

Quest® GPOADmin® 5.11.1

What's New Guide



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Legend

 **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.

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What's New in Quest GPOADmin

As a result of ongoing research and development, and in response to customer feedback, the following enhancements have been made in this release of Quest GPOADmin:

- [Desired State Configuration scripts within Version Control](#)
- [Group Policy Analysis Report](#)
- [Custom Search Folders](#)
- [Restrict GPO management for specific domains](#)
- [Disabled workflow for SOMs and WMI Filters](#)
- [Additional PowerShell commands](#)
- [Updated Settings and Difference Reports](#)
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- [Miscellaneous Enhancements](#)

Desired State Configuration scripts within Version Control

Desired State Configuration (DSC) extends Microsoft PowerShell to facilitate environment configuration — including your GPO deployment. Users with the appropriate permission can propose the creation of a script that does not currently exist in the enterprise environment and have it placed within the Version Control system.

i | NOTE: Only DSC PowerShell scripts are supported.

Before you can register DSC scripts, you must enable DSC support in the Server options and specify a DSC root directory for each domain that supports DSC scripts. This root directory serves as the starting point for the DSC script enumeration and deployment location.

The right to Create Desired State Configuration Scripts must be applied to users and groups that are assigned the Domain Read right in the selected domain. The Edit right on the Version Control container is also required.

Export GPOs as Desired State Configuration scripts

You can also export GPO's user and computer registry settings to a resource file to take advantage of Desired State Configuration scripts.

i | NOTE: You can also use the `Select-ExportAsDSCResource` PowerShell command to export the settings. You cannot register the resources using this command.

Group Policy Analysis Report

This Policy Analysis report displays the registry settings for GPOs within a selected Scope of Management. You can use this report to help to manage your deployment by comparing GPOs to identify information such as duplicate settings, inconsistencies, or how many times a value has been changed.

You can run the report by either:

- Right-clicking a registered Scope of Management and selecting **Reports | Policy Analysis**.
- Right-clicking an unregistered Scope of Management and selecting **Policy Analysis**.
- Using the Report Wizard.

The report details include:

- The registry key, the key name, and the value. (Hovering your mouse over any bold names or the information icon provides more registry information.)
- The GPO name. (Hovering your mouse over the GPO name, displays the distinguished name for the SOM the policy is linked to.)
- A gray background signifies that the setting is not set in the GPO.
- A white background signifies that the setting is set in the GPO.
- A yellow background signifies that the setting has changed in the GPO.



NOTE: Required rights

- To run the report on the live environment, you must have the domain Read and domain Report rights.
- To run the report by right-clicking an SOM, you must have the **Run Contextual Report right**.
- To run the report from the report wizard, you must have the Run Reports, domain Read, and domain Report rights.

GPOAnalyzer Utility

The Policy Analysis report does not check the security or validate the WMI filters. To analyze whether users have access to a GPO and how WMI filtering has been set to apply group policy objects, we have provided the GPOAdmin.GPOAnalyzer.exe command-line utility.

To run the utility, start a command prompt and specify GPOAdmin.GPOAnalyzer.exe with the appropriate parameters.

Table 1. Available parameters

Parameter	Required or optional	Description
/Domain	Required	Scope of Management fully qualified domain name.
/SOMDN	Required	Scope of Management distinguished name.
/Output	Required	File name for the saved report.
/x	Optional	Force the output to be in XML. (The default is HTML)
/DC	Optional	Domain controller to communicate with. (The default is the PDCe)
/S	Optional	Process security filters. This checks to see if the current user can access the GPO. (The default is set to not check security.)
/F	Optional	Validate GPO WMI filters. (The default is set to not check WMI filters to see determine if a GPO should be processed.)
/L	Optional	Use the locally stored GPO definition. (The default is to use the central store, if configured. If not, the local policy definition is used.)
/V	Optional	Log progress to the screen.

Table 1. Available parameters

Parameter	Required or optional	Description
/U	Optional	Process only the user configuration. (The default is user and computer.)
/C	Optional	Process only the computer configuration. (The default is user and computer.)

Custom Search Folders

Custom search folders allow you to combine many variations to augment the ability to view the status of the objects within your Version Control system deployment. Custom searches you can:

- Create a search to return results based on one or more of the following properties:
 - Cloaked
 - Compliant
 - Deleted
 - Domain Name
 - Unique ID
 - Locked
 - Name
 - Status
 - Pending Action
 - Type
 - GPOAdmin ID
 - Workflow Enabled
 - Keywords
- If the search only returns GPOs, you can further filter the based on GPO search contents through the **Apply settings to results** option and entering a specific value.

Restrict GPO management for specific domains

If necessary, you can restrict access to domains to ensure that only specified individuals or groups can view, register, create, and report on items in a domain. You can fine-tune the level of available management based on the level of security.

By default, the Domain Users group is assigned all domain rights to their corresponding domain. To take advantage of the new level of security, you must remove Domain Users and assign rights as appropriate.

- **IMPORTANT:** These rights refer to domain access and work with the existing GPOAdmin delegated user rights that are in place; they do not replace them.

Disabled workflow for SOMs and WMI Filters

If you have the Enable/Disable right, you can now enable and disable the workflow for Scopes of Management and WMI filters.

Additional PowerShell commands

The following new commands have been added to help you deploy and manage GPOAdmin's new functionality:

Table 2. PowerShell commands

Feature	Available commands
Creates a TrusteeData object for the specified account. This object can be used to add trustees to a group policy objects security filter with the Set-SecurityFilter cmdlet.	New-Trustee
Gets the security filter for the specified Group Policy object. If the group policy object is workflow enabled, then it must be checked out. This cmdlet requires the ModifySecurityFilter right.	Get-SecurityFilter
Sets the security filter for the specified Group Policy object. If the group policy object is workflow enabled, then it must be checked out. This cmdlet requires the ModifySecurityFilter right.	Set-SecurityFilter
DSC scripts can now be registered, stored, backed up, reported on, and run through the same workflows as other objects within the Version Control system.	Get-DSCRootPath Get-EnableDSCSupport Select-ExportAsDSCResource Set-DSCRootPath Set-EnableDSCSupport
Manage root container assignments	Get-RootContainerAssignment Add-RootContainerAssignment Remove-RootContainerAssignment Clear-RootContainerAssignment
Ability to workflow disable Scopes of Management and WMI Filters	GetWorkflowDisabledSOMs GetWorkflowDisabledWMIFilters GetWorkflowEnabledSOMs GetWorkflowEnabledWMIFilters

Updated Settings and Difference Reports

The Settings and Difference reports now indicate which deny right is applied to users and groups on specific GPOs. This corresponds to the deny rights that are set on the Advanced Security tab for GPOs. Administrators can use this information to help determine why specific users are unable to access a GPO.

Group Policy Object Settings Search Report

This report runs a text search against Group Policy Object settings for names and values. The most recent version of the GPO is searched for any details containing the text string you have submitted. This report also includes Authentication Services settings.

i | **NOTE:** If you want to include Authentication Services in the Settings, Difference, or Group Policy Settings Search reports, you must make a change in the registry settings due to product rebranding. For detailed instructions, see the Release Notes.

Notification updates

You can attach read and delivery receipts to notification messages to help you to stay informed of the latest changes to objects under version control. Once enabled, the email specified in the “From” address can confirm that notifications are received and/or read after they are sent.

Prevent approval requester from approving their own changes

You can configure the server options to ensure that a user cannot approve their own changes, even if they are in the approver's list for the object.

Watcher service supports sub folders in the SYSVOL scripts folder

Scripts contained in the SYSVOL Scripts folder (and its sub folders) can be registered and will be detected by the Watcher Service and reported as non-compliant. DSC scripts are not monitored by the Watcher Service.

Updated support

- SQL 2016
- Windows Server 2016
- TLS/SSL connection. When connecting to Office 365 for standard SMTP notifications, the From account must have access to the mailbox of the authentication account

Miscellaneous Enhancements

- System variables are supported in custom workflow actions.
- The service account can be authenticated by systems other than just NTLM authentication during installation.
- WMI Filter assignments are part of GPO synchronization.
- Comments added to actions in Windows Event logs.

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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>.

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