

# Quest® GPOADmin® 5.19

## Release Notes

July 2024

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:

### Platform support updates

- The following support has been added:
  - Support for Intune Compliance Policies for #microsoft.graph.windowsUpdateForBusinessConfiguration.
- The following support has been removed:
  - Windows Server 2012 and 2012 R2
  - SQL Server 2012, 2012 R2, and 2014
  - Exchange 2013
  - Scripts no longer support the inclusion of .exe files. Any existing scripts that contain .exe extensions should be unregistered.

### Protected Settings Policy Baselines

If you have GPOAdmin configured with SQL as the configuration store, you can select to assign Protected Setting policies to individual GPOs as policy baselines.

When this option is enabled, the Watcher service will validate the settings against the policy baseline when a registered GPO is modified outside of GPOAdmin. If a deviation is detected, a notification will be sent to all subscribers of the policy deviation notification. The notification will include a difference report that is focused on only the settings from the baseline.

### **PowerShell updates**

- New Remove-DomainAndObjects command which removes the specified domain and all associated objects from the configuration store. (This is only supported with SQL as the configuration store.)
- New Select-Delete command that allows you to delete a GPO using its live or Version Control ID.
- Clear-ActionAccount command updated to ignore history entries where the action account has already been cleared.
- Improved the performance of the Get-Unregistered command. (This is supported for SQL only.)

### **Reporting enhancements**

- New Group Policy Object Settings Priority Report that can help to determine if a particular policy is having its settings overwritten based on its position in the link order.
- Ability to export GPO Comparison reports to a .CSV file.
- All Actions report updates:
  - Ability to select to run the report on all trustees or only select trustees.
  - Approvals made through an Exchange distribution group are included in the report history.

### **Performance improvements**

The following areas have been updated to improve performance:

- GPO enumerations when editing an OU.
- When selecting sync targets, GPOs are displayed in a container structure within a dialogue rather than a flat list.
- Ability to enable or disable the refresh of objects on selection.

### **Importing and exporting objects**

- Ability to compress exported objects to a zip file.
- Ability to import compressed objects from a zip file.

### **Deployment enhancements**

- Warning message sent when:
  - users are trying to deploy a GPO that does not include any policy settings.
  - users are added to the Notification Manager without any notifications configured.
- Administrators can schedule a deployment for a time outside of the allowed modification window.
- A post deployment check is run to ensure the GPO has associated settings.
- Ability to adjust the timing of steps in a synchronization to account for timing delays in your environment.

### **Miscellaneous updates**

- Ability to prevent users from editing policy settings based on all computer and all user extensions.
- Ability to restrict the link source to include only policies from specific containers.
- Ability to select the connection option (encrypt connection or trust server certificate) when configuring SQL as the configuration store.
- Ability to delete an object from the live environment and remove its backups in the same operation.

# Resolved issues

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

**Table 1. Resolved issues**

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Issue ID</b>
The Add-User and Add-Trustee commands are not adding users to the GPOAdmin Trustees table correctly.	500608
PowerShell does not validate naming rules correctly when using the Select-Register or Select-RecursiveRegistration commands.	497863
Upgrade does not update actionslist in XML for change window.	428460
Change Auditor Working Copies report displays "Placeholder" instead of "Show/Hide".	428685
Clicking the Show or Hide link goes to the top of the report rather than expanding and collapsing the row.	
All connections should be saved when a GPOAdmin console is closed.	432462
Error received when attempting to modify GPOs: "The following error occurred executing the stored procedure or method GetItemModificationSchedule: There is already an object named 'ch' in the database."	437754
Child OUs are not appearing as manageable objects in live environment view.	440524
Difference report does not support Windows Time Service or IE Compatibility view settings.	445715
Unregistered child OUs do not appear in the Unregistered search folder.	445851
GPOAdmin closes unexpectedly when merging a GPO with 2022 specific settings on a 2016 GPOAdmin server.	449127
Offline child domains cause new empty containers to not display the New context menu.	441036
Non administrators are unable to import into an existing GPO from the live environment.	461602
Console becomes unresponsive when clicking on the Notifications tab of the Lost and Found container with an AD/ADLDS configuration store.	467746
"Administrative Template" type Intune policies can no longer be registered.	468473
Protected settings policies can be applied before they are approved.	484588
GPOAdmin closes unexpectedly when attempting to display the properties of an object in the Lost and Found container if the backup for the object cannot be found.	489439
Group Policy Inheritance does not match comparing GPOAdmin and GPMC.	485798

# 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**

<b>Known issue</b>	<b>Issue ID</b>
Change Auditor integration is lost during upgrade in Active Directory and ADLS configuration stores.	496278
Workaround: To resolve this issue, reset the Change Auditor integration in the Service options.	

**Table 2. Installation and upgrade**

<b>Known issue</b>	<b>Issue ID</b>
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**

<b>Known issue</b>	<b>Issue ID</b>
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**

<b>Known issue</b>	<b>Issue ID</b>
GPOAdmin help Table of Contents is not available in MMC on Windows Server 2019.	499296
Service accounts and GMSAs configured with the minimum permission script are unable to create working copies of starter Group Policy Objects (GPOs) because the accounts are not granted the required "take ownership" permission.	499151
GPOAdmin does not support Certificate references for Intune Configuration profiles.	498612
GPOAdmin does not support Settings Catalog for Intune Configuration profiles.	498233
GPOAdmin does not support iOS/iPadOS Security Assessment (Education) template from Intune Configuration profiles.	497162
Over time when using GPOAdmin, the number of available detailed views (right pane views) in MMC will be exceeded causing a UI error. To mitigate this, expand views using the chevron icon rather than clicking on the node name.	482110
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
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 losing 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 its 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

**Table 4. Version Control system**

<b>Known issue</b>	<b>Issue ID</b>
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**

<b>Known issue</b>	<b>Issue ID</b>
Global Configuration Settings sub-headers do not display correctly in the Difference report.	445715
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
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**

<b>Known issue</b>	<b>Issue ID</b>
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**

<b>Known issue</b>	<b>Issue ID</b>
"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.	<a href="http://support.microsoft.com/kb/2379592">http://support.microsoft.com/kb/2379592</a>

# System requirements

Before installing GPOADmin 5.19, 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 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 2016
- Microsoft Exchange 2019

## Configuration store requirements

- Active Directory (Not recommended)
- AD LDS
- SQL Server (Supported version include 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 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 5.17 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.

**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 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 5.19 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:

**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 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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