Scientific & Educational Software

Clone Manager

Using Group Policy to Deploy

Microsoft Windows Active Directory can use Group Policy to push configuration of client computers to use the network version of Clone Manager. In outline, you will use Group Policy Manager to create and enable a Group Policy Object that will cause the client configuration installer to run when the selected computers next start. This configures client computers for file associations and menu shortcuts, copies user documentation (pdf) files, and copies compiled HTML help to the local client computer.

1. Select a server that is running Active Directory (a domain controller).
2. Select Administrative Tools, Group Policy Management.
3. Navigate to the appropriate Organization Unit which most closely represents the group of computers to which Clone Manager Network configuration will be installed.
4. Right click and select 'Create and Link a GPO here'. Enter an appropriate name for the Group Policy Object (e.g. Clone Manager Network Setup).
5. Select the newly create GPO, right click and select Edit.
6. Select Software Settings/Software installation under Computer Settings or Computer Configuration/Policies.
7. Right click and select New, Package.
8. Navigate to the folder containing the Clone Manager user executable files and select the file 'SetupComputer.msi'. (The msi file must not be moved from the installation folder.)
   Note: the file path must be accessible to client computers, do not use the local computer's folder but use the network server and share name, e.g. \\server\SESuite9\SetupComputer.msi.
9. Accept the default 'Assigned' to assign the installer to the desired computers, and close editor.
10. If not all of the computers in the Organization Unit will run Clone Manager, you can restrict deployment of the GPO to only those desired. In the Group Policy Manager, select the Security Filtering section. Highlight the default 'Authenticated Users' and click Remove. Now select Add and select the computer(s) and/or computer group(s). Note: SetupComputer.msi configures file associations and menu shortcuts and should be deployed to computers and not to users.
11. Refresh the server's group policy processing by running the command 'gpupdate', if necessary.
12. When the selected computers in the Organization Unit re-start, the SetupComputer.msi will run and configure the file associations and menu shortcuts for all users on that computer.

Uninstall

1. Edit the GPO created above.
2. Select Computer Settings, select Software Settings, select Software installation.
3. Right click on the SetupComputer.msi file and select 'All Tasks', Remove. Click OK to schedule removal.

Notes

Do not re-use a GPO after it has been used for deployment. Delete it and create a new one.