

Modern Password Sync Set Up

## **Quick Start 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, TIP, MOBILE, or VIDEO:** An information icon indicates supporting information.

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# Introduction

The goal of this guide is to provide a step-by-step walk through of how to set up the Modern Real Time Password Synchronization for user objects between your On-Premises Active Directory environments. Directory Sync will monitor source Active Directory password changes in real time and synchronize the changes to matched or newly created user objects in the target Active Directory.

To set up Directory Sync for Real Time Password Synchronization, source user objects must be matched to existing or newly created user objects in the target environment. To accomplish this, four (4) configurations must be completed prior to the first synchronization.

- 1 Set up Environments.
- 2 Set up Local Agents.
- 3 Set up Templates.
- 4 Set up Workflows.

The next section will provide the list of requirements needed to successfully Synchronization Password between two Active Directory environments.

## Requirements

In order to facilitate the Real Time Password Synchronization, the following is a list of minimum requirements to get set up using Directory Sync with your On-Premises Active Directory.

## Preparing the Source and Target Domains

- Any third-party anti-virus program that prevents access to the LSASS process may need to be updated with a whitelist entry for the Password Sync executable.
- Quest Directory Sync Password Filter configured for at least one Domain Controller per Domain. (Required for Modern Password Sync)
- Domain Controller Operating System Version must be Server 2016 and up.
  - Windows Server 2016
  - Windows Server 2019
  - Windows Server 2022

# Account Permissions

- One (1) Local Administrator Account for each Microsoft Forest and/or Domain that has permissions to create, update or delete depending on the scope of your Directory Sync workflows.
- The Password Sync functionality requires that either a domain admin role or built-in admin role be granted to the service account.
- The Password Filter requires administrator rights to install on the domain controller.

The next section will provide a step-by-step guide on how to set up Password Synchronization for Active Directory environments.

## Setup

This section provides a step-by-step guide on how to set up Password Synchronization for Microsoft Active Directory Environments.

## Setup Environments

To begin at least two (2) Active Directory environments must be configured in Directory Sync. At the end of this section, there will be two (2) Active Directory environments fully configured. Note, it's essential to install the Directory Sync Agent with version 20.12.13 or higher.

An environment is an end-point connection that can control the scope of objects read. This guide will walk through how to create the source and target active directory environments.

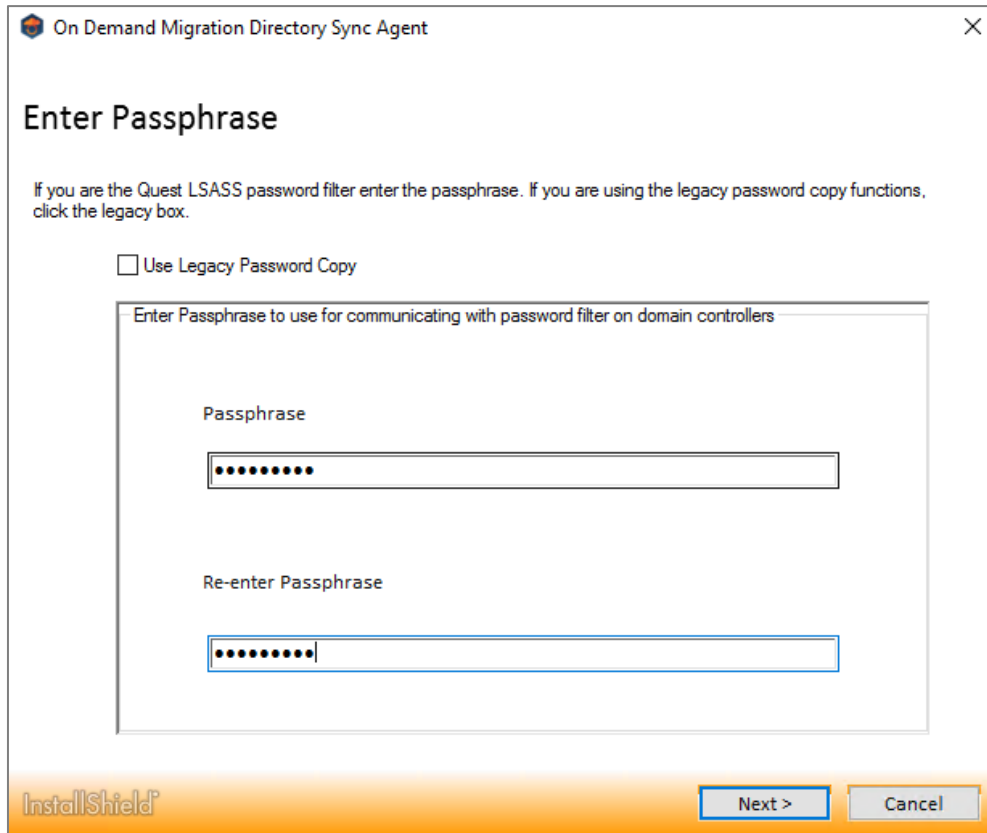
To create a local AD environment, the following are required

- One (1) Local Administrator Account for each Microsoft Forest and/or Domain that has permissions to create, update or delete depending on the scope of your Directory Sync workflows. This Administrator Account should also meet the Password Synchronization requirement as stated in the Account Permissions section above.
- One (1) Windows Server to install and host the Directory Sync Agent.

Follow these steps to setup the local environment endpoints.

- 1 Navigate to Environments.
- 2 Click the New button.
- 3 Click Local as the environment type, click Next.
- 4 Name the environment, click Next.
- 5 Name the local agent, click Next.
- 6 Note the agent registration URL and registration Key for later use, click Finish.
- 7 Install the agent in the Windows Server that is joined to the local AD domain.
  - a Launch the Directory Sync Agent installation in the target workstation or server.
  - b Accept the license agreement and click on next.

- c Specify the Passphrase to be used to communicate with Password Filter installed on the Domain Controller. (You may select Use Legacy Password Sync if you do not plan to use the Modern Password Sync)



- d Enter the target active directory environment information by providing the following and click Next.
  - i. Domain Name
  - ii. Global Catalog Server
  - iii. Username
  - iv. Password
- e Enter the Directory Sync Registration URL and Agent Registration Key information and click Next.
- f In the sIDHistory Migration section, you may skip this step if sIDHistory Migration is not part of your project scope.

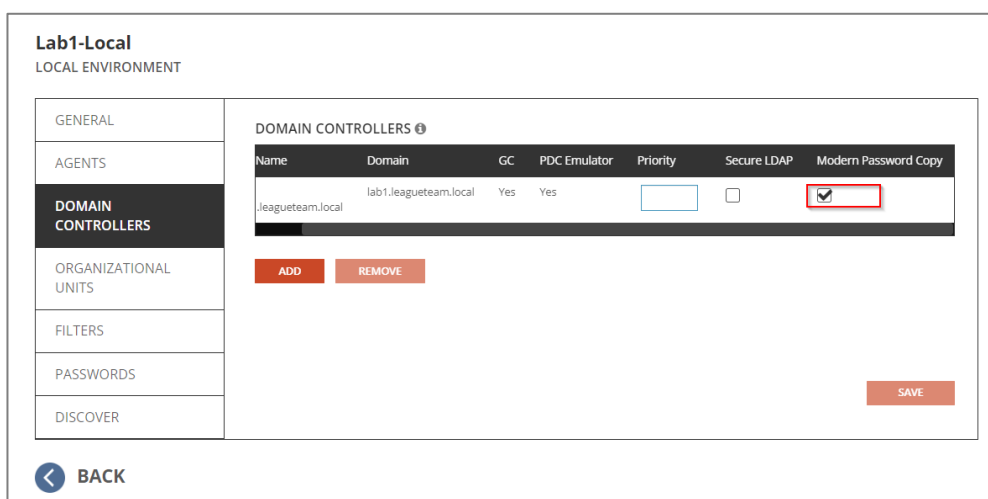
Note, Refer to On Demand Migration Active Directory User Guide for detailed information about agent installation and set-up requirements.

- 8 Once the agent is installed and the environment is discovered, click on the Setting button to access the local AD environment setting page.
- 9 Click on the Organization Unit tab and define the OU filter based on your project scope.
- 10 Click on the Filters tab and define any LDAP filter based on your project scope.
- 11 Click Save.
- 12 Repeat steps 2 – 11 for the next local environment.

# Prepare source environment for Password Monitoring

Once both local environments are configured, the next step will be to prepare the environment for Real Time Password Synchronization. Password Monitoring must be configured in your source environment.

- 1 Navigate to Environments.
- 2 Select the source environment where you would like Directory Sync to monitor password changes and click on SETTINGS.
- 3 Click on the PASSWORDS tab.
- 4 Select an agent to use for monitoring password changes from the Agent Drop down list.
- 5 Download the Password Filter Plugin and save it in a secure place for later use.
- 6 Click on the Domain Controllers tab.
- 7 Select at least one Domain Controller per domain in the environment and enable the Modern Password Copy checkbox. This domain controller will be used to install the Password Filter Plugin in the later steps.

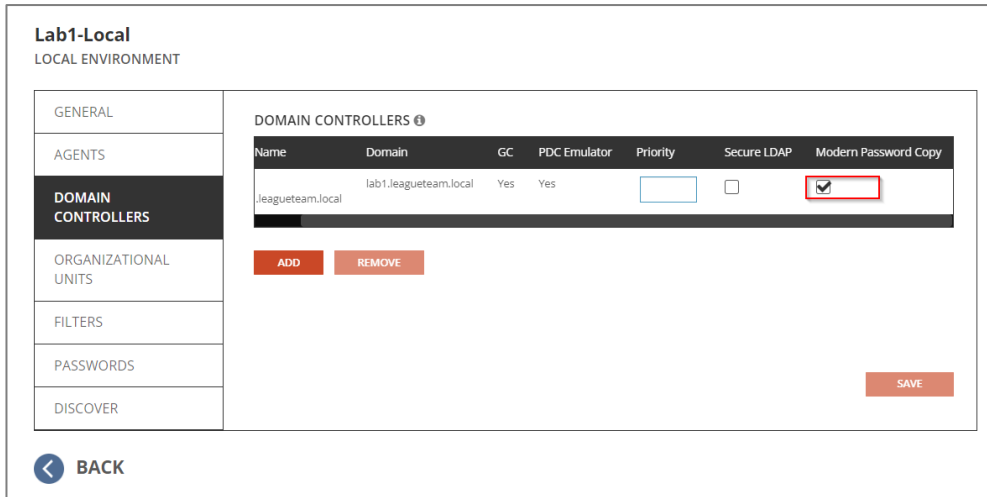


- 8 Click Save, then Click Back.

# Enable target environment for Password Changes

Allow Password Changes must be enabled in your target environment for Directory Sync to synchronize Passwords when they are changed in the source environment.

- 1 Navigate to Environments.
- 2 Select the target environment where you would like Directory Sync to write password changes and click on SETTINGS.
- 3 Click on the PASSWORDS tab.
- 4 Check the checkbox for Allow Password Changes from Other Environments.
- 5 Click on the Domain Controllers tab.
- 6 Select at least one Domain Controller per domain in the environment and enable the Modern Password Copy checkbox. This domain controller will be used to install the Password Filter Plugin in the later steps.



7 Click Save, then Click Back.

## Configured Password Filter Plugin (Modern Password Sync)

Modern Password Sync requires Quest Directory Sync Password Filter installed in both source and target Active Directory. In a multi-domains forest, at least one Domain Controller per Domain must be configured with Password Filter.

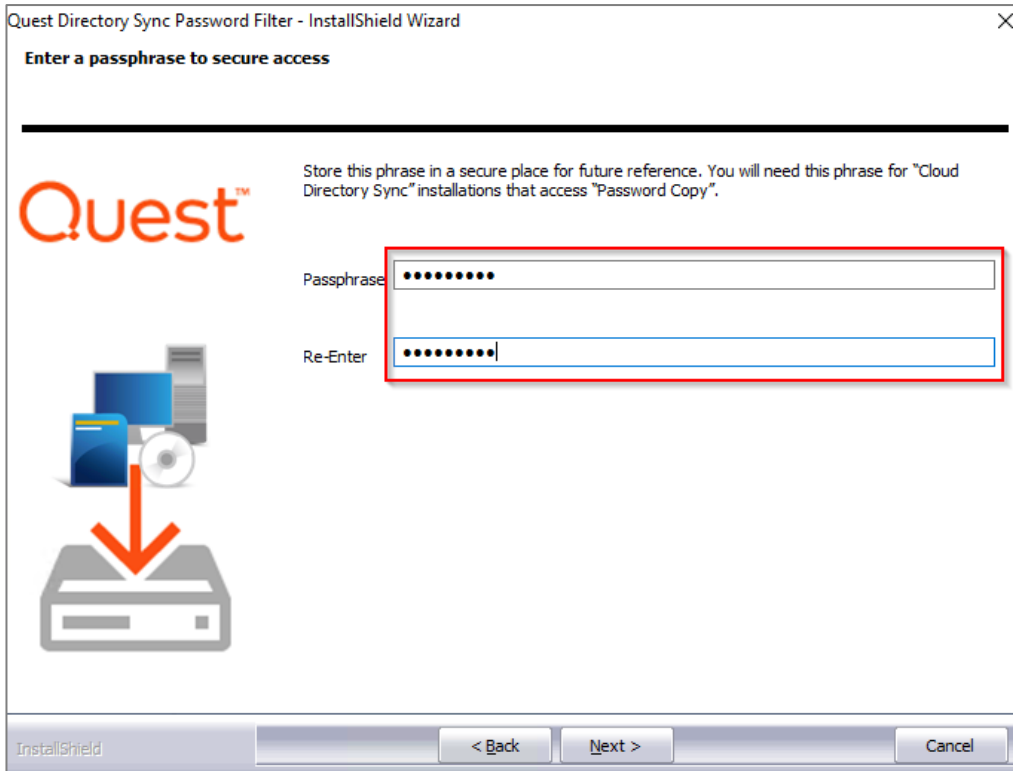
To install the password filter, the following are required

- One (1) Local Administrator Account for each Microsoft Forest and/or Domain that has permissions to install Password Filter on the Domain Controller.
- One (1) Domain Controller per domain in a multi-domain forest.

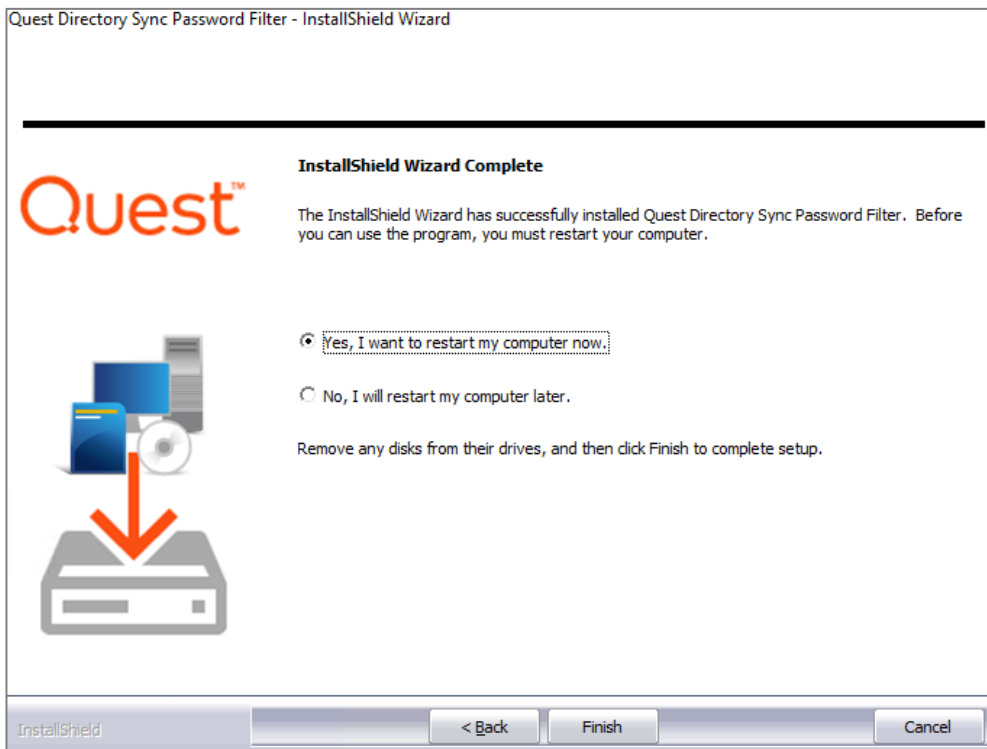
Follow these steps to set up the password filter.

- 1 Launch the Password Filter installer on the domain controller.
- 2 Click the Next button.
- 3 Enter the same Passphrase used during Directory Sync agent installation, the passphrase must be the same for Directory Sync agent to communicate with the Password Filter.





- 4 Click the Next button.
- 5 Click the Install button.
- 6 Select 'Yes, I want to restart my computer now' and click the Finish button. Note, the domain controller must be restarted as Password Filter runs during startup.



- 7 Repeat the above step and install the Password Filter in the target Active Directory Domain Controller.

# Setup Templates

Before we can build our workflows, it is best to set up your template(s). Templates contain common mappings and settings used to sync Users, Contacts, Devices, Groups, Office 365 Groups and Microsoft Teams. A template can then be applied to any workflow with a Stage Data step.

For the purpose of this guide, the following template will need to be configured to perform Password Synchronization for User Objects. This guide also assume users will be created in the target Active Directory if there is no match found. Additional templates may be created based on your project requirements.

- Local to Local Password Sync

## How to create a Local to Local template

- 1 Navigate to Templates.
- 2 Click the New button.
- 3 Name and describe the template.
- 4 In our example, we will name our template "Local to Local Password Sync", click Next.
- 5 Click Local as the source environment type, click Next.
- 6 Click Local as the target environment type, click Next.
- 7 Set CREATE NEW USERS AS = AS-IS.
- 8 Set UPDATE CREATED USERS= ENABLE.
- 9 Set UPDATE MATCHED USERS= ENABLE.
- 10 Set IF TARGET ADDRESS EXISTS setting as OVERWRITE ONCE.
- 11 Click Next.
- 12 Set CREATE GROUPS AS = SKIP.
- 13 Set UPDATE CREATED GROUPS = DISABLE.
- 14 Set UPDATE MATCHED GROUPS = DISABLE.
- 15 Click Next.
- 16 Set CREATE NEW CONTACTS AS = DO NOT CREATE.
- 17 Set UPDATE CREATED CONTACTS = DISABLE.
- 18 Set UPDATE MATCHED CONTACTS = DISABLE.
- 19 Click Next.
- 20 Set CREATE NEW DEVICES AS = SKIP.
- 21 Set UPDATE CREATED CONTACTS = DISABLE.
- 22 Set UPDATE MATCHED CONTACTS = DISABLE.
- 23 Click Next.
- 24 Enter a default password, Click Next.
- 25 Leave the SYNCHRONIZE SID HISTORY checkbox unchecked, click Next.
- 26 Under mappings, we can leave the settings as default or update them based on your project requirements.
- 27 Click Next.

28 Click Finish.

# Setup Workflows

Follow these steps to create two (2) new workflows for reading, matching, staging and writing data.

## How to create a one-way sync workflow for Local to Local

- 1 Navigate to Workflows.
- 2 Click the New button.
- 3 Name and describe the template, click Next.
- 4 Select the two (2) local Active Directory environments created previously, click Next.
- 5 Select ONE-WAY SYNC, click Next.
- 6 The screen presented next will be a pre-configured set of workflow steps to facilitate the flow of objects and attributes between your directories.
- 7 Start at the top of the steps, 1. Read From. Click the Select button.
- 8 Select the two (2) environments created previously the click OK.
- 9 Move to Match Objects
  - a This is the step where you will decide on how to match existing objects across your local Active Directories
  - b Matching is conducted by pairing sets of attributes to find corresponding objects.
  - c Your two (2) environments may already have some attributes that can be used to find similar objects between the different directories, or you may need to set some to ensure accurate matching.
  - d For the purpose of Password Synchronization, it is most important that existing objects are correctly matched to perform Password Synchronization.
- 10 Click the Select button to configure the Match Objects criteria for your source Local environment and target Local environment.

## 2. Match Objects

Configure your matching criteria by selecting up to five attributes below. ⓘ

LAB1-LOCAL ↔ LAB2-LOCAL
✕

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <p><b>SOURCE ENVIRONMENT</b><br/>Lab1-Local</p>  | ↔ | <p><b>TARGET ENVIRONMENT</b><br/>Lab2-Local</p>  |
| <p><b>SOURCE ATTRIBUTES</b></p> <div style="margin-bottom: 5px;">name</div> <div style="margin-bottom: 5px;">sAMAccountName</div> <div style="margin-bottom: 5px;">mail</div> <div style="margin-bottom: 5px;">cn</div> <div style="margin-bottom: 5px;">userPrincipalName</div> | ↔ | <p><b>TARGET ATTRIBUTES</b></p> <div style="margin-bottom: 5px;">name ✕</div> <div style="margin-bottom: 5px;">sAMAccountName ✕</div> <div style="margin-bottom: 5px;">mail ✕</div> <div style="margin-bottom: 5px;">cn ✕</div> <div style="margin-bottom: 5px;">userPrincipalName ✕</div> |

MATCH ACROSS ALL OBJECT TYPES  
Objects are matched even if they are of different object types such as users and contacts.

ADD ANOTHER PAIR

OK
CANCEL

Figure 1: Example Match Objects Criteria

- a Select your source local environment from the drop-down menu.
  - b Select your target local environment from the drop-down menu.
  - c Choose your first attribute pairings, we will use WindowsEmailAddress for our first match criteria.
  - d Choose the sAMAccountName attribute for the source and target fields.
  - e To add more attribute pairs, click the Add Attribute button.
  - f Additional pairings are evaluated as “OR” conditions. After the first match is found, the additional pairings are not assessed.
  - g In our case we are adding three (3) additional attribute pairings to our criteria
    - i. cn – This attribute was added to ensure we can match existing objects based on CN.
    - ii. UserPrincipalName – UPN was added to ensure uniqueness of the local part of the address string.
    - iii. Mail – This attribute was added to ensure we can match existing objects based on Mail.

Note: Matching attributes should be reviewed and adjusted based on actual project scope; there isn't a set matching rule that will fit all scenarios.
  - h Ensure Match Across all object types is not checked in this case.
  - i There is no need in this guide to Add Another Pair, click OK to close this configuration.
- 11 Drag a Stage Data workflow task from the left panel to the right under the Stage Data task mentioned above. Click the Select button to configure the fourth STAGE DATA workflow task for your target local to source local synchronization rule.
- a Select the “Local to Local Password Sync” template, click Next.
  - b Select the source local environment as your source, click Next.
  - c Select the target local environment as your target, click Next.
  - d Select the default target domain name, click Next.
  - e Select the source Organizational Units that will be in scope of the project by click on the ADD OUS button.
  - f In the new OU pop-up window, select the OU that will be in-scope, check the INCLUDE ALL SUB OUS checkbox, click OK to close the pop-up.

- g Configure any Stage Data filter you like by double-clicking on the OU in the OUs list, it is highly recommended to set up a filter to limit the scope to perform a test on the first sync as part of the validation. Click Next.

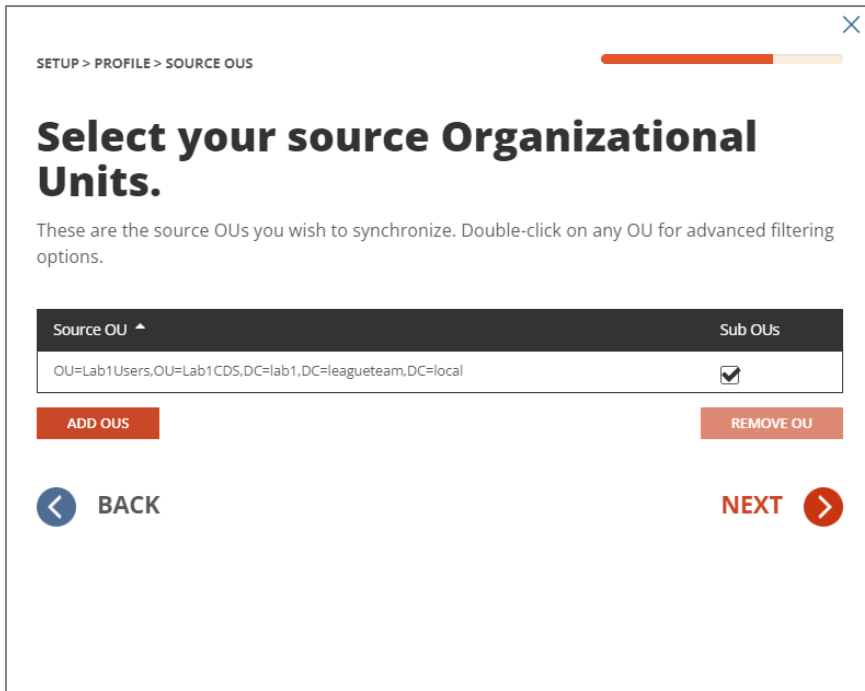


Figure 2: Example Source OU setup.

- h Select the default OU for newly created objects for Users, Groups, Contacts, and Devices.

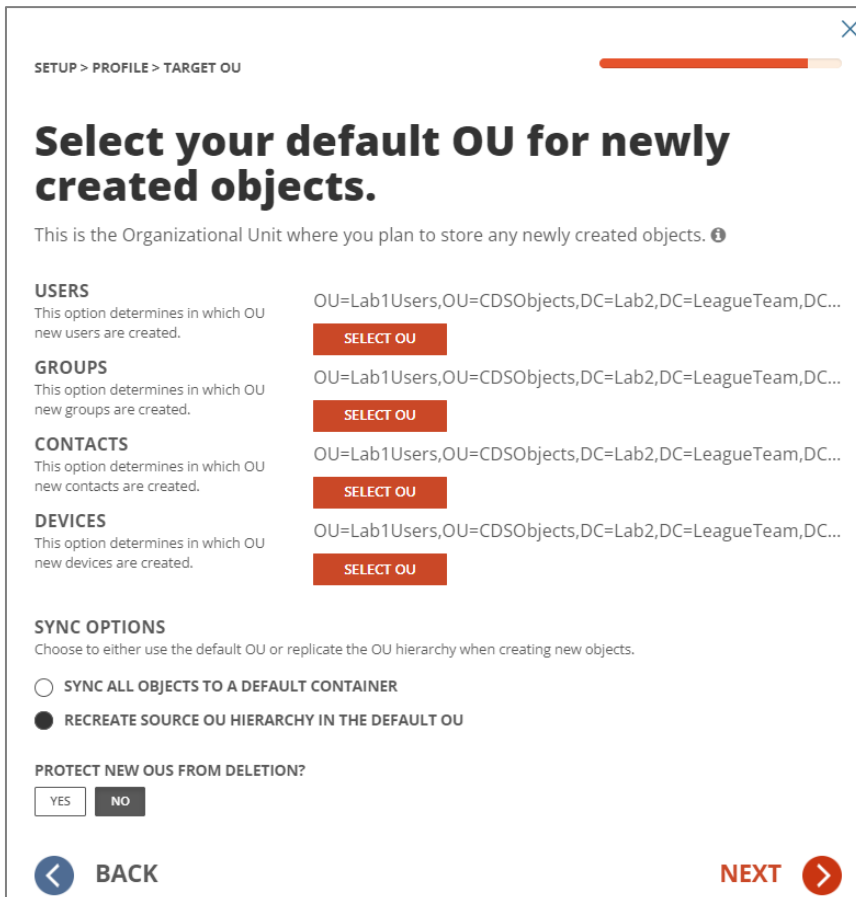


Figure 3: Example Target OU setup.

- i Click Finish.
- 12 Click the Select button to configure the WRITE TO workflow task. Ensure the target environment is selected, click OK.
- 13 Click Next.
- 14 Configure the workflow sync interval, select Manual for now and we can set up a sync schedule once the test sync has completed. Click Next.
- 15 Setup any workflow alert you may wish to configure, for now, click SKIP.
- 16 Click Finish.

## Set up Test Objects

Follow these steps to create test objects in the source environment to validate the Password Sync workflow.

- 1 Setup 2 Users in the source local environment and ensure it is part of the OU filter setup for the Local Environment.
  - a DisplayName: Lab1PWD1
  - b DisplayName: Lab1PWD2  
Description: Matched User
- 2 Setup a User in the target local environment it is part of the OU filter setup for the Local Environment.
  - a DisplayName: Lab1PWD2
- 3 Setup a workstation in the target Active Directory environment for Password validation test.

## Validating the Workflow

Follow the below steps to perform Real Time Password Sync workflow and validation.

- 1 Select the workflow configured and click on RUN.
- 2 Allow the workflow execution to complete.
- 3 Validate Lab1PWD1 from source local Active Directory will be created in target.
- 4 Validate Lab1PWD2 from source local Active Directory will match to the existing Lab1PWD2 user in target. Source user's description value will be added to the target user.
- 5 Select the workflow configured and click on Run again. This is needed to read the newly created object into system, this will allow Directory Sync to update the Password for the user object.
- 6 Make Password changes to both Lab1PWD1 and Lab1PWD2 users.

- 7 Wait for about 1-2 minutes, navigate to the Environment page and select the source environment. Click on PASSWORD LOGS button and export the logs with default setting.
- 8 Once the log is downloaded, open the log file, and confirm Directory Sync has read the Password changes from source environment. Below are the sample loggings:
 

```
33709,1502,Lab1-Local,"Read: Detected password change for object
CN=Lab1PWD1,OU=Lab1Users,OU=Lab1CDS,DC=lab1,DC=leagueteam,DC=local",,9/29/2023 3:27:01
PM

33717,1502,Lab1-Local,"Read: Detected password change for object
CN=Lab1PWD2,OU=Lab1Users,OU=Lab1CDS,DC=lab1,DC=leagueteam,DC=local",,9/29/2023 3:29:03
PM
```
- 9 Select the target environment and click on PASSWORD LOGS button and export the log with default setting.
- 10 One the log is downloaded, open the log file and confirm Directory Sync has written the Password changes to target environment. Below are the sample loggings:
 

```
33711,1503,Lab2-Local,"Write: Using global catalog server from configured DCs list: Lab2-
DC.Lab2.LeagueTeam.local, Domain=lab2.leagueteam.local",,9/29/2023 3:28:13 PM

33712,1503,Lab2-Local,Write: Connecting to Domain Controller using port: 389,,9/29/2023 3:28:13 PM

33713,1503,Lab2-Local,Write: Applying changeset 0ee87616-40d4-4640-a7d6-0cfcdaeff5a0,,9/29/2023
3:28:13 PM

33714,1503,Lab2-Local,"Write: LDAP Search DC=lab2,DC=leagueteam,DC=local
Server: Lab2-DC.Lab2.LeagueTeam.local (10.1.10.30) User: administrator@lab2.leagueteam.local
(distinguishedName=<GUID=c5afc6ec-40d6-4a1e-9226-73b00209dda6>)",,9/29/2023 3:28:14 PM

33715,1503,Lab2-Local,"Write: LDAP Search DC=lab2,DC=leagueteam,DC=local
Server: Lab2-DC.Lab2.LeagueTeam.local (10.1.10.30) User: administrator@lab2.leagueteam.local
(distinguishedName=<GUID=c5afc6ec-40d6-4a1e-9226-73b00209dda6>)",,9/29/2023 3:28:14 PM

33716,1503,Lab2-Local,Write: Finished applying changeset 0ee87616-40d4-4640-a7d6-
0cfcdaeff5a0,,9/29/2023 3:28:14 PM
```
- 11 Use the target workstation and log into the machine with target Lab1PWD1 user using the most recent password from the source environment. Verify the target user can be logged in and target environment.
- 12 Use the target workstation and log into the machine with target Lab1PWD2 user using the most recent password from the source environment. Verify the target user can be logged in and target environment.

## Common Troubleshooting Guide

This list contains the common errors that may occur during Password Synchronization and troubleshooting steps we can use to address these errors.

**Question:** Do I need to run my workflow to have my password changes synced?

**Answer:** Although Password Syncs does not require users to run the workflow if the source and target users are correctly matched by Directory Sync, it is necessary to run the workflow at least once to allow existing target users to be matched with the source users based on the matching rules you have defined. For users created by Directory Sync, running the workflow again will be required to have the new target user matched to the source

user. Once users are correctly matched, Directory Sync will monitor the password changes and synced to the target without the need of running the workflow.

**Question:** Why does Directory Sync generate password read log in the target Active Directory when I have Password Sync enabled from Source to Target?

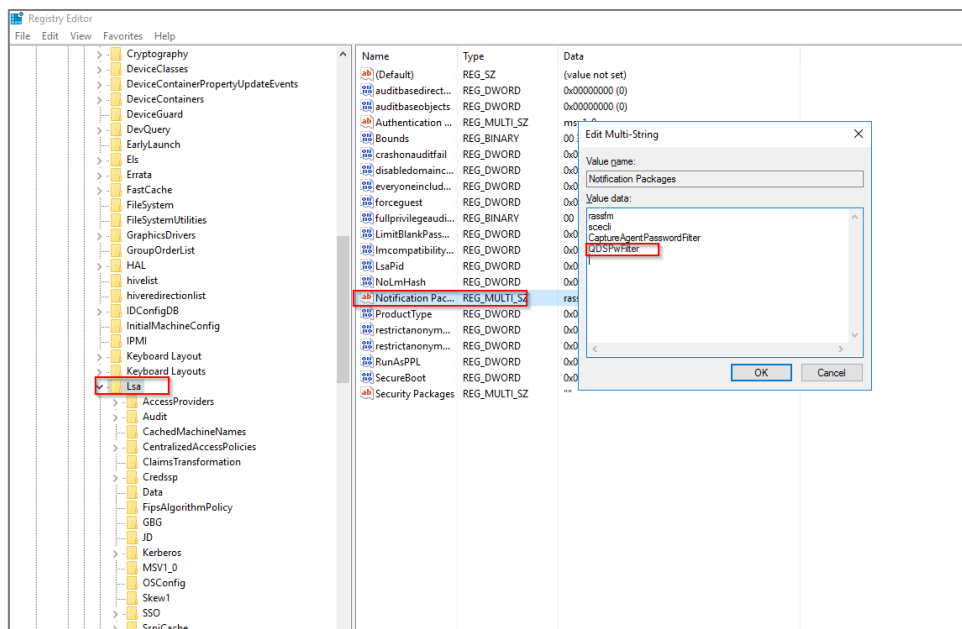
**Answer:** Directory Sync needs to read the target user password hash into system so it can compare with the source user password hash to determine if it was changed and synced.

**Question:** I see BTPass folder being created under ADMIN\$, does the new Modern Password Sync utilize BTPass folder?

**Answer:** BTPass folder is only required when using Legacy Password Sync, the modern Password Sync utilizes the Password Filter Plugin installed on the domain controller to synchronize the password.

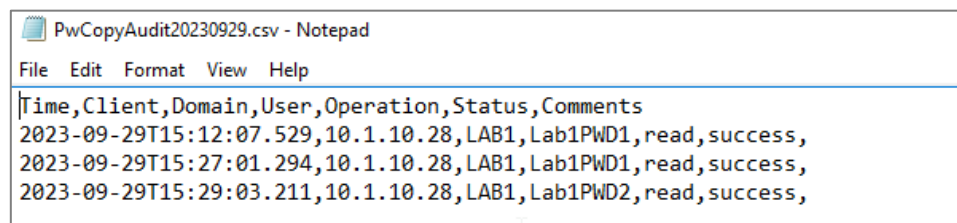
**Question:** How can I validate if the Password Filter Plugin is running on my Domain Controller?

**Answer:** Password Filter will run automatically when the Domain Controller starts, we can validate the auto-startup setting via “HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\Lsa” under “Notification Packages” key. We should see “QDSPwFilter” registered. (See below sample screenshot)



**Question:** Does the Password Sync generate audit logs when reading and writing the password hash?

**Answer:** Password Audit logs are stored under “C:\ProgramData\Quest\PwCopy” on the Domain Controller. Below is a sample screenshot of the audit log.



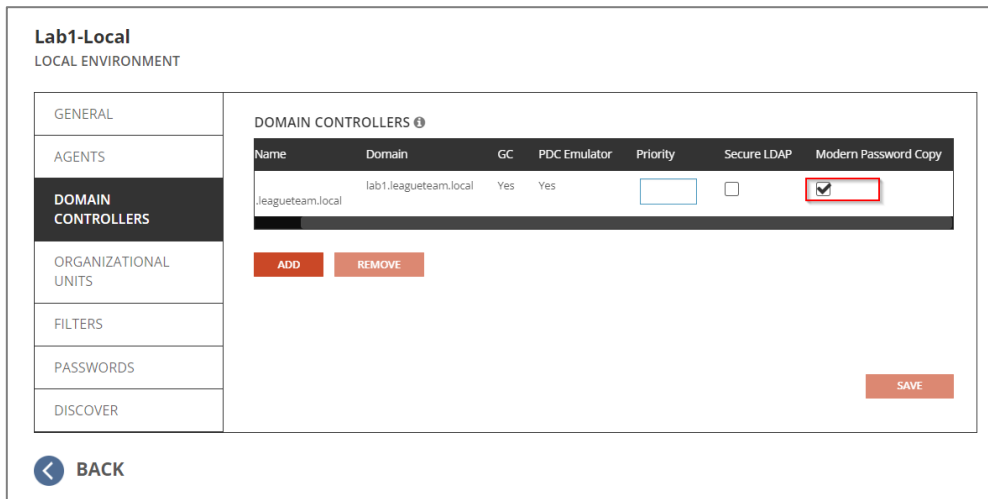
**Question:** Can I set up a workflow that only performs password sync for existing users and not sync any other attributes?



**Answer:** Yes, you may set up a workflow template and only include the 'unicodePwd' attribute in the template. Alternately, you can set up a workflow that only performs Read and Match operation. Once a matching record is created for the source and target user, Directory Sync will sync across passwords when changes are detected for the source users.

**Question:** How can I tell if I have Modern Password Sync configured?

**Answer:** The modern Password Sync requires the Password Filter configured on the Domain Controller as a separate installation, and the Modern Password Copy option must be enabled in the Environment setting under Domain Controller Tab.



**Question:** I have the legacy Password Sync configured, do I need to upgrade to the modern Password Sync right away?

**Answer:** The Modern Password Sync introduces compatibility with Domain Controllers featuring Advanced LSA Protection. If the Active Directory environment has Advance LSA Protection enabled, you should start using the Modern Password Sync to perform Password Synchronization. The legacy Password Sync will continue to work for the environment without Advance LSA Protection enabled. There is planning to retire the Legacy Password Sync in the future, we will provide additional details when the retirement date is available.

**Question:** I have a multi-domain forest setup for my Active Directory, do I have to install the password filter on all the domain controllers?

**Answer:** In a multi-domain forest setup, at least one domain controller per domain should be configured with Password Filter Plugin and the domain controller should be selected in the Domain Controllers tab under Directory Sync Environment setting page.

**Question:** I have RC4 disabled in my Active Directory, will the Modern Password Sync service support when RC4 is disabled?

**Answer:** The product team is working on an add-on Password Propagation Service in addition to the Modern Password Sync Service. With Password Propagation Service, RC4 limitation will be addressed, and Password Propagation Service is scheduled to release Q1, 2024.

**Question:** Which files/folder do we need to whitelist if my Anti-Virus application is blocking the Password Copy?

**Answer:** The following folder/file should be whitelisted after Password Filter is configured on the Domain Controller(s).

- C:\ProgramData\Quest\PwCopy. This folder contains the local audit logs for the Password Copy.

- C:\Windows\System32\QDSPwFilter.dll. This is the Password Filter configured on the Domain Controller(s).

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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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- Submit and manage a Service Request
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- Chat with support engineers online
- View services to assist you with your product.