

Quest® GPOADmin® 5.13

Release Notes

Jan 2019

These release notes provide information about the Quest GPOADmin release.

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About this release

GPOADmin gives organizations control of Group Policy Objects (GPOs) across the enterprise. Built to augment the Microsoft GPMC, GPOADmin provides comprehensive GPO management with additional features such as offline editing, reporting, archival and restoration, version control, test framework, change notification and approval, and quick rollback in the event that an object change has unexpected results.

New features

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:

- Kerberos support

GPOADmin supports both NTLM and Kerberos authentication by using Windows Communication Foundation (WCF) configuration elements. By default, GPOADmin will use Kerberos.

i | **NOTE:** If your environment is not configured to use Kerberos, GPOADmin will authenticate using NTLM.

- Ability to assign groups when applying permissions

Administrators can assign roles and access to multiple by using groups rather than explicitly assigning to individual users.

i | **NOTE:** Although users can only be directly assigned one root container, they may have access to multiple root containers through their group membership.

- Enhanced workflow approval notifications

When multi-level approvers are configured, the approval request notifications are sent to all approvers at the same time.

- Improved navigation

The Reports and Search Folders are now located under the connected server. This is particularly useful for multiple connections where each display its own Lost and Found, Report, and Search Folder containers.

- Updated minimum permissions

Updated minimum permission required for the Group Policy Modeling report. See the GPOAdmin Quick Start Guide for details.

Resolved issues

The following is a list of resolved issues in this release.

Table 1. Resolved issues

Issue	Issue ID
Due to the caching of connection credentials, it is possible for a user to gain elevated access if multiple connections to the same Version Control system are opened from the same instance without restarting the client.	445252
GPOAdmin becomes unresponsive when creating a starter GPO.	87767
Difference report shows incorrect changes for the Security Options settings.	103427
When using SQL as a configuration store, process approval inheritance for subcontainers does not function properly.	28597
When using SQL as a configuration store, the last deployed date of new items displays incorrectly as 01/01/1753.	30008
When using SQL as a configuration store, all version control containers are visible regardless of the assigned access.	29340
The Protected Settings Override dialog does not display for Administrators in the GPMC Extension or Dashboard.	26983
Protected settings and blocked extensions are not (visibly) propagating to child Version Control containers. Although not displayed in the UI, the settings and blocked extensions are applied.	26731
Migrating the Version Control root container with protected settings applied causes an error when the root does not contain any sub containers.	26921
Applying protected settings to an empty Version Control root container causes an error.	26920
GPO Lineage checks out and creates a working copy for linked workflow disabled SOMs.	26923
The "Managed By" container property does not propagate to items within the container when using SQL as a configuration store.	26617
The "Process approvals in order" container property does not propagate to items within the container when using SQL as a configuration store.	26618
The Import Wizard displays the "last modified" time in UTC format.	108668
Using the configmig.exe to migrate objects from Active Directory to SQL, results in the "last deployed" time for the migrated objects being displayed in UTC format.	108477

Known issues

i | **NOTE:** Defects with leading zeros (0) are from the Clarify system.

The following is a list of issues, including those attributed to third-party products, known to exist at the time of release.

Table 2. Installation

Known issue	Issue ID
To use the Dashboard, the GPOAdmin service, Dashboard service, and Dashboard client must all be installed on the same host.	108751
The Remote Registry service must be running on the targeted GPOAdmin service when installing the Watcher service standalone.	613029
Workaround: Use the silent install instructions found in the GPOAdmin User Guide.	
When installing the Watcher service feature only, the installer does not write the selected GPOAdmin service to the registry.	613019
Workaround: GPMC Extension – Change the ServerName value under HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Quest\GPOAdmin\GPMCEExtension Watcher Service – Change the ServerName value under HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Quest\GPOAdmin\WatcherConfig	
If you are running GPMC during an upgrade, you must close and re-open it before the GPO Management tab will display.	N/A
If you set a custom report folder path in a previous version, you must change the reports folder path in the User Preferences to point to the existing folder.	N/A
GPOAdmin may log you in as the previous user if you do not log in with new credentials.	194197

Table 3. Cross-forest support

Known issue	Issue ID
If you create a SOM backup in one forest and import it to another, the links will appear as deleted GPOs if those GPOs cannot be accessed from the second forest.	0228454

Table 4. Error messages

Known issue	Issue ID
If the system time is not synchronized between client and server, it can cause misleading error messages.	0228332
Errors in the event log may reference the wrong domain in a disjointed namespace.	107307

Table 5. Version Control system

Known issue	Issue ID
Imports will fail for workflow disabled items if the last user to connect is not the owner of the target item.	108940
Regardless of the number of assigned approvers, workflow buttons are only included in the first approver's email.	703601
The context menu on the Linked Group Policy Objects page of the Group Policy Modeling Wizard results in the wizard losing focus when launched via Citrix XenDesktop.	611801
Backups will not be remove for unregistered objects when running the Remove-Backups PowerShell command.	591669

Table 5. Version Control system

Known issue	Issue ID
Rolling back a moved OU does not move the OU back to its original location.	458939
Using SQL as a backup store will not allow you to export historical versions of GPOs as Protected Settings Policies.	370605
When adding or removing an account from the Access tab in the GPOAdmin Properties, the display may not function properly and hide accounts.	445238
Due to the caching of connection credentials, it is possible for a user to gain elevated access if multiple connections to the same Version Control system are opened from the same instance without restarting the client.	445252
Each time that you change the Enable workflow approval through email option, you must restart the service for the change to take effect.	360005
Compliance actions may result in an unhandled exception in the GPMC Extension. Workaround: To avoid this issue, you can either perform the compliance actions in the client or by running the Check compliance wizard.	322839
If users do not have the User role assigned on the Version Control root, they may not have the required rights to successfully execute the User Activity report.	238909
If an object is renamed or deleted within Active Directory®, the Approvals tab does not reflect the change.	246579
Some GPO settings are not backwards compatible between operating systems. For example, you can't import GPO settings from a Microsoft® Windows® Server 2012 version control system into a GPO in a Microsoft® Windows® Server 2008 version control system.	122825
When you edit GPOs, you are notified of persistent registry values through a flashing icon on the Registry Cleanup button in the GPO Editor. For this notification to display, you must first close and then open the GPO Settings property page by selecting the Edit menu.	240689
The Watcher Service needs to be restarted after changing Configuration Stores.	65408
Deploying a GPO containing existing Software Installation packages may cause each of those packages to be reinstalled on target workstations.	0222515
MMC snap-in may become unresponsive when rolling back changes on 15 or more GPOs in the Check Compliance wizard.	108919
Times displayed in GPOAdmin reports will be in the local time zone of the client machine. Any times displayed in the GPMC settings reports will appear in the time zone of the GPOAdmin server.	0135484
When checking for compliance, GPOAdmin will not perform a backup if the unauthorized changes result in an object in the same state as the currently stored version.	106505
If you do not have the appropriate language packs installed, GPOs created using Japanese characters on a Japanese OS will not display on an English OS.	0229308
After changing storage locations, the individual version information is not transferred from the old storage location to the new. You must keep the old storage server online if you want to still access those individual versions.	0229309
When using the SeizeVCRole.exe utility, if a port is specified with the new server name, the utility assumes that the new server is an AD LDS instance. When using an Active Directory Version Control server, the default port of 389 does not need to be specified.	0229311
GPOAdmin will not delete the information stored in the directory when it is uninstalled. The Version Control information may be deleted manually if it is no longer required. GPOAdmin uses "working copies" of objects for editing purposes. If the Version Control information is deleted from the server, while objects are still pending creation or in a minor version, these working copies may be seen as "Unregistered" if a new instance of the version control information is instantiated.	0229312
Working with large (3-5MB) GPOs in the GPMC Extension has the potential for the GPOAdmin Service or Watcher Service to become unresponsive.	108921
When you are editing a GPO with both the GPOAdmin console and the GPMC Extension open, closing the Group Policy Object Editor may not return you to the expected interface.	91914

Table 6. Reports

Known issue	Issue ID
Reports generated by GPMC may have display issues, when viewed on Windows 10 or Server 2016.	25084
For GPO difference reports to run properly when they contain Authentication Services settings, Quest Authentication Services must be installed on the GPOAdmin client and the GPOAdmin server.	284883
In the Difference Report, filters are not supported for GPO Preference settings.	151065
When running the Difference Report for a GPO that contains Scheduled Task Preference settings, the date and time options displayed in the report may not be as expected.	151232, 151435
If the Service Account does not have the correct access to generate Group Policy Results reports, you may receive miscellaneous errors throughout the Report Wizard. To properly generate Group Policy Results reports for a user or computer, the Service Account must have Read Group Policy Results data permission on the domain or OU that contains the user or computer, or the Service Account must be a member of a local Administrator's group on the targeted computer.	0104882, 0106937
The MMC snap-in may become unresponsive when running the Group Policy Object Consistency Report with 5000 or more GPOs.	108930
In the Group Policy Settings and Resultant Set of Policies reports, some dates (for example, Created, Modified and Applied date) will display with the time zone of the GPOAdmin Server.	102486
Pre-existing GPO settings are being displayed in the Change Auditor Working Copies report.	194922
When viewing Preference settings in the Difference Report, the values displayed for text entries may have a capital letter when the actual value is a lower-case letter. This may cause some date settings to be incorrect.	150634

Table 7. User Account Control

Known issue	Issue ID
When installing the GPOAdmin service on a system with User Account Control turned on, the installer must be launched using elevated privileges. To do this, run the 'Quest GPOAdmin.msi' file from an elevated command prompt.	41286

Table 8. Third Party

Known issue	Issue ID
Information about new Group Policy preferences in Windows Server 2008.	http://support.microsoft.com/kb/943729
"Object reference not set to an instance of an object" error message when you view the GPO backup settings in the Group Policy Management Console.	http://support.microsoft.com/kb/2379592
You cannot read the GPO in the SYSVOL directory in Windows® 7 or in Windows® Server 2008 R2 if you enable the "Deny write" permission of the GPO.	http://support.microsoft.com/kb/2275315

System requirements

Before installing GPOADmin 5.13, ensure that your system meets the following hardware and software requirements.

Table 9. Hardware requirements

Requirement	Details
Processor	2Ghz CPU
Memory	8Gb RAM
Hard disk space	1 Gb (prefer 50Gb if backups and reports stored on the same drive) hard disk space
Operating systems	Windows 7 Windows 8 Windows 8.1 Windows 10 Windows Server 2008 R2 Windows Server 2012 Windows Server 2012 R2 Windows Server 2016 NOTE: Nano Server is not supported. NOTE: For Windows 7 or Windows Sever 2008 R2 see https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/kb/3033929 . Quest provides the SHA-2 certificate with the understanding that even with this update, there may still be situations where certificate cannot be verified.

GPOADmin requirements

- .NET Framework 4.5 and 4.6
- Microsoft Group Policy Management Console with Service Pack 1 or Remote Server Administration Tools

Configuration store requirements

- Active Directory
- AD LDS
- SQL Server (Supported version include 2012, 2012R2, 2016, 2016 Express, 2017 and 2017 Express)

Backup store requirements

- Network Share (recommended)
- Active Directory (not recommended)
- AD LDS
- SQL Server (Supported version include 2008R2, 2012, 2012R2, 2016, and 2017)

Watcher service

Same system requirements as GPOADmin.

Upgrade and compatibility

Note the following when upgrading to GPOADmin version 5.13:

- Due to an upgraded encryption algorithm, the service account cannot decrypt previously encrypted passwords. If you are upgrading from 5.12.x and are using SQL as your configuration store, accessed with SQL authentication, you must re-enter the password for the connection account the first time you connect to the 5.13 service.

The following pre-configured passwords will also need to be re-entered: the SQL Server Backup Store account, the SMTP notifications account, and the Exchange notifications account.

- In previous versions of GPOADmin ownership and delegation information was not collected as part of the backup process. Since this data is now included in the GPO backup, after upgrading to version 5.13 the service account will be added as the owner during the deployment process. Until the GPO is deployed with the newly upgraded version of GPOADmin, GPO delegation may report incorrectly as compliant.
- In a minimum permissions environment, Group Policy Objects with a version of 0.x may fail to deploy correctly. To solve this, make a copy of the GPO and deploy the copy. Once this has been verified as successful, delete the original.
- After upgrading to version 5.13 ensure the “Ensure service account has access prior to deployment” service option is checked in the Options dialog.
- When you upgrade the Server, you must also upgrade the Client, GPMC Extension, and Watcher Service to version 5.13.
- GPOADmin runs under the security context of a privileged service account that must have full access to GPOs in the managed forest. If you plan to change this account, you must unlock all GPOs before making the change.
- The supported upgrade paths are from versions 5.11.1, 5.12, and 5.12.1.
- The live environment will only be visible for GPOADmin Administrators and users who have been explicitly granted access.

As a GPOADmin administrator, however, you may want to allow users to see the live environment from within the GPOAdmin console. This will, for example, enable you to delegate GPO, OU, or SOM object registration (and recursive registration) to specific users in your organization.

To permit a user to see the live environment:

- 1 Login to GPOADmin as a GPOADmin administrator.
- 2 Right-click the **Live Environment** node and select **Properties**.
- 3 On the **Security** tab, add one or more users who require access to the live environment.
- 4 Click **OK**.

Authentication Services integration

- To view Unix settings in GPOADmin, Authentication Services must be installed after GPOADmin is installed. See Support Knowledge Article 82383.

i NOTE: Authentication Services and GPOAdmin version 5.13 integration

Due to rebranding, changes are required in the registry setting for the integration to function correctly. Authentication Services installs to the following registry key:

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Quest Software\Quest Group Policy Manager\Extensions\vgp

GPOAdmin version 5.12 and above requires the settings to be installed under this registry key:

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Quest\GPOAdmin\Extensions\vgp

To import the settings into the registry at the correct location:

- 1 Export the key to a file, and change the key path (the bolded line) to the new path.

Old path:

Windows Registry Editor Version 5.00

[HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Quest Software\Quest Group Policy Manager\Extensions\vgp]

"CLSID"="{F0648064-537A-45AF-98A4-74D2AABE867C}"

"ReportingDLL"="C:\\Program Files (x86)\\Quest Software\\Authentication Services\\x64\\SettingsProvider.dll"

"DisplayName"="QAS Group Policy for Unix"

"NamespaceUri"="urn:schemas-quest-com:vgp"

The new path:

Windows Registry Editor Version 5.00

[HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Quest\GPOAdmin\Extensions\vgp]

"CLSID"="{F0648064-537A-45AF-98A4-74D2AABE867C}"

"ReportingDLL"="C:\\Program Files (x86)\\Quest Software\\Authentication Services\\x64\\SettingsProvider.dll"

"DisplayName"="QAS Group Policy for Unix"

"NamespaceUri"="urn:schemas-quest-com:vgp"

- 2 Save the file.
- 3 Right-click the file, and select Merge. (You can also double-click it and select Yes on the warning dialog.)

This settings will now be in the correct location required for the integration to function.

Compatible Products

GPOAdmin 5.13 is compatible with the following software:

- Change Auditor 7.0.1
- Authentication Services version 4.1 (Note: Older versions will not work with Protected Settings.)

Product licensing

To activate a new installation

- 1 Launch the GPOAdmin client.
- 2 Right-click the GPOAdmin node and select Connect To.

- 3 Select an existing connection or create a new one using the “New” button.
- 4 Click Connect.
- 5 When the Invalid License dialog box displays, browse to and select your GPOADmin license file and click OK.

To update your existing license for a given server

- 1 Launch the GPOADmin client and connect to the server where you want to update the license.
- 2 Right-click the forest for that connection and select **Options**.
- 3 In the Options dialog expand **License | Current License**.
- 4 Check the **Update License** check box and browse to and select your updated license.
- 5 Click **OK**.

Getting started with GPOADmin 5.13

- [Installation instructions and notes](#)
- [Additional resources](#)

Installation instructions and notes

Refer to the Quest GPOADmin Quick Start Guide for installation instructions.

Consider the following before installing GPOAdmin:

i NOTE: Group policy modeling report

The Group policy modeling report displays the resultant set of policies based on the selected simulation options within the modeling session. An application partition is created during the simulation to house the report. It contains a temporary staging container that will be deleted once the report has been generated. The service account must have permissions to create an Application Partition in Active Directory.

If required, you can create or delete the staging application directory partition:

- 1 Open Command Prompt.
- 2 Type:
ntdsutil
- 3 At the ntdsutil command prompt, type:
domain management or partition management
- 4 At the domain management command prompt, type:
connection
- 5 At the server connections command prompt, type:
connect to server ServerName
- 6 At the server connections command prompt, type:
quit
- 7 At the domain management command prompt, do one of the following:
 - To create an application directory partition, type:
create nc dc=staging,dc=gpoadmin DomainController
For every domain controller which might be used to run the Group policy modeling report on, type the following:
add nc replica "dc=staging,dc=gpoadmin" DomainControllerName
 - To delete an application directory partition, type:
delete nc dc=staging,dc=gpoadmin

Additional resources

Additional information is available from the following:

- Online product documentation <https://support.quest.com/technical-documents>.
- Quest community <https://www.quest.com/Community#>.

Globalization

This section contains information about installing and operating this product in non-English configurations, such as those needed by customers outside of North America. This section does not replace the materials about supported platforms and configurations found elsewhere in the product documentation.

This release is Unicode-enabled and supports any character set. It supports simultaneous operation with multilingual data. This release is targeted to support operations in the following regions: North America, Western Europe and Latin America, Central and Eastern Europe, Far-East Asia, Japan.

About us

Quest provides software solutions for the rapidly-changing world of enterprise IT. We help simplify the challenges caused by data explosion, cloud expansion, hybrid datacenters, security threats, and regulatory requirements. We are a global provider to 130,000 companies across 100 countries, including 95% of the Fortune 500 and 90% of the Global 1000. Since 1987, we have built a portfolio of solutions that now includes database management, data protection, identity and access management, Microsoft platform management, and unified endpoint management. With Quest, organizations spend less time on IT administration and more time on business innovation. For more information, visit www.quest.com.

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://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

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