

Borderless CS

CYBER SAFE TOGETHER



Active Directory - GPO Clean-Up and Security Optimization Customer success story

CLIENT: **BRIMBANK CITY COUNCIL**

INDUSTRY: **LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

SOLUTION PROVIDER: **BORDERLESS CS**

SERVICE: **ACTIVE DIRECTORY GPO CLEAN-UP AND SECURITY OPTIMIZATION**

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Active Directory - GPO Clean-Up and Security Optimization- a success story



Overview

Brimbank City Council, located in the western suburbs of Melbourne, Australia, manages a wide range of services that impact the local community, including online services, municipal operations, and internal systems. In the face of growing cybersecurity concerns, the council recognised the need to enhance the security of its IT infrastructure, specifically focusing on its Group Policy Objects (GPOs). GPOs are a critical component of managing the security and configuration of Windows-based systems within an organisation. The council turned to **Borderless CS**, a leading cybersecurity company in Australia, to perform a **GPO clean-up** and optimise its security settings.

The Challenge

Brimbank City Council faced several challenges related to its existing Group Policy Objects:

1. **Excessive and Overlapping GPOs:** The council's IT environment had accumulated a large number of GPOs over time, some of which were redundant, misconfigured, or outdated. This made it difficult to manage and maintain a consistent security posture across the council's systems.
2. **Inconsistent Security Settings:** Some GPOs contain outdated security configurations or conflicting policies, leaving systems vulnerable to attacks or misconfigurations that could affect compliance with data protection regulations.
3. **Operational Efficiency:** The complexity and size of the existing GPOs were causing administrative overhead, with IT staff spending unnecessary time troubleshooting and managing security policies.
4. **Risk of Misconfiguration:** The complexity of managing a large set of GPOs also increases the risk of errors or misconfigurations, which could lead to security vulnerabilities, system instability, or non-compliance with organisational policies.

The Solution

To address these issues, Brimbank City Council engaged **Borderless CS** to perform a comprehensive **GPO clean-up** and security optimisation. Borderless CS's team of cybersecurity experts took a strategic approach to streamline the GPO environment and strengthen its security posture.

Key Steps in the GPO Clean-Up:

1. **Audit and Assessment:** Borderless CS conducted a thorough audit of the council's existing GPOs, analysing their settings, scope, and overall impact on the environment. This assessment identified redundant, obsolete, or improperly configured GPOs that could be safely removed or consolidated.



2. **Streamlining GPOs:** The team consolidated overlapping GPOs and removed those that were no longer needed or relevant. This helped simplify the overall GPO structure, reducing administrative complexity.
3. **Security Optimization:** Borderless CS reviewed and updated the security settings within each GPO to align with best practices and industry standards. This included enhancing password policies, user access control settings, and encryption standards to ensure better protection of sensitive data.
4. **Consistency and Compliance:** The team ensured that the GPOs aligned with Brimbank's internal security policies and regulatory compliance requirements, including local government cybersecurity regulations. They ensured that security settings were consistently applied across the entire network, minimising vulnerabilities.
5. **Testing and Validation:** Before finalising the changes, Borderless CS rigorously tested the new GPO configurations to ensure that they would not disrupt operations or cause unforeseen issues. This step involved simulating various scenarios to confirm the stability of the system.
6. **Documentation and Reporting:** Borderless CS provided comprehensive documentation and a detailed report of the changes made during the GPO clean-up. This report included a summary of updated policies, improved security settings, and recommendations for ongoing GPO management and future optimisation.

Results

The **GPO clean-up** performed by **Borderless CS** delivered several key benefits for Brimbank City Council:

1. **Improved Security Posture:** By removing outdated and redundant GPOs and optimizing the security settings, Brimbank City Council significantly strengthened its IT security. The council reduced the risk of security breaches caused by misconfigured or ineffective policies.
2. **Enhanced Operational Efficiency:** The streamlined GPO environment reduced the administrative overhead for Brimbank's IT team. With fewer GPOs to manage, the team could focus on more strategic initiatives and respond more quickly to emerging security threats.
3. **Compliance with Regulations:** The updated GPO settings helped Brimbank meet its regulatory compliance obligations, ensuring that the council adhered to strict data protection and security regulations required for local government entities.
4. **Reduced Risk of Misconfiguration:** A simpler and more manageable GPO structure minimized the risk of human error and misconfiguration, ensuring a more stable and secure IT environment.



5. **Ongoing Optimization and Monitoring:** The GPO clean-up also set the foundation for ongoing optimisation and proactive monitoring, allowing Brimbank to maintain a secure and compliant system as it grew.
6. **Better User and System Management:** Optimizing GPOs led to more consistent user and system management, with better control over who could access which resources and how those resources were protected.

Conclusion

The **GPO clean-up** conducted by **Borderless CS** for **Brimbank City Council** was a resounding success, addressing the challenges associated with excessive and misconfigured Group Policy Objects. The council's IT environment is now more secure, streamlined, and manageable, with optimised GPOs that provide consistent protection for its systems and sensitive data.

By leveraging Borderless CS's expertise, Brimbank City Council has enhanced its cybersecurity posture, reduced operational complexity, and ensured that its IT systems are compliant with industry best practices and regulatory requirements. This success story highlights the importance of regular GPO reviews and clean-up activities to maintain a secure and efficient IT environment, particularly for local government organisations that handle sensitive citizen data and critical services.

Through this partnership, Brimbank City Council has gained a stronger foundation for ongoing cybersecurity management and a more agile IT environment that can respond to emerging threats with greater resilience.

