

Quest® Active Administrator® 8.1

What's New

March 2017

Quest® Active Administrator® 8.1 is the latest release of Quest Software's complete solution for managing Microsoft® Active Directory® health, delegation, accounts, GPOs, recovery and security auditing, and certificate and DNS management. This document provides a highlight of these improvements.

- i** | **NOTE:** The Certificate Management, Azure Active Directory, DNS Management, and Active Directory Health modules each require a license in addition to the license for Active Administrator. The Spotlight® for Active Directory Suite license is required for Active Directory Health.

This document highlights key features new in this release. For more information about these or any features, see the Quest Active Administrator 8.1 User Guide.

- [Active Administrator Web Console](#)
 - [Active Directory Health dashboard](#)
 - [Alerts](#)
 - [Notifications](#)
 - [Health checks](#)
 - [Reports](#)
 - [Active Directory Topology](#)
- [Edit DNS zone permissions](#)
- [Purge and archive Directory Analyzer alerts](#)
- [Purge stale accounts](#)
- [Attach remediation actions to critical Active Directory Health alerts](#)
- [Specify preferred domain controllers](#)
- [Support for Personal Information Exchange \(PFX\) \(PKCS12\) files](#)
- [New user role to view alerts only](#)
- [Schedule weekly backups](#)
- [Customize view of security objects](#)
- [Additional supported platforms](#)

Active Administrator Web Console

Quest® Active Administrator® Web Console extends the functionality of the built-in Windows® management tools for Active Directory® by allowing administrators to view and manage security in a much more extensible interface. You can open Active Administrator Web Console on a variety of devices in the following browsers:

- Microsoft® Internet Explorer 11
- Google Chrome™ 47
- Mozilla® Firefox® 44

The [Active Directory Health dashboard](#) is where you can monitor the overall health of your organization. From the dashboard, you can view [Alerts](#), set up [Notifications](#), run [Health checks](#), and generate [Reports](#). The [Active Directory Topology](#) viewer lets you monitor alerts while viewing a customizable topology diagram of your organization.

Active Directory Health dashboard

The Active Directory Health dashboard displays read-only real-time data about forests, sites, domains and domain controllers so you can monitor the health of your organization. For forests, you can see forest alerts and information about the monitored domain controllers in the forest. For sites, you can see site alerts, information about the servers, and site links. For domains, you can see domain alerts, information about the monitored domain controllers, replication latency, and GC replication latency. For domain controllers, you can see domain controller alerts, an overview of performance, status of services, information about the servers and Active Directory, and installed applications and updates.

Alerts

Alerts have two levels of severity: warning and critical. As a situation escalates, a warning alert is generated, indicating that a lower priority threshold has been violated. As the severity of the error increases, a critical alert is generated, indicating that the higher priority threshold has been exceeded.

You can view alerts in two formats: grid view or table view. Grid view provides several details in a quick view. Table view lets you see several alerts at a time and you can select to view the details of a selected alert. Alerts update every minute, but you can manually refresh the display. Current alerts display in grid view by default.

Critical alerts are indicated in red and appear at the top of the list. Warning alerts are indicated in yellow and appear after the critical alerts. As alerts are cleared, they disappear from the list. You can view the cleared alert on the **Alert History** tab.

For alerts you want to monitor more closely, you can pin them to the top of the list. You also can see which alerts are causing the most issues in the **Linked Alerts** area.

If you know about an upcoming maintenance to the system or some other event that may cause a lot of unnecessary alerts, you can mute the collection of alerts. During the mute period, no alerts are collected into the Active Administrator database and no alert notifications are sent.

Notifications

You can create notifications to send to specified email recipients when alerts are generated. A wizard helps you create multiple types of notifications to address varied audiences and their specific needs.

For example, you might send only site alerts on a selected site to a certain user. You would exclude all forests, all domains, and all domain controllers from the notification. On the Site Selection page, you would choose the selected site.

Assign names and add descriptions to your alert notifications so you can easily manage the list. You can edit and remove alert notifications as your needs change. You also can limit the number of alert notifications sent within a specified time period.

Health checks

A Health Check is a customizable report on forests, domains, sites, and domain controllers. You can choose to take a snapshot of a moment in time or capture a trend over a specified period of time. There are many different tests from which you can choose. There are also settings to help you customize the Health Check tests.

Reports

There are over seventy out-of-the-box reports to help you manage your organization. There are four categories of reports: Active Directory Health, Active Directory Infrastructure, DNS, and Security. Once you run a new report, the report remains open until you run another report. You can refresh the parameters and run the report again. You also can rerun an existing report from the History tab.

Active Directory Topology

For a selected forest, you can view and customize a topology diagram, and quickly see a list of domain controllers with their roles. Every 300 seconds, the topology diagram is updated to get server alert status from the Active Administrator foundation server (AFS). The node for each domain controller displays in a color to indicate its status. When replication latency alerts are detected, the color of the link between domain controller nodes indicates the status.

You can change the forest topology layout by dragging the domain controller and site objects on the topology diagram. If you chose to save the layout, the layout is associated with the forest in the cache and loads the next time you run the topology on that forest. Each user can create their own layout that is associated with their user account.

Edit DNS zone permissions

You can edit the permissions of only DNS zones that are integrated with Active Directory® Domain Services. You can choose to edit multiple zones at one time or a single zone. If you edit multiple zones, you can add or remove permission. If you edit a single zone, you can add, remove, or view/edit the permissions and disable inheritance.

Purge and archive Directory Analyzer alerts

You can choose to purge and/or archive the alerts added to the Active Administrator® database by Active Directory Health. If you choose to purge, alerts are removed from the database. If you choose to archive, alerts points are also added to the Active Administrator archive database. You can purge or archive on a schedule or choose to run the process manually at any time. Select **Active Directory Health | Agents | Alerts | Purging and Archiving** to set up purging and archiving.

Purge stale accounts

By default, inactive accounts are purged after 30 days of inactivity. You can set up a schedule, send a notice when the account is about to be deleted and/or when the account is deleted, and prevent specific users from being deleted. Set up stale account purging by selecting **Security & Delegation | Inactive Accounts | Purge stale accounts**.

Attach remediation actions to critical Active Directory Health alerts

Remediations are actions that execute when an Active Directory Health alert reaches its critical threshold. Several built-in remediation actions are included with Active Administrator®, but you also can create custom remediations, which can be a PowerShell script, VBS script, batch file, or .cmd file. Once you have populated the library with the remediations you need, you attach the remediations to alerts. See *Managing the Remediation Library* in the *Active Administrator 8.1 User Guide* for more information.

Specify preferred domain controllers

Preferred domain controllers are used when requesting resources from Active Directory®. Normally, Active Directory assigns you the closest domain controller. You can use this feature to specify a preferred domain controller when a domain controller has not already been specified.

Support for Personal Information Exchange (PFX) (PKCS12) files

In the Certificates module, you can now add, install, and manage Personal Information Exchange (PFX) (PKCS12) files. In the certificate repository, certificates (.CER files) and PFX (PKCS12) files (.PFX) are separated on different tabs. For more information, see the *Certificates* chapter in the *Quest® Active Administrator® 8.1 User Guide*.

New user role to view alerts only

The new Directory Analyzer Alert Viewer role provides read-only access to Directory Analyzer alerts. To manage Directory Analyzer alerts, the user must have the Directory Analyzer and the Directory Analyzer Alert Management roles. If you want a user to only view the alerts, the user needs the Directory Analyzer and the new Directory Analyzer Alert Viewer roles. Select **Configuration | Role Based Access** to apply the new user role.

Schedule weekly backups

When configuring Active Directory® backups, you can now schedule the backup to run on a weekly basis on a day and at a time of your choosing. Select **Configuration | Recovery Settings** to schedule the backup. You also have

an opportunity to schedule the backup when running the Configuration Wizard. Select **Start | AA Configuration Wizard** to open the wizard.

Customize view of security objects

When viewing all users, groups, organization units, or computers in the **Security & Delegation** module, you can now select which columns of information you want to display. Select **Security & Delegation | Security | View | All Users/All Groups/All Organization Units/All Computers | Columns** to select the columns to display. All columns display by default. The **Employee ID** column is new to the **All Users** display.

Additional supported platforms

- Microsoft® SQL Server® 2016
- Windows Server® 2016

i | **NOTE:** Active Administrator® does not support Microsoft Nano Server 2016.

About us

We are more than just a name

We are on a quest to make your information technology work harder for you. That is why we build community-driven software solutions that help you spend less time on IT administration and more time on business innovation. We help you modernize your data center, get you to the cloud quicker and provide the expertise, security and accessibility you need to grow your data-driven business. Combined with Quest's invitation to the global community to be a part of its innovation, and our firm commitment to ensuring customer satisfaction, we continue to deliver solutions that have a real impact on our customers today and leave a legacy we are proud of. We are challenging the status quo by transforming into a new software company. And as your partner, we work tirelessly to make sure your information technology is designed for you and by you. This is our mission, and we are in this together. Welcome to a new Quest. You are invited to Join the Innovation.

Our brand, our vision. Together.

Our logo reflects our story: innovation, community and support. An important part of this story begins with the letter Q. It is a perfect circle, representing our commitment to technological precision and strength. The space in the Q itself symbolizes our need to add the missing piece—you—to the community, to the new Quest.

Contacting Quest

For sales or other inquiries, visit <https://www.quest.com/company/contact-us.aspx> or call +1-949-754-8000.

Technical support resources

Technical support is available to Quest customers with a valid maintenance contract and customers who have trial versions. You can access the Quest Support Portal at <https://support.quest.com>.

The Support Portal provides self-help tools you can use to solve problems quickly and independently, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The Support Portal enables you to:

- Submit and manage a Service Request.
- View Knowledge Base articles.
- Sign up for product notifications.
- Download software and technical documentation.
- View how-to-videos.
- Engage in community discussions.
- Chat with support engineers online.
- View services to assist you with your product.

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Legend

-  **WARNING:** A WARNING icon indicates a potential for property damage, personal injury, or death.

-  **CAUTION:** A CAUTION icon indicates potential damage to hardware or loss of data if instructions are not followed.

-  **IMPORTANT NOTE, NOTE, TIP, MOBILE, or VIDEO:** An information icon indicates supporting information.