Windows 7 Local Group Policy Firewall changes for SQL Server in Domain Environment

Problem: On Window 7 machine connected to a domain with a group firewall policy, adding Inbound Rules to the Firewall for sqlexpress.exe and sqlbrowser.exe does not work. The inbound rules are created but are grayed out and aren't enabled.

Solution:

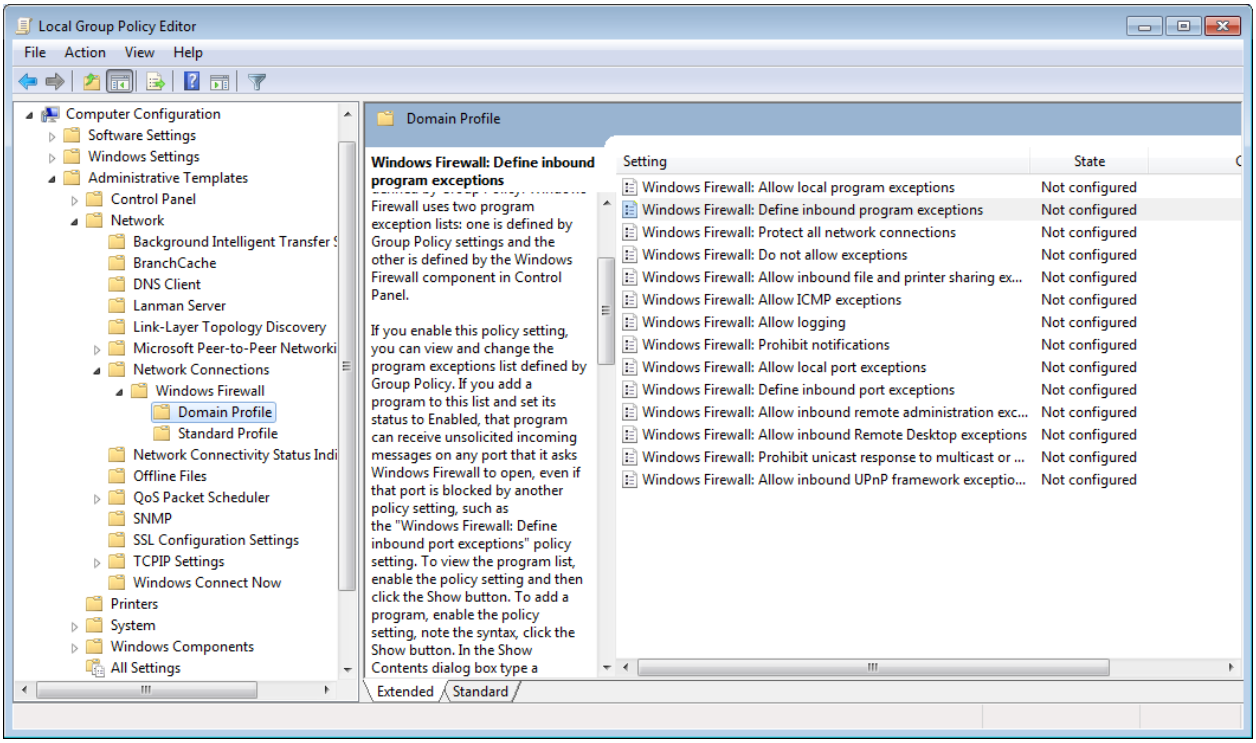
Login as an administrator on the Windows 7 machine on which the SQL Server is installed.

Open the local Group Policy Editor from the command line

- Click **Start**, type **gpedit.msc** in the **Start Search** box, and then press **Enter**.

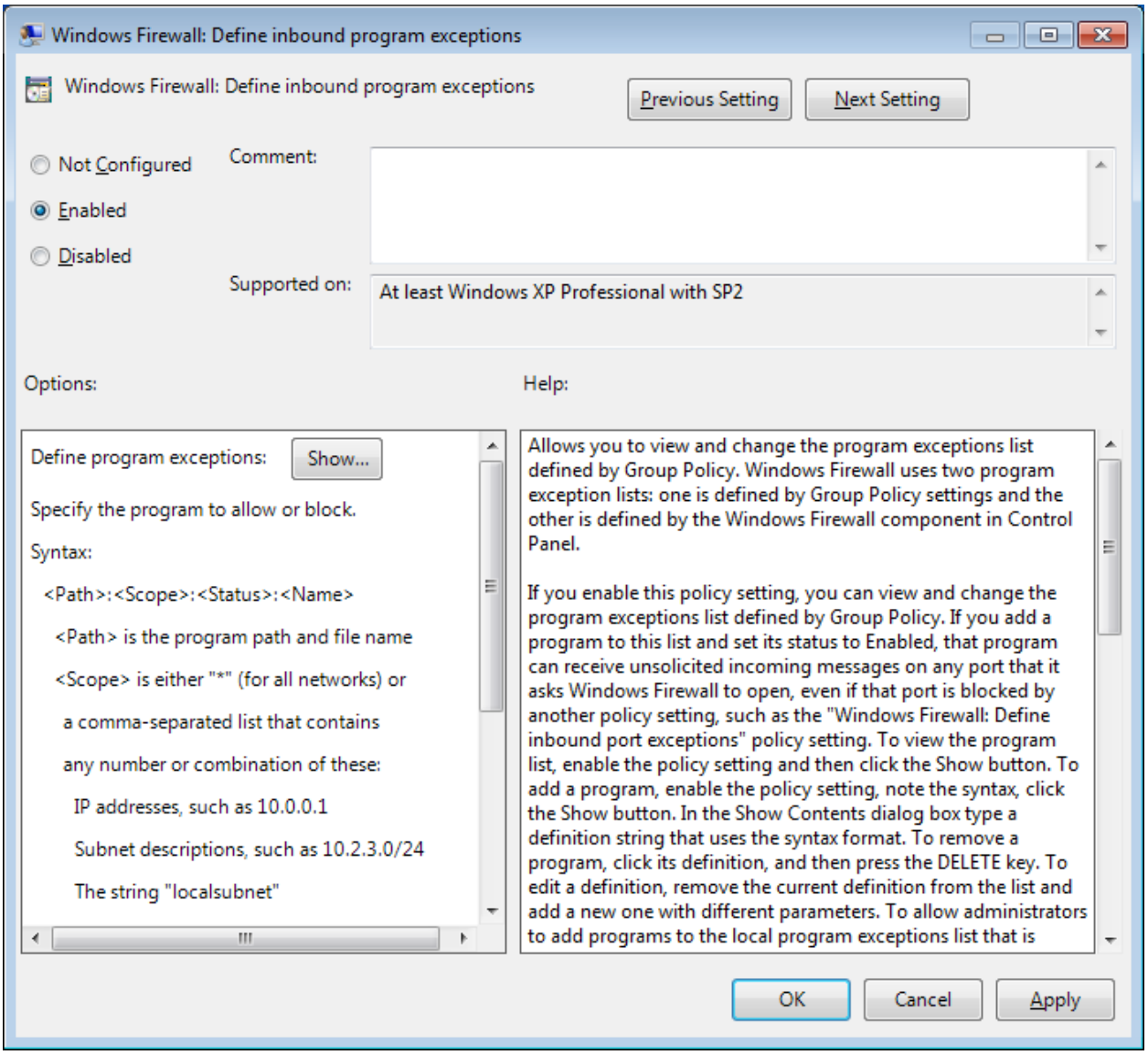
Select the Domain Profile for Windows Firewall

- Expand **Administrative Templates** >> **Network** >> **Network Connections** >> **Windows Firewall**, then click on **Domain Profile.**



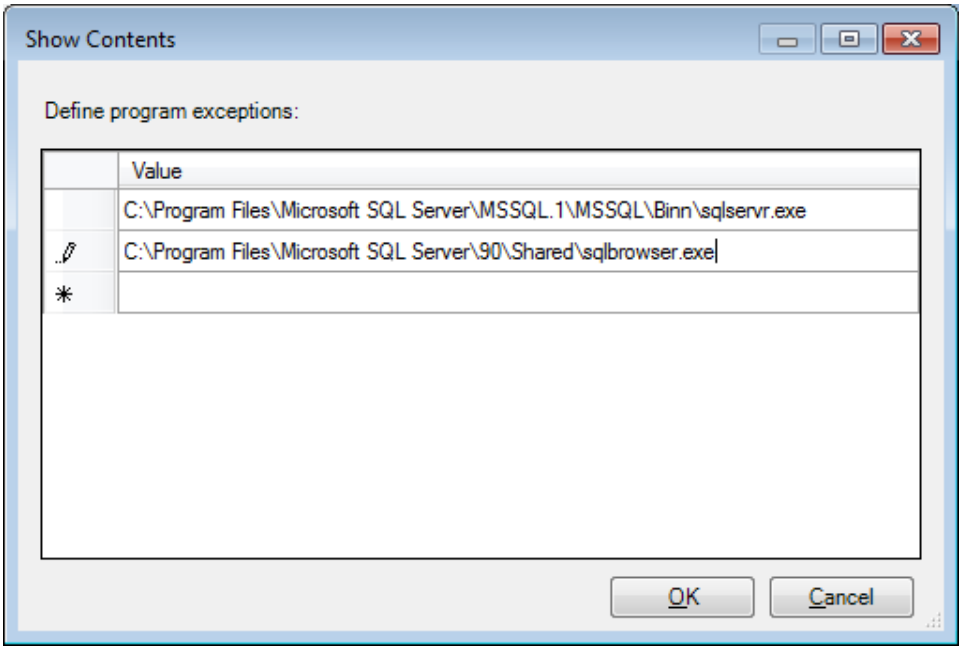
Enable the inbound programs exceptions

- Right-click the entry **Windows Firewall: Define inbound program exceptions**, click **Edit**, and select **Enabled**



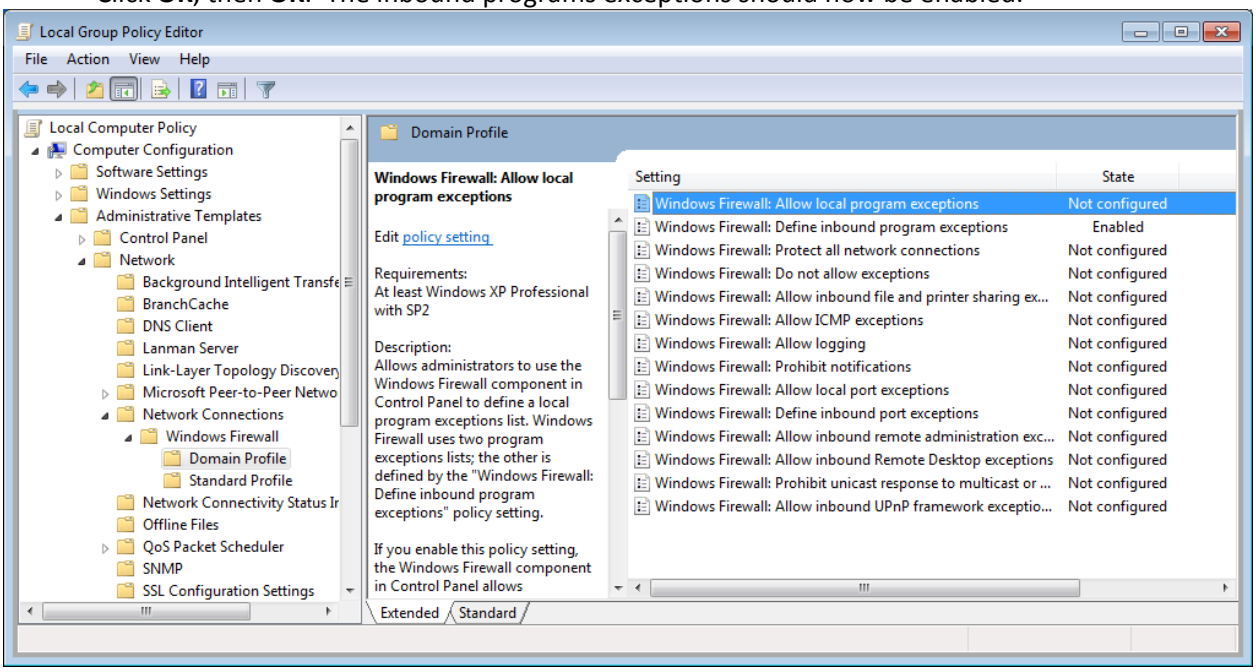
Define SQL Server and SQL Browser Exceptions

- In the options section click **Show…**, enter the executable location for Sql Server in the **Value** field, usually **C:\Program Files\Microsoft SQL Server*MSSQL.1*\MSSQL\Binn\sqlservr.exe**.
- Enter the executable location for the SQL Server Browser Service in the **Value** field, usually **C:\Program Files\Microsoft SQL Server\90\Shared\sqlbrowser.exe**.



Save the changes

- Click **OK**, then **OK**. The inbound programs exceptions should now be enabled.



More information is available here: **http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/cc646023.aspx**