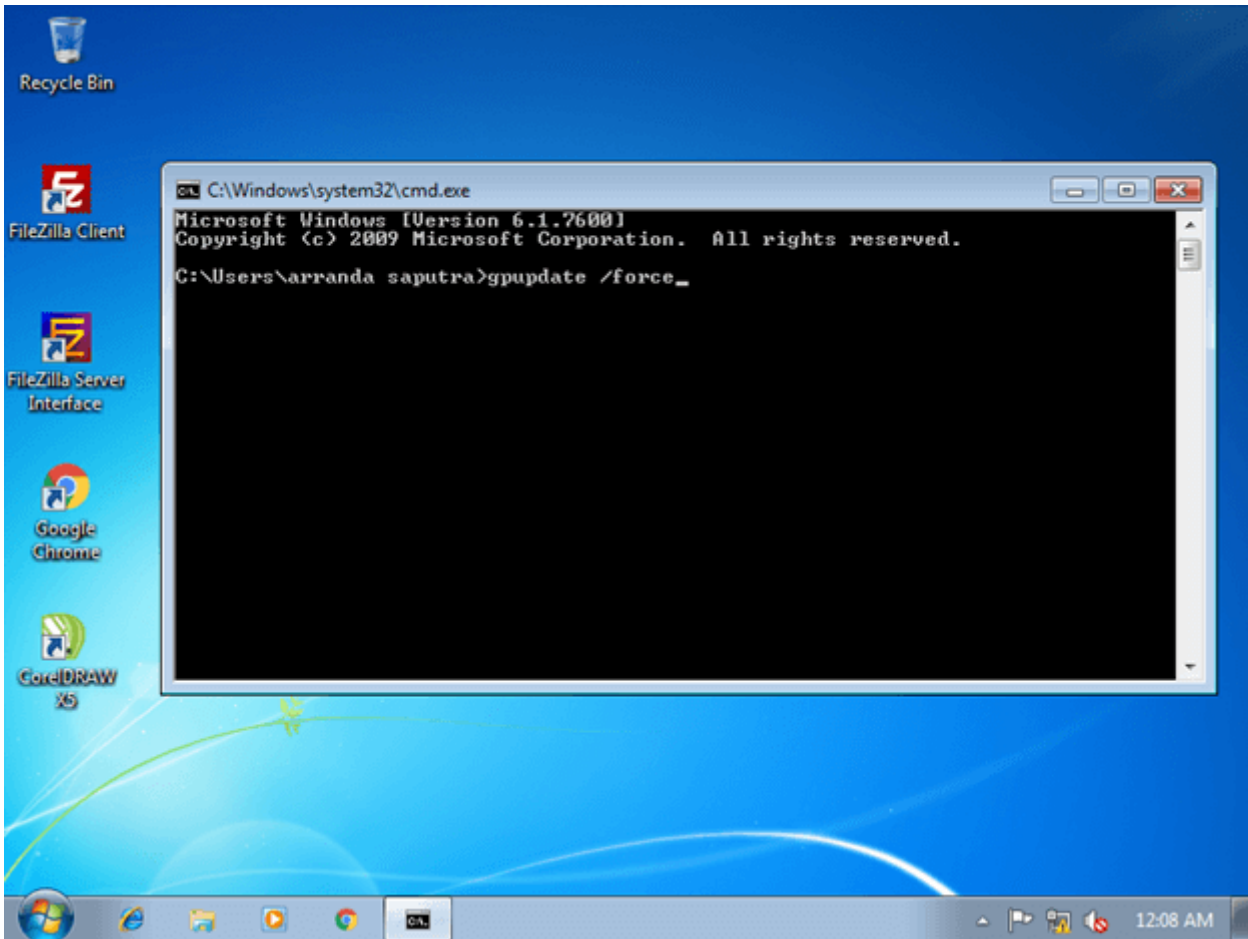


Verify that **Wallpaper Policy** is now listed under the “MustBeGeek” OU

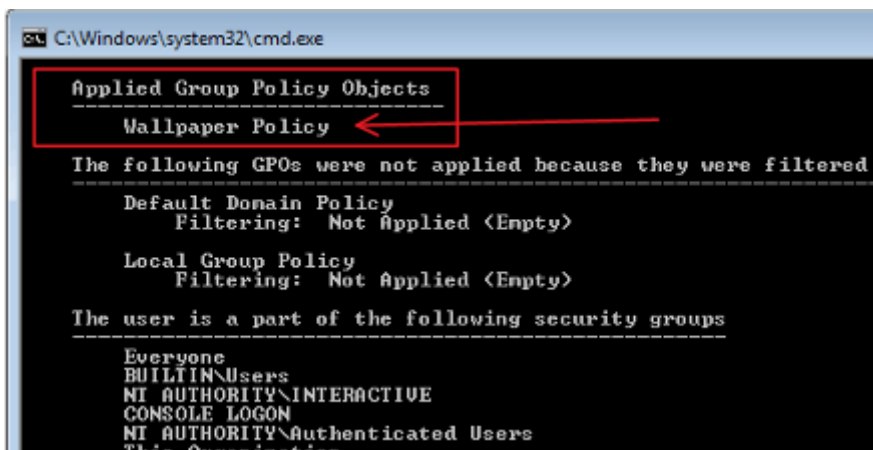


#### 4. Check the result on client machine

Once the client machine has received the policy update, the wallpaper will be changed. Policy update is a process that happens periodically in the background so it doesn't require any action from the user. However, in this demonstration we want to expedite the process so we will force the policy update to run right away by opening CMD and using the command **gpupdate /force**.



To verify the policy has been applied, user can run command **gpresult /r** on the CMD. Find the policy named “Wallpaper Policy” under section “Applied Group Policy Objects”.



After the policy applied, notice that the desktop background wallpaper has been changed.



# Conclusion

With Desktop Wallpaper Group Policy, desktop background will be consistent for all targeted users and cannot be changed unless it is configured via the Group Policy. Sometimes, if the client machine is running Windows 7 or Windows Server 2008 R2, the Desktop Wallpaper Group Policy setting cannot be applied correctly (either background does not change or just goes to blank).

When it happens, install this hotfix on the client machine: <http://support.microsoft.com/kb/977944>.

And that's how you change Windows desktop background using Group Policy.

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