Group Policy Health Check (GPOHC)

This 3 Day minimum Group Policy Health Check, is a wide ranging and comprehensive review of your Group Policy Environment across your Enterprise. Encompassing a wide range of tests & analysis that will enable you to identify & address any areas for improvement in your Group Policy implementation.

Key benefits

- Streamline GPO processing
- Heightened understanding for GPO support staff
- Faster logon times for end users
- Inclusion of Microsoft Best Practices

Overview

Microsoft Group Policy implementation management and strategy is core to a healthy Active Directory infrastructure. The manner in which you implement, manage, and maintain your Group Policies affect all aspects of your users' experience and support of the desktop environment. A poorly implemented Group Policy environment creates security risks, difficult to manage , longer logon times for users, and causes significant impact on the effectiveness of your organization's daily tasks. The Group Policy Health Check (GPOHC) is designed to provide a proactive approach to capture, analyze, and evaluate potential issues in addition to creating a plan to prevent future problems.

How the Offering Works

The Group Policy Health Check (GPOHC) for Group Policies functions as a comprehensive look into an organization's Windows XP, Windows Vista, Windows 7, Windows Server 2003, Windows Server 2008, and Windows Server 2008 R2 Group Policy implementation effectiveness. In conjunction with your team of senior IT staff members and engineers responsible for supporting Group Policies, highly experienced Microsoft engineers collect and analyze a number of data points to identify areas of concern. Once the analysis is completed, the engineer will assist in planning remediation with the team. This will produce a detailed plan to remediate found issues and address known risks.

Maximize Your Microsoft Investment

The Group Policy Health Check (GPOHC) provides critical insight into the health of your group policy implementation. Experienced Microsoft engineers leverage Microsoft tools to take a snapshot of your Group Policy environment and analyze the performance, configuration, and event data to provide steps for maximizing your Group Policy investment. Your staff will gain experience along with an enhanced understanding by diagnosing and troubleshooting issues identified within the Group Policy Health Check to ensure the performance of your Group Policy implementation is maintained after the engagement.

"After our Group Policy Health Check we were able to reduce our 600 Organizational Units down to 24. This streamlined implementation of GPOs for standardization, and reduced efforts to administrate Active Directory in addition to Group Policies."

-customer comment

Additional benefits

- Decrease SYSVOL size for faster replication
- Gain indepth understanding for implementing, administrating, and troubleshooting GPOs
- Exposure to enhanced support tools for managing GPOs

Reduce Support Costs

Expose current vulnerabilities within Group Policy implementation and management processes before they adversely affect your business. Improve your enterprise's standardization and security posture with lower support costs. Proactive diagnosis of the cause, not just the symptoms, will help optimize productivity and reduce calls to the IT support staff.

Key Focus Areas

- Review the architectural design of your GPO implementation
- Review delegation of creation and administration of GPOs
- Review GPO security settings
- Review resultant set of policy (RSOP) & GPO Logs on set number of workstations
- Identify efficient and effective management based on Microsoft best practices
- Identify processes for change management around GPOs
- Identify ways of reducing SYSVOL size
- Discuss and review Organization Unit implementation
- Discuss current Backup & Disaster Recovery Plan for GPOs
- Discuss current and future available enhancements
- Discuss areas you are showing concern or inconsistencies

Practical Recommendations

Solutions for each risk are identified and articulated in the findings report. By covering operations, configuration, and architecture, effective remediation improves the efficiency in which your Group Policies are implemented across your enterprise. In addition, a Microsoft Office PowerPoint presentation and a Microsoft Office Excel report are included to help communicate the findings and the steps for remediation.

Assessment and Remediation Planning

In addition to capturing, analyzing, and presenting the overall health of your Group Policy implementation there is optionally an additional onsite day for Remediation Planning. This will produce a detailed remediation plan aligned to business drivers and priorities. The planning session also includes your key business decision makers, our technical resource, and your Technical Account Manager (TAM), to review the results and make recommendations to resolve issues and mitigate risks.

Engagement Sizing for Group Policies

The Group Policy Health Check (GPOHC) for Group Policies is sized appropriately to the complexity of your environment. This will be fully discussed in a **Mandatory** scoping call . This discussion will be based on the following criteria:

Tier Level	Number of GPOs Reviewed	Maximum No of Clients Reviewed	Maximum Number of days on site
1	500	1	3
2	1000	2	4
3	1500	3	5
4	1501+	5	Custom Scoped

Engagement with Minimal Business Interference

The tools and processes in the Group Policy Health Check (GPOHC) are designed to minimize any impact on your ongoing business. To support an effective engagement, the following is required:

- ✓ Physical or Virtual Windows machine running the latest OS available in the environment with minimum 2GB of RAM joined to the Forest Root Domain
- ✓ Enterprise Admin credentials – Ideally, a dedicated account for the purpose of collection
- ✓ Group Policy Management console
- ✓ .Net Framework 3.5 SP1 for the scoping tool
- ✓ .Net Framework V4 for the toolset
- ✓ Visio 2003 or higher
- ✓ AD Topology Diagrammer
- ✓ PowerShell 2.0
- ✓ A conference room with a projector for the knowledge transfer session booked in advance

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