



Control with Group Policy Administrator

Group Policy Administrator™ is a privilege delegation and lifecycle management tool that allows you to edit, test, review and compare GPO changes before publishing them to your live environment. This helps you safely implement and alter Microsoft Group Policy Objects (GPOs) for your Active Directory environment.

Introduction

To securely leverage the powerful capabilities of Microsoft Group Policy, you need the ability to model and predict the impact of Group Policy changes before they are deployed. An error or a malicious, unauthorized change can have devastating consequences, such as denying access to critical resources or weakening security controls. However, native tools provide limited role definition and delegation, rudimentary version control and roll-back capability, as well as reliance on scripting and static reports to model and predict the impact of changes. When publishing new and changed policy settings to the live Microsoft environment, you need the utmost assurance that your policies do not leave you vulnerable to downtime or breach.

To reduce risk and enforce security controls, Group Policy Object (GPO) changes should go through a thorough change, approval, and publish management process. NetIQ® Group Policy Administrator provides the features and controls necessary to help you reduce the risk associated with unmanaged or unauthorized GPO changes.

Product Overview

Group Policy Administrator provides an off-line environment to help you securely manage Group Policy Objects. This allows you to plan, troubleshoot, and report on Group Policy administration activity without impacting the performance and availability of your live Active Directory environment. It also helps you

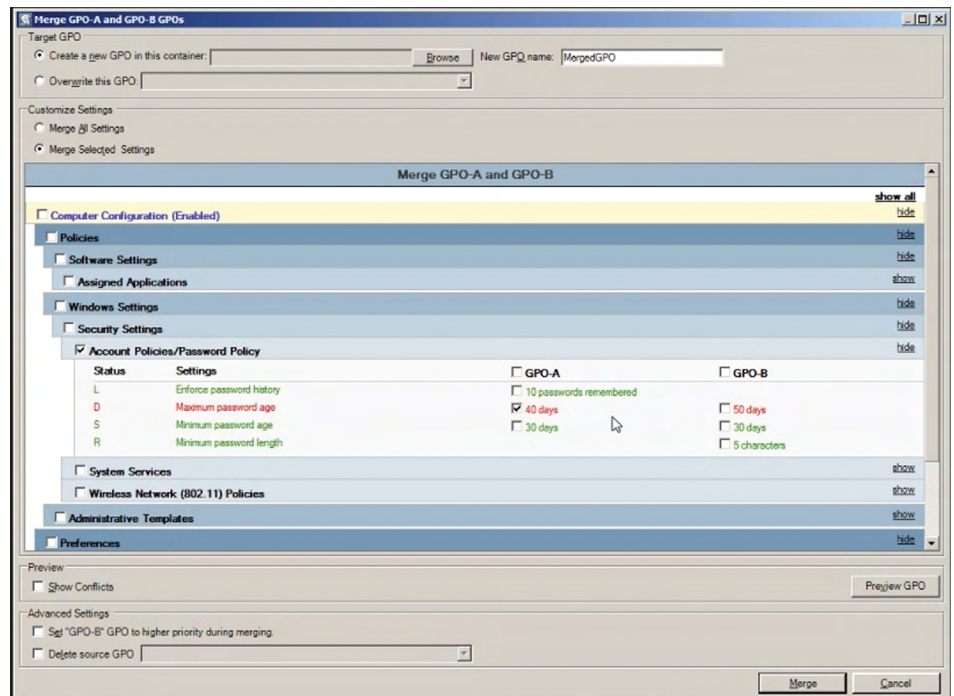
reduce risk; prevent service interruptions; and achieve, maintain, and demonstrate regulatory compliance.

Capabilities

With the offline repository in Group Policy Administrator, you can model and test changes to GPOs without impacting the performance of

your live Active Directory environment. In addition, change, approval, and publish capabilities help you safely involve necessary stakeholders, reducing the risk of unauthorized changes.

Group Policy Administrator gives you the controls necessary to enforce policies securely and consistently across your business by providing:



Group Policy Administrator Merge Facility enforces accurate, consistent Group Policy Objects to minimize risk of error.

- **Secure offline repository**—edit, test, review, and compare GPO changes in a test environment to prevent inadvertent changes that could compromise the security and availability of your production environment.
- **Robust workflow and delegation model**—delegate specific administrative privileges to various stakeholders to help prevent abuse or misuse of privilege.
- **Enterprise-scale Group Policy management**—manage your entire Group Policy environment (including un-trusted domains, multiple forests, and multiple domains) from a central repository to help minimize administrative complexity and improve consistency.
- **Advanced analysis**—receive detailed and comparative reports, allowing you to remotely diagnose errors and determine the cumulative effect of a GPO change.

Features

- Detailed role and privilege delegation without granting Active Directory permissions
- Total offline GPO lifecycle change management
- Offline environment mirrors production for consistent accuracy
- GPO version control with check-out, check-in
- One-button rollback capability
- WMI filter and GPO Link Order editing
- Centralized GPO control and synchronization from domain to domain and across forests, including disconnected forests
- Synchronized GPO changes ensure consistent master GPOs across domains
- GPO Merge Facility eliminates redundant and incomplete GPO 'clutter'
- Live and offline Resultant Set of Policy (RSOP) analysis
- Point-in-time analysis reports show changes with who/what/when detail

- Change Guardian for Group Policy integration displays policy change activity from within Group Policy Administrator
- Utilizes Workflow Automation for consistent, productive process

Key Differentiators

Group Policy Administrator provides the following differentiated capabilities to securely and efficiently manage Group Policy:

- **Granular delegation of least privilege separates duties among stakeholders.** Delegation of pre-defined roles and detailed custom role and privilege definitions safeguard organizations by separating lifecycle duties across administrative and managerial personnel.
- **Complete offline group policy lifecycle management and analysis.** Import, create, edit, test, link, analyze, report on, and approve production-ready GPOs. After all stakeholders model and approve the impact of GPO changes, changes are ready to be published into the production environment.
- **Cross-domain/cross-forest group policy management and reporting.** Manage all domains and forests within an environment from one centralized repository, regardless of trust relationships. GPOs can be easily synchronized across domains and forests and deviations identified.
- **Compare and merge GPOs to maintain a clean and consistent GPO repository.** The GPA Merge Facility allows admins to compare GPOs, combine and remove settings, and consolidate and eliminate incomplete and unnecessary GPOs.
- **Integrated Group Policy Change Monitoring.** Group Policy Administrator and Change Guardian for Group Policy can be seamlessly integrated to identify unauthorized changes by evaluating the source of the change.

To learn more about Group Policy Administrator, or to start a trial, [go here](#).

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