

GPO - Configure a Mapped Drive Item

<https://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/cc770902.aspx>

Applies To: Windows 8, Windows Server 2008 R2, Windows Server 2012

Drive Map preference items allow you to create, replace, update, and delete mapped drives and their associated properties. Before you create a Drive Map preference item, you should review the behavior of each type of action possible with this extension.

Creating a Mapped Drive item

To create a new Mapped Drive preference item

1. Open the **Group Policy Management Console** . Right-click the Group Policy object (GPO) that should contain the new preference item, and then click **Edit** .
2. In the console tree under **User Configuration** , expand the **Preferences** folder, and then expand the **Windows Settings** folder.
3. Right-click the **Drive Maps** node, point to **New** , and select **Mapped Drive** .
4. In the **New Drive Properties** dialog box, select an **Action** for Group Policy to perform. (For more information, see "Actions" in this topic.)
5. Enter drive map settings for Group Policy to configure or remove. (For more information, see "Drive map settings" in this topic.)
6. Click the **Common** tab, configure any options, and then type your comments in the **Description** box. (For more information, see [Configure Common Options](#).)
7. Click **OK** . The new preference item appears in the details pane.

Actions

This type of preference item provides a choice of four actions: **Create** , **Replace** , **Update** , and **Delete** . The behavior of the preference item varies with the action selected and whether the drive letter already exists.

Create Create a new mapped drive for users.

Delete Remove a mapped drive for users.

Replace Delete and recreate mapped drives for users. The net result of the **Replace** action is to overwrite all existing settings associated with the mapped drive. If the drive mapping does not exist, then the **Replace** action creates a new drive mapping.


Update Modify settings of an existing mapped drive for users. This action differs from **Replace** in that it only updates settings defined within the preference item. All other settings remain as configured on the mapped drive. If the drive mapping does not exist, then the **Update** action creates a new drive mapping.

Drive map settings

To configure a new drive mapping or recreate a drive mapping, type a fully qualified UNC path for the network share (such as \\server\sharename, \\server\hiddenshare\$, or \\server\sharename\foldername).

Location This field accepts preference processing variables. Press F3 to display a list of variables from which you can select.

To modify an existing drive mapping (identified by drive letter), leave this field blank.

Reconnect	<p>This option is available only if the action selected is Create , Replace , or Update .</p> <p>To save this mapped drive in the user's settings and attempt to restore it at each subsequent logon, select this check box. Otherwise, the drive is mapped, but not saved in the user's settings.</p> <p>This option is available only if the action selected is Create , Replace , or Update .</p> <p>To provide a descriptive label that appears next to the drive letter, type the label in this field.</p>
Label as	<p>This field accepts preference processing variables. Press F3 to display a list of variables from which you can select.</p> <p>This option is available only if the action selected is Create , Replace , or Update .</p> <p>Select the mapped drives (identified by drive letter) to configure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To assign the first available drive letter to the mapped drive, select Use first available, starting at , and then select a drive letter at which to begin checking for availability. This option is available only if the action selected is Create , Replace , or Update . • To assign a specific drive letter to the mapped drive, select Use , and then select a drive letter. This option is available only if the action selected is Create , Replace , or Update , and if you have typed a location.
Drive Letter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To modify an existing drive mapping (identified by drive letter), select Existing , and then select a drive letter. This option is available only if the Location field is blank, and the action selected is Update . • To delete all drive mappings from a particular drive letter onward, select Delete all, starting at , and then select a drive letter at which to begin deleting drive mappings. Physical drives are skipped without error. This option is available only if the action selected is Delete . • To delete a specific mapped drive, select Delete , and then select the drive letter. This option is available only if the action selected is Delete . <p>To implement a drive mapping using credentials other than those of the currently logged on user, type the credentials to be used. This option is available only if the action selected is Create , Replace , or Update .</p>
Connect as	<p> Security Note</p> <p>This password is stored as part of the GPO in SYSVOL and is discoverable, although obscured. If you choose to store passwords in preference items, you should consider creating dedicated accounts for this purpose, and never store administrative passwords in preference items.</p> <p>Configure the visibility of the mapped drive:</p>
Hide/Show this drive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To make no change to the visibility of the mapped drive, select No change . This does not take precedence over the Hide/Show all drives setting. • To prevent the drive from being displayed in Windows Explorer, select Hide this drive . This takes precedence over the Hide/Show all drives setting. • To allow this drive to be displayed in Windows Explorer, select Show this drive . This takes precedence over the Hide/Show all drives setting.
Hide/Show all drives	<p>This option is available only if the action selected is Create , Replace , or Update .</p> <p>Configure the visibility of all mapped and physical drives in Windows Explorer. The options are comparable to those for Hide/Show this drive , but apply globally to all drives.</p>

Additional considerations

- **Hide/Show this drive** options have precedence over **Hide/Show all drives** . For example, if a Drive Map preference item has the **Hide/Show this drive** option set to **Hide this drive** and the **Hide/Show all drives** option set to **Show all drives** , then all drives are visible except the drive designated as hidden.
- You can use a Drive Map preference item to configure the visibility of a physical drive rather than a mapped drive. To do so, select the **Update** action, leave the **Location** field blank, select the drive letter of the physical drive, and then configure the **Hide/Show this drive** and **Hide/Show all drives** options.
- You can use item-level targeting to change the scope of preference items.
- Preference items are available only in domain-based GPOs.