Configure App-V with Group Policy Objects

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Group Policy Objects are increasingly widely used in centralized management of settings, especially for software products installed on many systems and / or with many configuration settings.

Therefore many customized ADM templates will be created to install the desired configuration using Active Directory Group Policy Object. Previously, App-V was called SoftGrid, and Rodney Medina created a similar ADM template for SoftGrid. With the appearance of the latest App-V version (this name is set for the SoftGrid product line), Microsoft announced an ADM template used to configure the App-V client. Maybe this is an exception because it shows that Microsoft will officially support creating configuration settings using this method. However, the first ADM template released does not contain all the settings included in the customized template. That's why Rodney, along with Ment v / d Plas, updated their ADM templates with installation changes in the App-V 4.5 version so all settings appear when combining both. ADM template.

In this article we will learn how to use ADM templates, and which settings can be configured with these templates.

Additional templates

All App-V settings are based on the machine level, so there is no configuration section for users. Therefore, we need to add the ADM template to a new or available Group Policy Objects using the **Add / Remove Templates option** from the context menu on **Administrative Templates** .

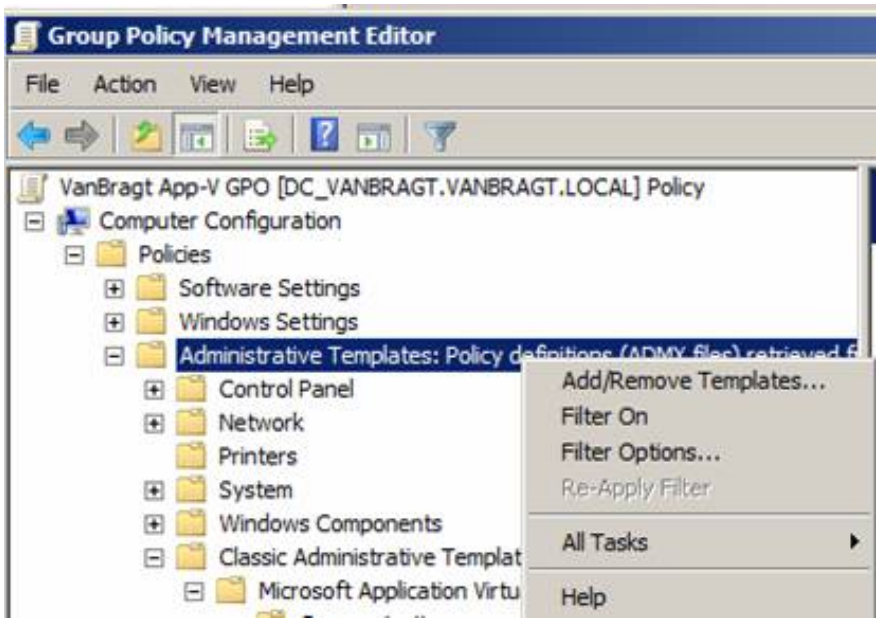


Figure 1: Add / Remove Templates menu options.

Logically, we need to have two templates available (free download). Microsoft templates are posted on the company's website, while Rodney / Ment's customized ADM template can be downloaded here (account registration required).

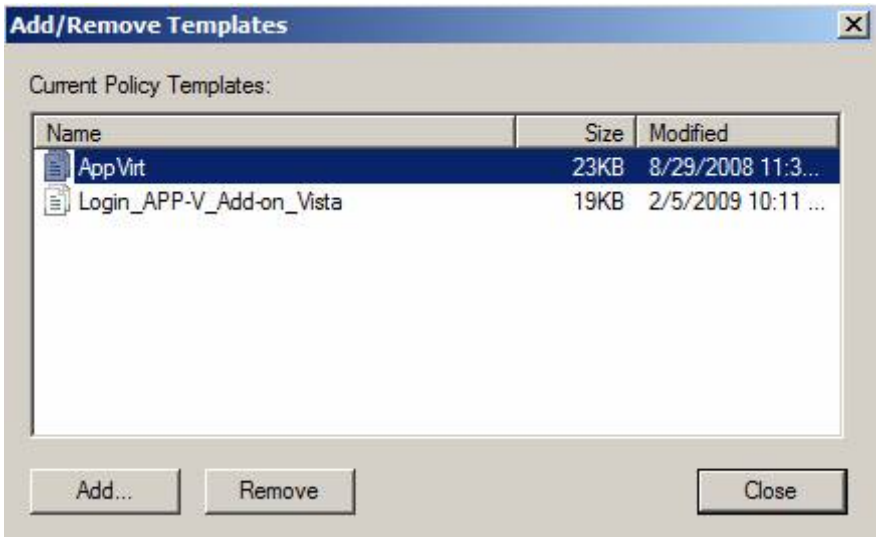


Figure 2: Two ADM templates are selected for use in this Group Policy Object.

After selecting one or both templates, we were able to configure the settings using the Group Policy Object Editor. Depending on the version of the operating system in use (and the version of the Group Policy Object Editor), we need to change the filtering options to display the possible settings. In Windows 2008 these settings are displayed by default, and in Windows 2003 it is necessary to deselect the **Only show policy settings option that can be fully managed** (**Only show policy settings that are fully** manageable) before those This setting is

displayed.

Microsoft installations are displayed in **Microsoft Application Virtualization Client** . The first installation group is in the **Communication** tab.

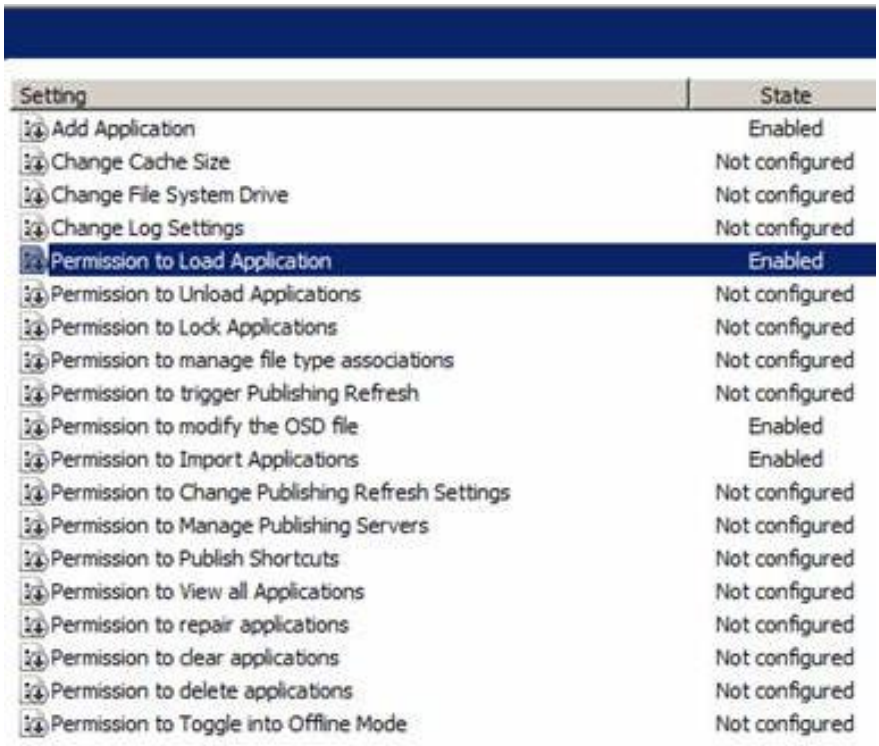
Setting	State
Allow Independent File Streaming	Enabled
Application Source Root	Enabled
OSD Source Root	Not configured
Icon Source Root	Not configured
Set background loading triggers	Not configured
Specify what to load in background	Enabled
Disconnected Operations: Online	Not configured
Disconnected Operations: Allow	Not configured
Disconnected Operations: Fast Connect Timeout	Not configured
Disconnected Operations: Limit Disconnected Operations	Not configured
Reporting: Data Cache Limit	Not configured
Reporting: Data Block Size	Not configured

Figure 3: Options of Communication in Microsoft's ADM template.

In this section contains some settings to note. The first setting named Allow Independent File Streaming needs to be configured if the Lightweight Application Streaming template is being used for the App-V server. Application Source Root installations, OSD Source Root and Source Root Icon can be used to override the settings set in the original OSD file. These options are useful if the system uses several addresses and all or some addresses that have their own App-V server in that address (this is the most important condition in previous versions). If all files have the same address, we only need to configure Application Source Root, but when all the files are on different resources, all settings can be used.

With the *Set Background loading triggers option* , we can configure the way the client starts the background loading process. This background download process has been completely changed in App-V version 4.5. Policy setting **Specify what to load in the background** specifies the action to be taken when the background process is started (download previously used applications or all applications).

This group of policies (Disconnected Operations) helps create the rules and settings needed to use the App-V workstation in offline mode. With these policies we can set up multiple configurations if using offline is allowed (Disconnected Operations: Allow) when offline mode is enabled (Disconnected Operations: Fast Connect Timeout) and the amount of time that Offline mode can be used (Disconnected Operations: Limit Disconnected Operations). The next two steps are to configure advanced settings that will not be covered in this article.



Setting	State
Add Application	Enabled
Change Cache Size	Not configured
Change File System Drive	Not configured
Change Log Settings	Not configured
Permission to Load Application	Enabled
Permission to Unload Applications	Not configured
Permission to Lock Applications	Not configured
Permission to manage file type associations	Not configured
Permission to trigger Publishing Refresh	Not configured
Permission to modify the OSD file	Enabled
Permission to Import Applications	Enabled
Permission to Change Publishing Refresh Settings	Not configured
Permission to Manage Publishing Servers	Not configured
Permission to Publish Shortcuts	Not configured
Permission to View all Applications	Not configured
Permission to repair applications	Not configured
Permission to clear applications	Not configured
Permission to delete applications	Not configured
Permission to Toggle into Offline Mode	Not configured

Figure 4: License settings in Microsoft's ADM template.

Permissions is the logical name of the second tab. All settings on this tab are based on the rights that users are assigned to the system that has installed the App-V workstation. When selecting a lightweight option, we will have to configure these settings or users will not be able to launch virtualized applications. When using this method at least we need to configure the options after *Add Application* , *Permission to Import Applications* and *Permission to Load Application* . When using a product such as RES PowerFuse, Appsense or Scense (with a SoftGrid / App-V compatible type), we need to enable the Permission to modify the OSD file. Other settings can be configured to meet different requirements, in which all settings are named in groups.

Setting	State
Tray: always run	Not configured
Tray: Success display delay	Not configured
Tray: show refresh	Not configured
Tray: show load	Not configured
Log Roll-over count	Not configured
Log Max Size	Not configured

Figure 5: Client communication settings in Microsoft ADM template.

Finally, we will switch to the Client Interface tab in Microsoft's ADM template. Configuration mode is divided into two groups. The first group; Show …… can be used to configure the behavior of the traybar icon and display notification of this feature. For maintenance purposes, settings such as **Log Roll-over count** and **Log Max Size** can be configured to specify the size of log files and the number of backup copies stored in those log files (when touched the maximum size threshold).

In the ADM template of the Login Consultant group, add configuration settings (not appearing in Microsoft templates) that need to be configured. We will start with the settings of the Client Interface. In this template, the section that will be covered is Interface.

Figure 6: Interface component of ADM template group three.

With **Tray: Display Icon** installed, we can arrange for this icon to never appear in traybar, while installing **Tray: Error display delay** can be used to determine when an error occurred.

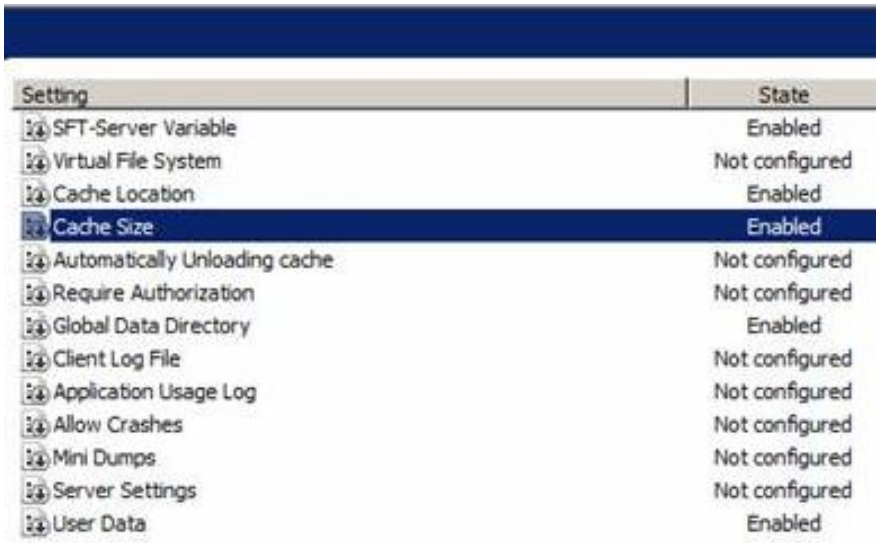


Figure 7: Settings of the ADM template.

The **Settings** section is an additional part, because these settings are configured by default during the installation of the workstation. Under this method, a selected installation can be easily changed centrally (however some settings require a reboot). Perhaps, one of the most useful settings is the **SFT-Server Variable** to identify a variable App-V server name, so this setting can be used for several addresses or easily switch between App-V servers. With *Cache Location, Cache Size* and *Automatically Unloading Cache* , we can configure App-V Cache settings. In addition, settings such as *Global Data Directory, User Data, Client Log Files* , and *Application*

Usage Log are the settings used to configure the addresses of specific files or directories.

When using Full App-V Deployment (**Server** App-V deployment), **Server Settings** is the recommended installation. In this setting we can configure Publish Server and the corresponding configurations, so the deployment process completely includes the replacement of automatically arranged symbols.

The last tab in the ADM template is **Communication** .

Figure 8: Communication settings in App-V's Add-on template.

This part of the configuration settings are 'improved and adjusted' parameters for more advanced settings. The settings set up with these settings are the protocol used, the optimal network settings, DCC configuration and command timeout.

Conclude

In modern systems, centralized management configurations are a top priority. It's great that Microsoft is supporting the configuration of these installations using Group Policy Objects. Microsoft's ADM template provides some useful settings, but does not contain all the necessary settings. App-V's Add-On template contains such settings as an additional template for Microsoft's App-V template. In this article we have looked at some methods of configuring App-V using Group Policy Objects and this is the first step to using them in the environment.