

Quest® Active Administrator® 8.4
What's New Guide



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Quest Software Inc.
Attn: LEGAL Dept.
4 Polaris Way
Aliso Viejo, CA 92656

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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 Active Administrator

Active Administrator® 8.4 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, and Active Directory Health modules each require a license in addition to the license for Active Administrator.

This document highlights key features new in this release. For more information about these or any features, see the *Quest Active Administrator 8.4 User Guide*.

Topics:

- [Additional Supported Platforms](#)
- [License adjustments](#)
- [Active Directory Health enhancements](#)
- [Web console enhancements](#)
- [Other enhancements](#)

Additional Supported Platforms

The following platforms are now supported in Active Administrator.

- Windows Server® 2019
- SQL Server® 2019

License adjustments

The Active Administrator Domain Name System (DNS) module is now included with the base Active Administrator license and the Active Directory Health license instead of being separately licensed.

Active Directory Health enhancements

New Module Names

Some module names have been updated.

- Directory Analyzer has been updated to **Active Directory Health Analyzer**.
- Directory Troubleshooter has been updated to **Active Directory Health Troubleshooter**.

New Event Descriptions

- **Alert on GPO password complexity changes**

Added two event descriptions — GPO Password Complexity Enabled and GPO Password Complexity Disabled — to use when creating alerts and reports on group policy changes.

New Alerts

- **Collect and alert on orphaned Group Policy Objects (GPOs)**

Added a General Data Collector named *Orphaned group policy objects exist*. Select **Active Directory Health | Agents | Data Collectors | Domain Controllers | General**.

Added support for orphaned Group Policy Object alerts. Select **Active Directory Health | Alerts**.

- **Monitor site link settings on domain controllers**

Added a forest alert — Site link settings inconsistent with PDC — to indicate that some of the site link settings (Description, Assigned sites, Cost, Replication interval and Schedule) on domain controllers in the forest do not match the same settings on the primary domain controller (PDC).

- **Monitor site settings on domain controllers**

Added a forest alert — Site settings inconsistent with PDC — to indicate that some of the site settings (name, description, cn, displayName, location, managedBy, objectCategory, Subnets, and Servers) on domain controllers in the forest do not match the same settings on the primary domain controller (PDC).

- **Monitor subnet settings on domain controllers**

Added a forest alert — Subnet settings inconsistent with PDC — to indicate that some of the subnet settings (Description, Assigned site, Prefix) on domain controllers in the forest do not match the same settings on the primary domain controller (PDC).

- **Collect and alert on domain controller components**

Added data collectors — *Hard drive failed*, *Memory degrade*, and *Power supply failed*.

Added domain controller alerts — *Hard disk drive*, *Physical memory*, and *Power supply* — to indicate when issues have been detected each component on the domain controller.

- **Monitor DFS replication service on domain controllers**

Added domain controller alert — DFSRS unresponsive — to indicate that the DFS replication service is unresponsive on the domain controller.

New Options

- **Exclude domain controllers from Active Directory Health monitoring**

A new menu option in the Active Directory Health module now makes it easier to exclude domain controllers from Active Directory Health monitoring. Select **Active Directory Health | Agents | Analyzer Agents tab | More | Excluded Domain Controllers**.

- **SNMP alert notification support**

Added support for SNMP alert notification. Select **Active Directory Health | Alerts | Notifications | SNMP Alert Notification**.

- **Add grouping to alerts**

Added the ability to group alerts from the Current Alerts list by Alert Name, Object Name, or Severity Level.

- **Add alert count**

Added the total number of alerts to the header of the Alerts page.

- **Filter Active Directory Health Analyzer Agent log**
Added the option to *Filter Log Entries* to the Analyzer Agent Log display. Select **Active Directory Health | Agents | Analyzer Agents | View Agent Log**.
- **Filter Active Directory Health Analyzer Applications and Updates displays**
Added the option to *Filter Installed Applications by Name* to the Active Directory Health Analyzer Installed Applications display. Select **Active Directory Health | Analyzer | Monitored Domain Controllers | Applications** tab.
Added the option to *Filter Installed Windows Updates by Name* to the Active Directory Health Analyzer Updates display. Select **Active Directory Health | Analyzer | Monitored Domain Controllers | Updates** tab.
- **Create and apply data collector templates for each type of Active Directory object**
Added the option to create templates that hold the data collector settings and alert settings. Templates can be saved and applied for each type of Active Directory object. Select **Active Directory Health | Agents | Settings | Domain Controller, or Domain, or Forest, or Site | Save as Template**.
- **Set notification threshold for alerts that are cleared**
Added the option to suppress notifications if an alert clears within a set length of time. Select **Active Directory Health | Alerts | Notifications | Add or Edit**.
- **Remove offline Azure Active Directory Connect Health agents**
Added the option to remove an Azure Active Directory Connect Health agent when it is offline. Select **Active Directory Health | Azure AD Connect | Agents | Remove**.
- **Schedule the date and time to mute alerts for selected objects**
Added the option to schedule when alerts will be muted for selected objects. Select **Active Directory Health | Analyzer | Schedule Mute**. To display a schedule outlining when alerts will be muted for selected objects, select **Active Directory Health | Analyzer | Mute Schedule**.

Web console enhancements

New Options

- **Add new roles for Active Directory Health Check**
Added following new roles for Active Directory Health Check. Permissions for these roles can be set in the **Configuration | Role Based Access** module.
 - Active Directory Health Check Management - full management control role
 - Active Directory Health Check Viewer - report viewer role that can view, stop, or cancel running health checks
- **Support adding Windows services and Windows Performance counters to Active Administrator Health**
When viewing the data collectors on a domain controller in Active Administrator Health, you can now add Windows Performance counters or Windows services, depending on the tab selected.
- **Add export to CSV option to Active Directory Health**
Added the ability to export the performance counter sample values from the trending details dialog into a CSV file stored on the local computer.
- **Add Update ID filter to Installed Updates report parameters**

Added the ability to filter on Update ID when running the Installed Updates report. Select **Report | Active Directory Health | Installed Updates**.

- **Set notification threshold for alerts that are cleared**

Added the option to suppress notifications if an alert clears within a set length of time. Select **Monitor | Active Directory Health | Notifications | Add or Edit**.

- **Support selecting multiple domain controllers for Event Log reports**

Added the option to select more than one domain controller when running Event Log reports. Select **Report | Active Directory Health** and search for *event log*.

The following reports have been enhanced:

- Active Directory White Space
- AD Diagnostic Event Logging Levels
- AD Disk Space
- Application Event Log
- Authentication Methods
- Connection Object Duplicates
- Directory Service Event Log
- DNS Configuration
- DNS Event Log
- DNS Zone Information
- DNS Zones
- Domain Controller Advertising
- Domain Controller Environment Variables List
- Domain Controller Ping
- Domain Controller Process List
- Drivers List
- Event Log
- Event Log Errors
- IP Deny List
- Last Boot Up Time
- LDAP Policies
- Naming Context Topology Aliveness
- Net Logon
- Owner Information
- Replication Failures
- Replication Logon Privileges
- Replication Partner DNS Resolution
- Replication Partners
- Replication Queue Length
- RID Information
- Security Event Log
- System Event Log

- SYSVOL Attach
- Time Synchronization
- **Schedule the date and time to mute alerts for selected objects**
Added the option to schedule when alerts will be muted for selected objects. Select **Monitor | Active Directory Health | Schedule Mute**. To display a schedule outlining when alerts will be muted for selected objects, select **Monitor | Active Directory Health | Mute Schedule**.
- **Add new threshold to the Active Administrator Domain Controller Response Time Report**
Added the option to specify a threshold filter. Select **Report | Active Directory Health | Active Administrator Domain Controller Response Time Report**.

New Reports

- **Average DNS Interactions for TCP Report**
The Average DNS Interactions for TCP Report displays DNS interactions for TCP per second for the selected period. You can choose a date range. Select **Report | Active Directory Health | Average DNS Interactions for TCP Report**.
- **Average DNS Interactions for UDP Report**
The Average DNS Interactions for UDP Report displays DNS interactions for UDP per second for the selected period. You can choose a date range. Select **Report | Active Directory Health | Average DNS Interactions for UDP Report**.
- **Average Replication Time from PDC Report**
The Average Replication Time from PDC Report displays average replication time from PDC for each domain controller in selected domain(s). You can choose a date range. Select **Report | Active Directory Health | Average Replication Time from PDC Report**.
- **CPU Utilization Report**
The CPU Utilization Report displays the domain controllers that have the highest CPU utilization in the specified period of time for the selected domain. You can set how many domain controllers to display. Select **Report | Active Directory Health | CPU Utilization Report**.
- **Domain Controller Response Time Report**
The Domain Controller Response Time Report shows the average LDAP response time in the specified period of time for the selected domain controllers. You can choose a date range. Select **Report | Active Directory Health | Domain Controller Response Time Report**.
- **Domain Controller Service Status Alert Report**
The Domain Controller Service Status Alert Report displays all the service status alerts that have occurred on the selected domain controllers over the specified period of time. You can choose a date range. Select **Report | Active Directory Health | Domain Controller Service Status Alert Report**.
- **Missing DNS Records Report**
The Missing DNS Records Report displays all the DNS records that are missing from the DNS server over a selected period of time. Report information is displayed in Coordinated Universal Time (UTC). You can choose a domain, multiple domain controllers and a date range. Select **Report | Active Directory Health | Missing DNS Records Report**.
- **SMB Connections Report**
The SMB Connections Report displays the Top N domain controllers that have the most SMB connections in the specified period of time. Report information is displayed in Coordinated Universal Time (UTC). Select **Report | Active Directory Health | SMB Connections Report**.
- **Time Synchronization - Top N DCs with Greatest Time Difference Report**

The Time Synchronization - Top N DCs with Greatest Time Difference Report displays the top domain controllers with the greatest time difference with their W32Time Parent. Select **Report | Active Directory Health | Time Synchronization - Top N DCs with Greatest Time Difference Report**.

Other enhancements

Installation

Increased passphrase strength requirements

When upgrading from Active Administrator 8.2 or 8.3 to Active Administrator 8.4, or when installing Active Administrator 8.4 for the first time, the passphrase required for data encryption must be between 25 and 32 characters in length. The current passphrase can be changed using the previous passphrase value.

ⓘ | **IMPORTANT:** Active Administrator content may only be decrypted using this passphrase. It is very important to record the passphrase in a secure location where it can be retrieved when required.

ⓘ | **NOTE:** During upgrades and passphrase changes, larger amounts of data will take longer to re-encrypt.

Adding Active Administrator Application to Microsoft Azure

The process for adding the Active Administrator Application to the Microsoft Azure portal has been updated. Go to <https://portal.azure.com>, select **Azure Active Directory**. For more information, see Adding the Active Administrator App section in the Active Administrator User Guide.

Active Directory Infrastructure

Exclude specified domain controllers by name

Added the option to enter a computer name to add to the list of domain controllers excluded from Active Directory Replication Monitoring. Select **Active Directory Infrastructure | Replication Monitoring**.

Certificates

Read-only access

Added the Certificate Management Viewer role for read-only access to the Certificates module. If selected, the user can browse the Certificates module, and search and report on certificates, but not add, update, or delete certificates. The Certificate Management role must be disabled to limit the user to read-only access.

Select and delete multiple certificates

Added the ability to select and delete multiple certificates in the **Certificates | Certificate Management** console.

Configuration

Configurable e-mail notifications for certificate error messages

Added configurable e-mail notifications for certificate error messages to make it easier to know when a service is running or not. Select **Certificates | Certificate Authority | Notifications options**.

You may opt to receive notifications when the following services are Up or Down:

- Server status
- NT Authentication Certificates
- Authority Information Access (AIA)
- Recovery Agent (KRA)
- Certificate Authority (CA)
- CRL Distribution Point (CDP)
- Enrollment

The frequency that certificate authority service states are checked can be configured using the **Configuration | Certificate Configuration | Certificate Authority** settings.

Configurable SNMP Notification Settings

You can enable and configure SNMP notifications for a target machine equipped with SNMP management software capable of processing TRAP v2 notifications. Select **Configuration | SCOM and SNMP Settings**.

Recovery

Select multiple objects to restore

When selecting Active Directory objects to recover, there is now an option to Select All objects, Clear All objects, or select multiple objects. Select **Recovery | Object Recovery**.

Security and Delegation

Manager notifications for password reminders

A manager notification is sent when a user receives a password reminder. The wording of the notification message and the subject line can be customized. Select **Security & Delegation | Password Reminder**.

New customization options for password reminders

The password reminders have some new and some improved customization options. Select **Security & Delegation | Password Reminder**.

- The greeting is separately configurable and defaults to %FIRSTNAME% %LASTNAME% or %LASTNAME% %FIRSTNAME% depending on the user's configuration.
- The user Info section is separately configurable.
- The manager Info section is separately configurable.
- Variables are supported in both the subject line and the body.
- The %USERNAME% variable is now supported for the user Info section.

- The Preview Message option displays a preview of the generated message that will be sent to the user.

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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>.

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.
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- View how-to-videos.
- Engage in community discussions.
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