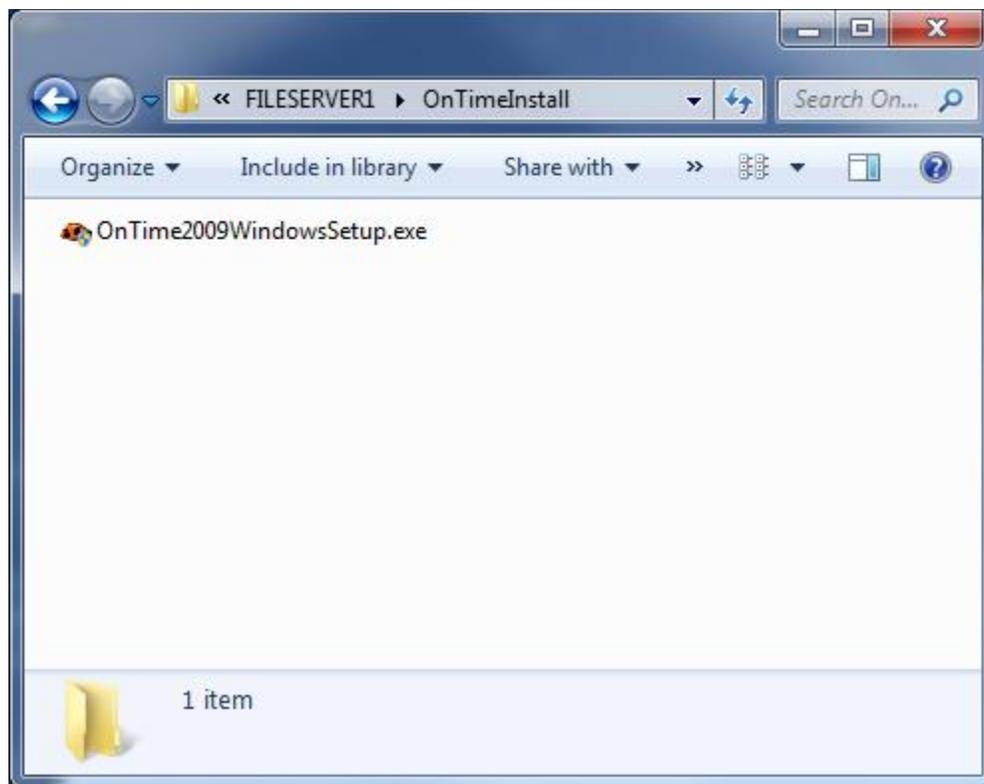


## Deploying OnTime Using Active Directory Group Policy

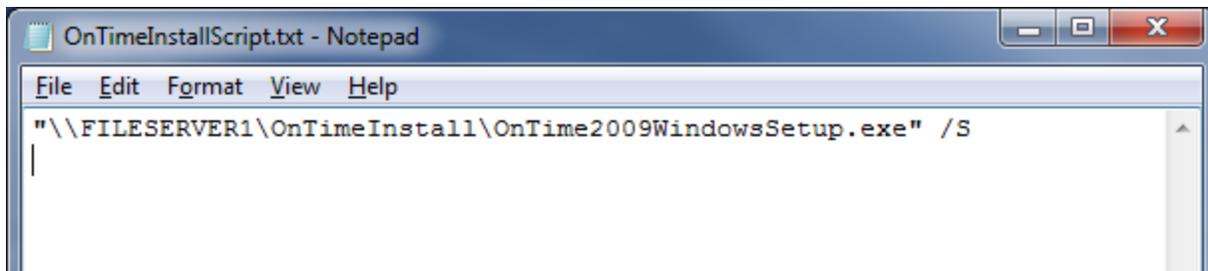
If your company needs to deploy the OnTime Windows installation to a larger number of computers, one way to do so would be via a batch file deployed through Active Directory Group Policy settings. This can be done by either a Computer Startup Script or by a User Logon Script. Both methods involve creating a centralized distribution point (often just a file share on the network) that holds the OnTime installation file(s), and then executing this installer on the destination machine via a batch file. The differences between the two methods are discussed at the end of this article.

Below are a set of instructions using a sample domain. Adjust the following instructions as needed for your domain.

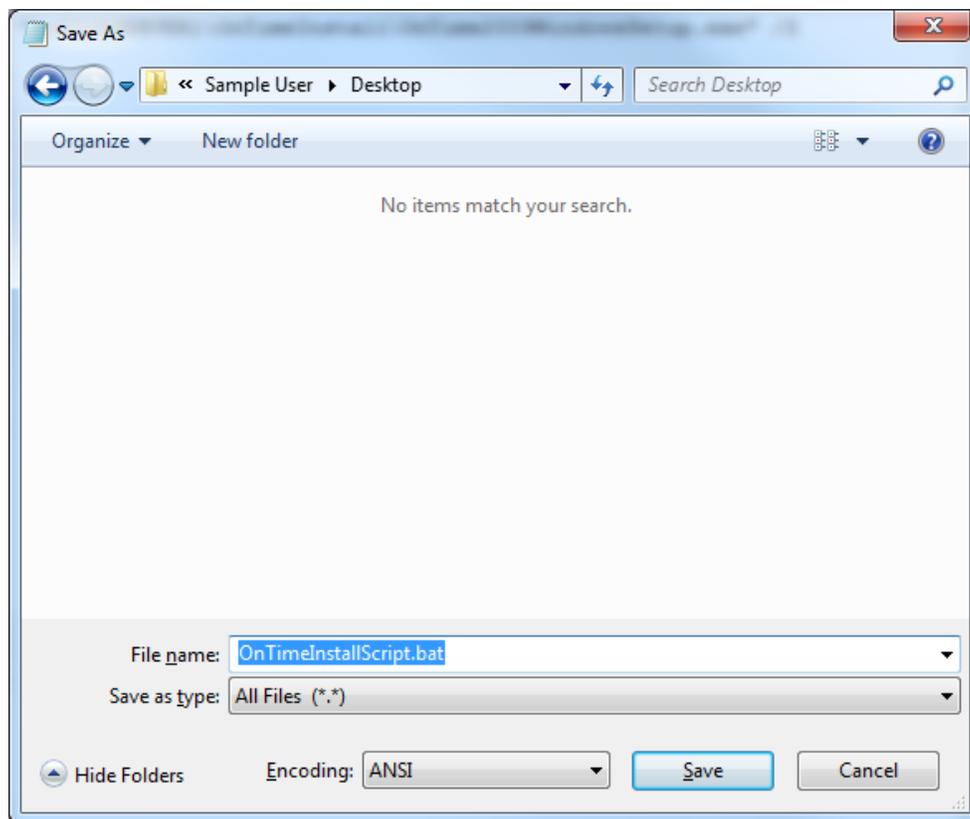
1. Create a file share on the network where the OnTime installation file will be stored. In this example, I will use <\\FILESERVER1\OnTimeInstall> as the network file share. Then place the installation file in that folder.



2. To create the installation script (batch file), open a text editor and type the command below (additional information about installing OnTime from a command line and other options can be found in the Axosoft Community forums here : <http://community.axosoft.com/forums/thread/18427.aspx>)



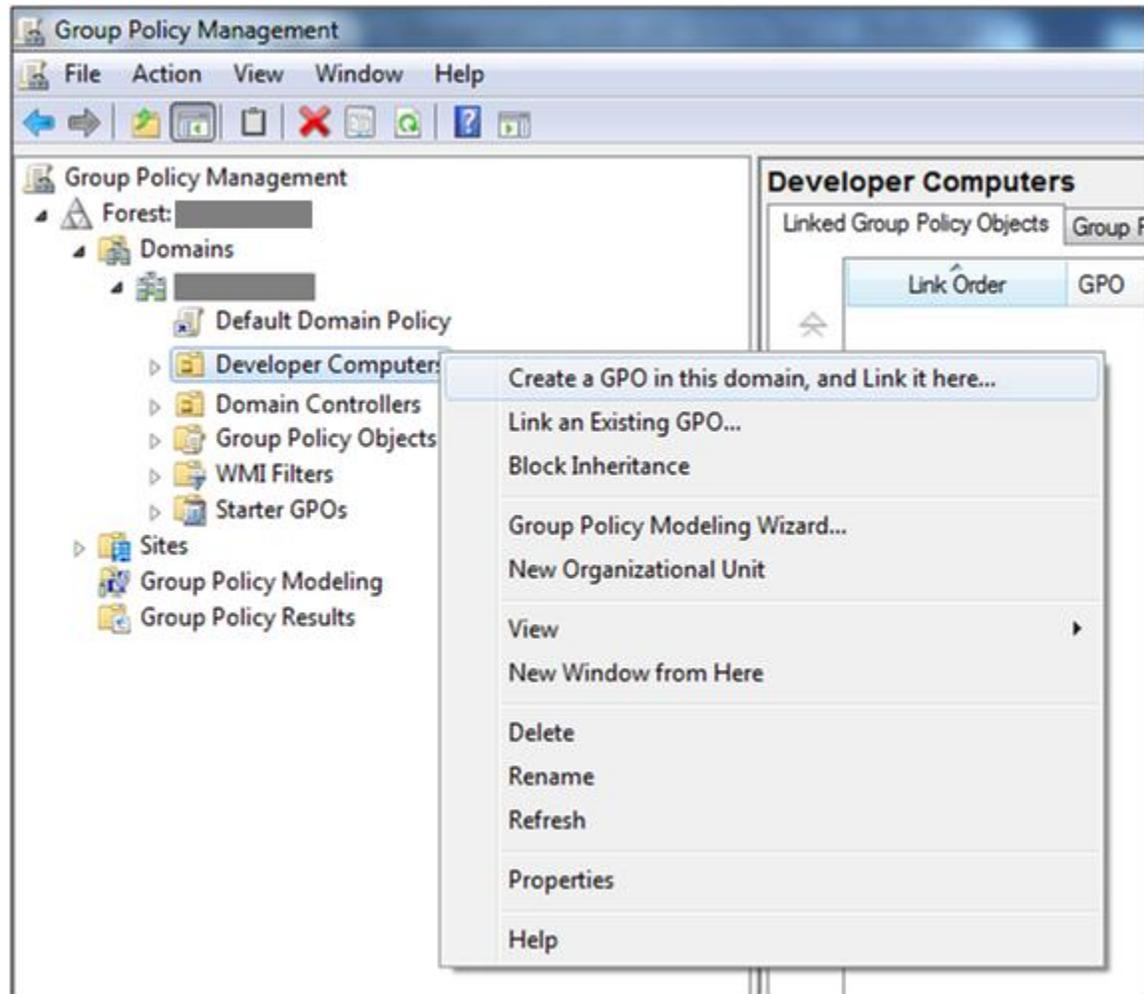
3. Save the file as a batch file. To do this, go to **File -> Save As...**, and change the **Save as type:** to **All Files (\*.\*)**, and in the **File Name** field, change the file extension to **.bat** (.cmd would also work). Then save the file.



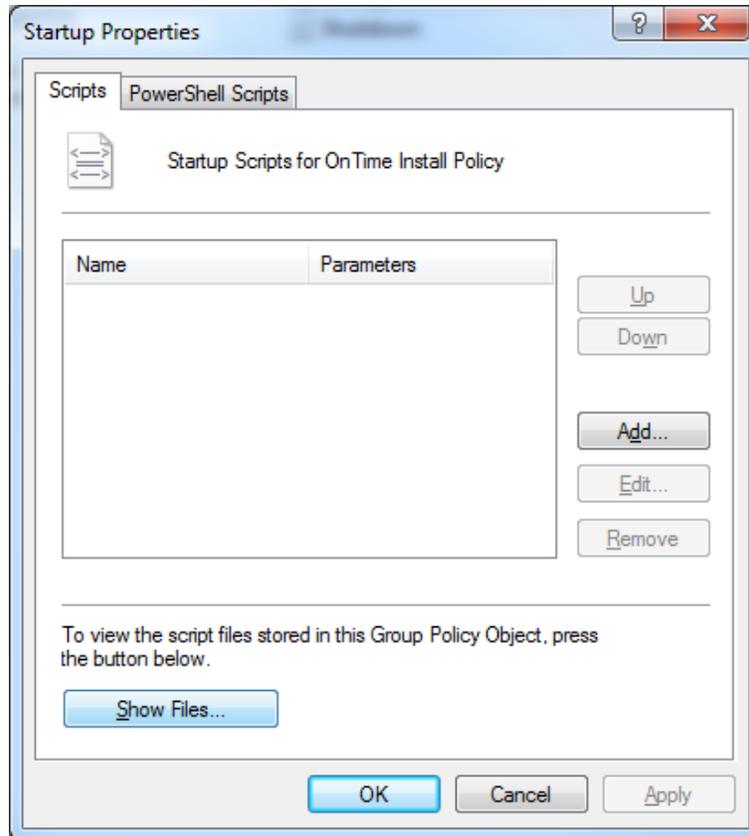
4. This batch file can be used as either an Active Directory Computer Startup script, or as a User Logon Script (see the end of this article for differences between the two methods and other information). For example, to assign this script to an Organizational Unit (OU) in active directory, do the following:
  - a. Open the Group Policy Management Tool, located in **Control Panel -> Administrative Tools -> Group Policy Management**. If you do not have this tool you can download it free from Microsoft here:

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyID=0A6D4C24-8CBD-4B35-9272-DD3CBFC81887&displaylang=en>)

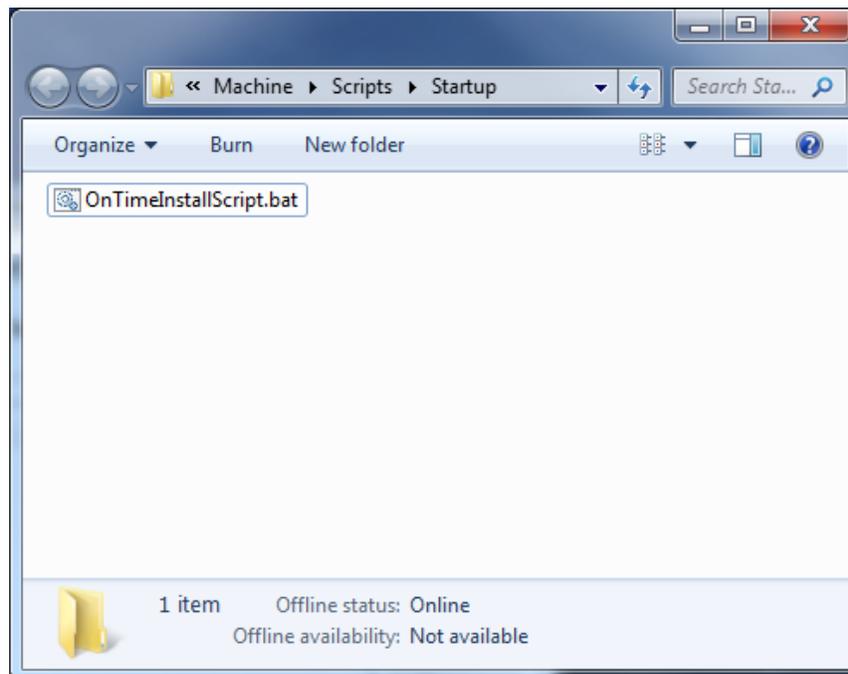
- b. In the Group Policy Management tool, navigate to the OU in your Domain that holds the computers needing to have OnTime Installed. Right-click that OU and select **“Create a GPO in this domain, and link it here.”** Give the new GPO a descriptive name (**“OnTime Install Policy”** for example).



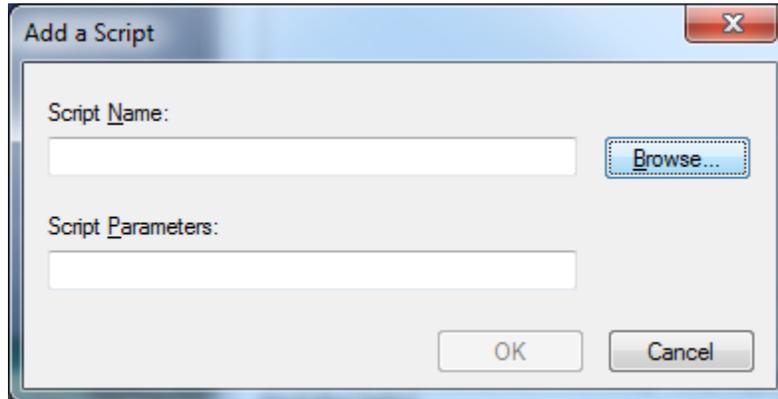
- c. Next, right-click the **OnTime Install Policy** and select **Edit**. This will bring up a new window.
- d. For a Computer Startup Script, in the left-hand pane, navigate to the following: **Computer Configuration -> Policies -> Windows Settings -> Scripts (Startup/Shutdown)**
- e. For a User Logon Script, in the left-hand pane, navigate to the following: **User Configuration -> Policies -> Windows Settings -> Scripts (Logon/Logoff)**
  - i. In the right-hand pane, double-click either **Startup** (for a startup script) or **Logon** (for a logon script)
  - ii. In the window that appears, click on the **Show Files** button in the lower left-hand corner. This will open up an explorer window.



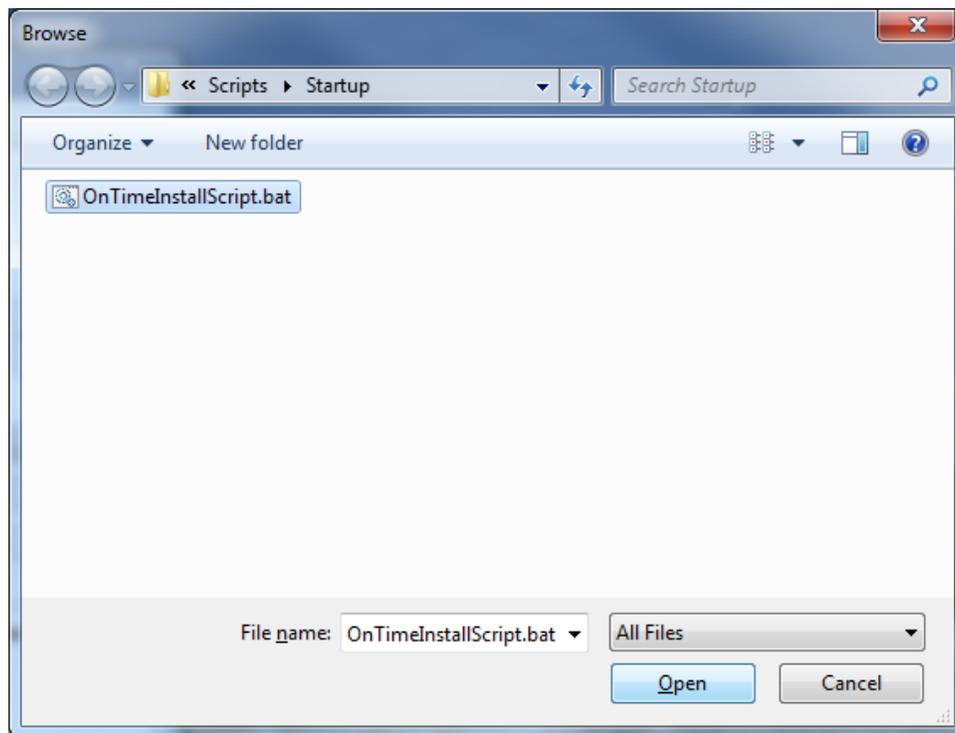
iii. Copy your batch file into this folder and then close that window.



- iv. Next, in the **Startup Properties** window (**Logon Properties** window if creating a logon script), click on the **Add** button, and then click the **Browse** button.



- v. In the window that appears, select the **OnTimeInstallScript.bat** file, and then click **Open**.



- vi. Next, click **OK** in the **Add a Script** window, and then click **OK** again in the **Startup Properties (Logon Properties for a logon script)** window.

You have now set a Group Policy for all computers in that particular OU to install OnTime the next time the computer either reboots or a user logs on, depending on whether you used a startup script or a logon script.

## **Additional Information**

Each of the two above methods (startup script, logon script) has their strengths and weaknesses. Here is some more information that may help you decide which one may be best for your given Active Directory domain and security policies.

### **Computer Startup Script**

A computer startup script will attempt to run your script and install OnTime the next time a computer restarts. Note that this install will proceed upon startup, and does not require a user to log on. It is important to note that the install will proceed under the local computer's SYSTEM account. Some issues you may run in to when deploying OnTime in this manner:

1. On the network file share, you will need to give the "Domain Computers" security group read access to that file share. Otherwise, the script will fail to run the installer with a "Permission Denied" error.
2. When installing OnTime in this manner, the Start Menu shortcuts will be placed in the "Default User" profile directory. To work around this, you will need to move the start menu shortcuts created in the Default User's start menu to the All Users start menu. This can be done by moving them manually or by adding commands to the end of the OnTimeInstallScript.bat file. Note: In Vista, Server 2008, Windows 7, and Server 2008 R2, the "Default User" is simply named "Default".
3. Until the script is removed or no longer applied via Group Policy to the computer(s), each time the computer starts up/reboots, the installer will run.

### **User Logon Script**

A user logon script will attempt to run your script and install OnTime the when a user logs on to the machine. Some issues you may run in to when deploying OnTime in this manner:

1. On the network file share, you will need to give the user account(s) or user group(s) that will need to install OnTime read access to that file share. Otherwise, the script will fail to run the installer with a "Permission Denied" error.
2. The user logging on will need to have admin rights on the local machine to allow the software to install correctly. If the user does not have the rights to install software on the local machine, the install will fail.
3. When installed in this manner, OnTime will only place Start Menu shortcuts in the profile of the logged-on user.
4. Until the script is removed or no longer applied via Group Policy to the computer(s), each time a user logs into the machine, the installer will run.