Quest® GPOADmin® 5.18
Release Notes

June 2023

These release notes provide information about the Quest GPOADmin release.

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:

GPO Validation enhancements

- Administrators can now attest to the validity of a GPO without having to re-deploy it.

- Attestation properties (Last Attested On, Last Attested By, and Attestation Due On) included on the General properties page for a GPO when Attestation is enabled.

- Attestation notifications, which includes a Settings report, are sent when the GPO is attested or when the attestation date has expired.

- An Attestation report that displays the current attestation status of all GPOs with attestation enabled or only those where attestation will expire within a specified number of days.

Report enhancements

- New Group Policy Permission Check Report which displays the group policy objects where:
  - accounts other than those directly specified have the native GPMC Edit right

- the Active Directory and SYSVOL ACLs are not consistent
- the service account is not the owner

- New Group Policy Size Validation Report which displays policies that have a SYSVOL directory size greater than the specified value.

- The Policy Analysis report now includes the ability to export to .CSV only the settings that are different.

- Improved performance of Group Policy Consistency Reports.

Additional delegation rights

- Reject Change right which allows users to reject a change to an object and revert the object to its pre-request approval state.

- List Folders right which allows users to browse the folders hierarchy/tree without seeing the content.

- Request Approval right which allows users to request approvals with only a Read right dependency.

Additional platform support

The following support has been added:

- SQL 2022
- Microsoft Azure GCC High Intune tenant

Miscellaneous updates

- GPOADmin.MinimumPermissions.ps1 script that allows you to set, revoke, and report on environment permissions for the service account.

- GPO Merge Conflict dialog resolves user SIDs to their names for ease of use.

- Organizational Units node is available under the Live Environment Domain node.

- SQL replication configuration option only available for SQL servers configured for SQL replication.

- Intune Configuration XML file provides the ability to select a custom Intune Editor.

- Ability to view all GPO link changes when viewing an objects history.

- Ability to select the actions to be restricted by the change window.

- Ability to add a custom error message to custom workflow actions.

- Ability to log GPOADmin Server configuration changes.

Resolved issues

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

Table 1. Resolved issues

Issue	Issue ID
Hide and show link is not functioning properly on the Group Policy Modeling report.	281016
Existing custom search folders will not function after an upgrade.	254617
After migrating the configuration store from Active Directory to SQL, backups are not removed when pressing the Apply Settings button on the Backup Retention page of the Service Options.	225272
Running GPOADmin.ConfigMig.exe does not migrate all service options as expected.	225003
The MMC snap-in may become unresponsive when running the Group Policy Object Consistency Report with 5000 or more GPOs.	108930
Using SQL as a backup store will not allow you to export historical versions of GPOs as Protected Settings Policies.	370605

Table 1. Resolved issues

Issue	Issue ID
When adding or removing account from the Access tab in the GPOADmin Properties, the display may not function properly and hide accounts.	445238
Restore with links feature is not restoring the GPO with its last known links.	386561
Merge failing when settings from Avecto Priviledge Guard present in a GPO.	388490
Windows Defender settings are not shown in Difference Reports unless a path exclusion value is set.	392149
Linking GPOs to OUs from a GPO in a container with approvals disabled still requires approval.	397917
GPOADmin service cannot start if the service account is from a different domain than the GPOADmin server host.	408874
Scheduled deployments are not displayed correctly when Approval Workflow is disabled.	418904
Difference reports updated to handle the PublicKeySettings AutomaticCertificates setting.	425521
Intune working copies are not showing the correct values after multiple edits.	424510
Items registered in GPOADmin then unregistered cannot be re-registered through the Unregistered search folder.	424393

Known issues

ℹ️ | **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
Change Window restrictions will not apply after upgrade until the Change Window actions list settings are reapplied.	428460
Index out of range exception is generated in the event log for the Watcher Service after upgrading. This will be resolved once the database is upgraded.	217430

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
Validation of the Service Connection Point for the GPOADmin service account does not function for Group Managed Service Accounts.	380823
Export As Desired State Configuration requires users to have the Write permission on the Desired State Configuration Root directory.	377548
Compliance checks on a configuration profile which has had an assignment deleted from it in Azure do not show noncompliant differences in the Difference report.	286622
The Applications Preference extension is not supported during Group Policy Object merging.	265012

Table 4. Version Control system

Known issue	Issue ID
When synchronizing GPOs with the Use Migration Table Exclusively and Migrate Security Filter options set, GPOADmin may shutdown unexpectedly if an error occurs and the message exceeds 1024 characters.	244657
The context menu on the Linked Group Policy Objects page of the Group Policy Modeling Wizard results in the wizard loosing focus when launched via Citrix XenDesktop.	611801
Backups will not be removed 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
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 run 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
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
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
The Change Auditor Working Copies report displays a non-functional "placeholder" link instead of the "Show/Hide" link that is used to expand and collapse the report details.	428685
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
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

Table 5. Reports

Known issue	Issue ID
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
"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 5.18, 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 10
	Windows 11
	Windows Server 2012
	Windows Server 2012 R2
	Windows Server 2016
	Windows Server 2019
	Windows Server 2022

GPOADmin requirements

- .NET Framework 4.8

- GPMC Extension compatible for the system where you are installing GPOADmin.

- Microsoft Edge WebView2 Evergreen Bootstrapper 97.0.1072.69

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, 2019, and 2022)

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

- Azure SQL managed instance

Backup store requirements

- Network Share (recommended)
- Active Directory (not recommended)
- AD LDS
- SQL Server (Supported version include 2012, 2012R2, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2019, and 2022)

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

- Azure SQL managed instance

Watcher service

Same system requirements as GPOADmin.

Upgrade and compatibility

Note the following when upgrading GPOADmin:

- All registered objects should be in the available state prior to any upgrade.
- 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 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 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.

- 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 5.16 and later.

- 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.

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 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 5.18 is compatible with the following software:

• Change Auditor 7.3

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

- 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:

> **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 creates software solutions that make the benefits of new technology real in an increasingly complex IT landscape. From database and systems management, to Active Directory and Office 365 management, and cyber security resilience, Quest helps customers solve their next IT challenge now. Around the globe, more than 130,000 companies and 95% of the Fortune 500 count on Quest to deliver proactive management and monitoring for the next enterprise initiative, find the next solution for complex Microsoft challenges and stay ahead of the next threat. Quest Software. Where next meets now. 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.