Faronics
DEEPFREEZE™
ADVANCED Workstation Integrity

Deep Freeze with Active Directory and Group Policies

TECHNICAL WHITEPAPER

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Deep Freeze with Active Directory and Group Policies

Many system administrators have discovered that the ideal solution for workstation security is using Active Directory, Group Policies, and Deep Freeze together. By combining Group Policies with the invincibility of Deep Freeze, administrators can implement restrictions in certain labs while leaving others wide open, yet completely protected. This provides the ideal mix of access and protection.

Deep Freeze protects both the workstations and the Group Policies settings, providing complete peace of mind to system administrators. Should a user hack the Group Policies, Deep Freeze returns the workstation to its original configuration—Policies intact—upon every restart.

There are scenarios where Group Policies alone may not be effective, including:

- Applications that often require administrator rights to function properly; any account can be protected with Deep Freeze, including the administrator.
- Labs dedicated to technical courses, such as computer programming, typically require completely open and unrestricted workstations.
- Office applications provide a variety of unprotected methods to launch other applications, such as third-party registry editors, via command prompts or hyperlinks.

Deep Freeze addresses several important issues that are not covered by Group Policies, including:

- Backward compatibility with Group Policies for older versions of Windows: Not all versions of Windows support the same type of policy controls. Windows 7, 8.1, 10, and Windows 11 (up to version 22H2) incorporate a larger number of policy settings that are not applicable to older versions of Windows.
- Cleaning up temp files and clutter
- Preventing operating system deterioration
- Restoring baseline toolbars, desktops, and screensavers upon restart
- Restoring all renamed files and changed icons upon restart
- Removing all newly installed spyware, adware, or keyloggers upon restart
- Negating potential damage caused by third-party registry tools and hacks with a restart
- Removing the danger period between tomorrow's yet-to-be invented viruses and their fixes

By using Group Policies in combination with Deep Freeze, system administrators can achieve a wide variety of restrictions depending on need, while having the ultimate safety net of Deep Freeze protecting their workstations.