

Quest[®] GPOADmin[®] 5.14

Release Notes

March 2020

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:

- **FIPS 140-2 compliant**
The Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) are government set guidelines and standards published by the National Institute of Standards and Technology. By default, FIPS mode is enabled to ensure that GPOADmin uses cryptographic algorithms that are FIPS compliant.
- **Gmail support**
Gmail is now a supported email option for notifications and for approving and rejecting changes.
- **SQL replication support**
If required, you can setup SQL replication to allow multiple GPOADmin servers in the same domain to run concurrently sharing a configuration store and a backup store. Documentation is included that details how to set up this type of deployment.
- **Ability to copy server configuration settings**

To reduce the amount of manual configuration required for new Version Control servers, you can copy the settings from an existing sever and then simply update select settings where required.

- Ability to merge GPO settings

To reduce complexity and limit the number of GPOs in your organization, you can merge the settings of two GPOs into a single GPO or create a new GPO based on the merged settings. During the merge, any conflicts will be identified so that you can address them as required.

- Report and search updates

The following report and search enhancements have been added:

- GPO consistency report that checks the consistency between selected group policy objects on a domain controller.
- Group Policy Comparison report that compares the settings of two or more policies in the Version Control system.
- Linked/Unlinked SOMs report that shows a detailed view of SOM objects (domain, organizational unit, site) with linked GPOs and unlinked SOM objects.
- Ability to run RSoP report against multiple computers.
- Ability to configure search folders and reports to search all connections or current connection only.

- Additional PowerShell commands

The following commands have been added:

- Get-GmailOptions and Set-GmailOptions to approve and reject changes through Gmail
- Set-EnableApprovals and Get-EnableApprovals to enable and disable approvals for containers or specific objects.
- Get-OuDisplayFormat and Set-OuDisplayFormat to change the display format for OUs to include their canonical name.
- Clear-SynchronizationTargets to remove all existing synchronization targets from a specified source.
- Get-ValidScriptExtensions and Set-ValidScriptExtensions to set the file types returned when enumerating scripts in the live environment.
- Set-EnforceUniqueRoleNames and Get-EnforceUniqueRoleNames to enforce unique names for roles.
- Select-UnregisterAndRemoveHistory to permanently unregister and delete GPOs.
- Switch-WatcherHashLocation to store the comparison hash on the Active Directory object.

- Additional platform support

The following support has been added:

- SQL Server 2019
- Microsoft Exchange 2013
- Microsoft Exchange 2016
- Microsoft Exchange 2019
- OAuth 2.0 authentication for notifications

The following support has been removed:

- Windows Server 2008 R2
- Windows 7
- Windows 8
- SQL Server 2008, 2008 R2

- Miscellaneous updates

With GPOAdmin 5.14, you now have the ability to:

- Set the file types that are returned when enumerating scripts in the live environment.
- Overwrite an existing WMI filter when importing GPOs.
- Permanently unregister and delete GPOs.
- Unregister a GPO and remove the associated version control history.
- Enforce unique names for roles.
- Customize watcher service notifications.
- Enable and disable approvals for containers or specific objects.
- Show the date and time for pending scheduled deployments.
- View rights details and their required dependencies for custom roles.
- Configuring GPOAdmin to use a Group Managed Service Account (GMSA).
- Use increased Notification Manager performance.
- Migrate the hash from a configuration store to object. A HashStorageProperties.ini file is provided that allows you to store the comparison hash directly on the Active Directory object.
- Access documentation about the registered objects status and sub status values available for scripting with PowerShell and custom actions.

Resolved issues

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

Table 1. Resolved issues

Issue	Issue ID
Delegation section of the difference report incorrect if a "Deny" permission is added.	191043
When installing the Watcher service feature only, the installer does not write the selected GPOAdmin service to the registry. Workaround: GPMC Extension – Change the ServerName value under HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Quest\GPOAdmin\GPMCExtension Watcher Service – Change the ServerName value under HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Quest\GPOAdmin\WatcherConfig	613019
Errors in the event log may reference the wrong domain in a disjointed namespace.	107307
Imports will fail for workflow disabled items if the last user to connect is not the owner of the target item.	108940
GPOAdmin may log you in as the previous user if you do not log in with new credentials.	194197
Access Denied during deployment when the Deploy option appears for users with the Deploy right before the necessary approvals are received	155628
GPMC Extension does not have the "Reject" option for objects in a pending deployment state.	154423
If an item displayed in the Pending Approval pane of the Dashboard requires multiple approvals, the item will temporarily be removed from the pane during the approval process. It will be added back to the pane during the next polling interval.	154425
MMC unexpectedly closes when multiple users are performing the same action.	155025
Difference reports with "Difference Only" do not display the GPO name.	158965

Table 1. Resolved issues

Issue	Issue ID
New-GPOLink command does not add multiple links correctly. Only the last link to the OU is added.	159825
Improved error messaging for WCF timeouts.	129236
Connect As failing with passwords less than the Windows maximum (124 characters) and greater than 100 characters.	162018
Document the requirement to reset SMTP server address on upgrade.	163327
Difference reports replace known User Rights Assignment constants if they appear as a text string in a GPO.	164451
InvalidParameterException when running a Policy Analysis report against an OU containing a GPO with registry settings from a hive other than HKLM or HKC.	168858
Unable to resolve conflicting settings errors shown in the Registry Cleanup option.	167154
No Propagate Inheritance inappropriately set on files in a GPO.	173074
Ability to register a GPO multiple times as a different user.	172522
Approvals granted through nested group membership fail if the option to "Process in order" is unchecked.	176353
Unable to use multiple groups as sequential approvers.	183927
Scripts created in GPOADmin cannot be edited once deployed.	181514
GPOADmin client closes unexpectedly when opening the Options menu if the service account cannot access the Change Auditor coordinator service connection points.	183394
Objects are not retaining their Deleted status after a migration.	186740

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 and upgrade

Known issue	Issue ID
Unable to make changes to the installation through Add / Remove Programs. Workaround: Launch the original installer and click the Change button.	191292
Unable to select managed service account during installation. Workaround: Install GPOADmin with a normal account as the service account and then manually switch the service account to a managed service account.	189611
The ability to enable FIPS mode for GPOADmin has been introduced in GPOADmin 5.14. During an upgrade, the service is started before the configuration store is updated resulting in an "EnableFIPSmode" error. Once the configuration store is update, the error will be resolved.	189446
Exchange settings are not upgraded correctly from 5.13.5 to 5.14 due to the addition of OAuth 2.0 support. To resolve this, you will need to enter your notification settings.	189612
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. Workaround: Use the silent install instructions found in the GPOADmin User Guide.	613029

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. Version Control system

Known issue	Issue ID
Option to enable SMTP notifications through Exchange is enabled with a new installation.	191328
PowerShell becomes unresponsive if you close the authorization window before authorization is granted while executing the Set-GmailOptions command. Workaround: Set the Gmail options through the GPOAdmin console.	191287
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
Rolling back a moved OU does not move the OU back to it 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 account from the Access tab in the GPOAdmin Properties, the display may not function properly and hide accounts.	445238
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.	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
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
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

Table 4. Version Control system

Known issue	Issue ID
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 5. 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
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 6. 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 7. 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

System requirements

Before installing GPOADmin 5.14, ensure that your system meets the following hardware and software requirements.

Table 8. 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 8.1 Windows 10 Windows Server 2012 Windows Server 2012 R2 Windows Server 2016 Windows Server 2019

NOTE: Nano Server is not supported.

GPOADmin requirements

- .NET Framework 4.7.2
- Microsoft Group Policy Management Console with Service Pack 1 or Remote Server Administration Tools

Microsoft Exchange requirements

- Microsoft Exchange 2013
- Microsoft Exchange 2016
- Microsoft Exchange 2019

Configuration store requirements

- Active Directory (Not recommended)
- AD LDS
- SQL Server (Supported version include 2012, 2012R2, 2014, 2016, 2017 and 2019)

i | **NOTE:** GPOADmin supports SQL AlwaysOn Availability Groups and SQL Clusters for SQL data.

Backup store requirements

- Network Share (recommended)
- Active Directory (not recommended)
- AD LDS

- SQL Server (Supported version include 2012, 2012R2, 2014, 2016, 2017 and 2019)

i | **NOTE:** GPOADmin supports SQL AlwaysOn Availability Groups and SQL Clusters for SQL data.

Watcher service

Same system requirements as GPOADmin.

Upgrade and compatibility

Note the following when upgrading GPOADmin:

- If you are running GPMC during an upgrade, you must close and re-open it before the GPO Management tab will display.
- 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.
- Due to an upgraded encryption algorithm, the service account cannot decrypt previously encrypted passwords. If you are upgrading and 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 5.14 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 5.13.5 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 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 5.14.
- 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 5.13, and 5.13.5.
- 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 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 5.14 is compatible with the following software:

- Change Auditor 7.0.4

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 5.14

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

Installation and upgrade instructions

Refer to the Quest GPOADmin Quick Start Guide for installation and upgrade procedures.

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

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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.

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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.
- 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.