Knowledge Base

How to add more power to Recovery Console by using Group Policy in Windows XP Professional

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The information in this article applies to:

- Microsoft Windows XP Professional

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SUMMARY

This step-by-step article describes how to use Group Policy to add more power to the Recovery Console. Windows XP provides a Group Policy that lets you add power to the commands that are available in the Recovery Console. Under normal conditions, the Recovery Console imposes limits on the environment in which it operates.

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Use Group Policy to add power to Recovery Console

If you pre-install the Recovery Console on a computer, you should use Group Policy to enhance the environment settings, adding power to the available file operations. To do so:

1. Start the Group Policy Microsoft Management Console (MMC) snap-in.
2. Select the **Security Options** object in the **Console** pane to display the security policies in the Details pane.
3. In the **Details** pane, double-click the **Recovery Console: Allow Floppy Copy And Access To All Drives And Folders** policy.
4. Click **Enabled**, and then click **OK**.
5. Quit the MMC. You can save the console in case you want to make changes.

Note This policy sets the `HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Software\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Setup\RecoveryConsole` registry key's DWORD "SetCommand" value to 1.

After you have enabled this Group Policy, when you enter the Recovery Console, you can change the environment settings with the `set` command by using the set *variable* `= TRUE or FALSE` syntax.

Note: Be sure to use a space on each side of the equal sign. If you do not, the `set` command generates a "syntax error" error message and does not work.

The following variables define the default environment. The variables, when set to TRUE, enlarge the scope of the environment setting and have the following meanings:

- **AllowWildCards = TRUE** Enable wildcard support for some commands (such as the `del` command)
- **AllowAllPaths = TRUE** Allows access to all files and folders on the computer
- **AllowRemovableMedia = TRUE** Allow files to be copied to removable media, such as a floppy disk
- **NoCopyPrompt = TRUE** Do not prompt when overwriting an existing file

To see the current settings for the environment, type `set` without parameters at a command prompt.

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