

Quest[®] GPOADmin[®] 5.21

Release Notes

June 2025

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:

Retention policy enhancements

The ability to configure retention settings for deleted objects. You can choose to specify the retention to be based on a specific number of days to keep deleted objects or a date after which the object will no longer be retained.

Two additional PowerShell commands have also been added:

- The `Get-DeletedObjectRetention` command allows you to view the current retention policy.
- The `Set-DeletedObjectRetention` command allows you to set the current retention policy.

Platform support updates

- The following support has been added:
 - Windows Server 2025
 - Change Auditor 7.5 and 7.6
 - Exchange Server Subscription Edition (SE)

- GPOADmin Express license. For details of functionality included with this license, see [GPOADmin Express license support](#).

Additional reports

- Intune Readiness report, that details which GPO can be migrated to Intune.
- WMI Filter Usage report, that details which GPOs are using WMI filters and which filters are in use.

Miscellaneous updates

- Ability to attest GPOs through email.
- Ability to configure GPOADmin to use a web proxy server for internet communication for increased security and privacy.
- Configuration Wizard updates for selecting the configuration and backup store location.
- Support for Settings Catalog based configuration profiles.
- Email alert notification enhancements. Administrators will be alerted when users are added to notification manager without any set notifications.

Resolved issues

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

Table 1. Resolved issues

Issue	Issue ID
Preferred DC override is not being used when editing GPOs.	564496
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
Change Window restrictions will not apply after upgrade until the Change Window actions list settings are reapplied.	428460
Unable to import a historical version from Version Control if the source object was exported with the Copy History option enabled.	523130
Inherited keywords are not displayed in the Keywords column in the list view.	519682
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 Settings Catalog for Intune Configuration profiles.	498233
Intune objects cannot be edited from a remote GPOADmin console.	536870
Administrative template type Intune configuration policies cannot be checked out in GPOADmin.	536857
GPOs missing from drop down list in OU editor.	545801
"The VC configuration does not retain the 'Optional' certificate encryption setting during reconfiguration, defaulting instead to 'Mandatory'.	551847
Difference reports fail to generate for firewall settings that contain a single quote in their name.	551913
Remove-GPOLink PowerShell command is inconsistent with the behaviour of the New-GPOLink command.	553958
Registry security settings are lost during a GPO merge.	561226
Errors encountered when manually running the GPOADmin.sql script to create a database have been resolved.	560489
Users assigned the System Administrator role in GPOADmin are unable to enable or enforce links on Organizational Units.	556595

Known issues



NOTE:

- Defects with leading zeros (0) are from the Clarify system.
- Known Issue IDs associated with legacy systems that are no longer in use are marked as N/A.

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 register Intune objects after switching from a GPOADmin Express edition license to a standard license. Workaround: To register Intune objects after upgrading to a standard license, edit the Domain rights on the Intune Tenant node and check the 'Register' right.	566100
Change Auditor integration is lost during upgrade in Active Directory and AD LDS configuration stores. Workaround: To resolve this issue, reset the Change Auditor integration in the Service options.	496278
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
Locked GPOs can be selected as synchronization targets.	562941
Unable to export the live version of a GPO as a DSC script. Workaround: Export the last major historical version.	563250
Unable to register the resulting DSC script using the wizard when exporting a GPO as a DSC resource script. Workaround: Export the GPO as a DSC resource first, then register from the live environment.	563251
Rollback compliance action of Intune Assignments changes the original ordering resulting in the Intune object being reported as non-compliant.	562075
GPOADmin help Table of Contents is not available in MMC on Windows Server 2019.	499296
GPOADmin does not support Certificate references for Intune Configuration profiles.	498612
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
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 losing focus when launched via Citrix XenDesktop.	N/A
Backups will not be removed for unregistered objects when running the Remove-Backups PowerShell command.	N/A
Rolling back a moved OU does not move the OU back to its original location.	N/A
Each time that you change the Enable workflow approval through email option, you must restart the service for the change to take effect.	N/A
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.	N/A
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.	N/A
If an object is renamed or deleted within Active Directory, the Approvals tab does not reflect the change.	N/A
Some GPO settings are not backwards compatible between operating systems.	N/A
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.	N/A
The Watcher Service needs to be restarted after changing Configuration Stores.	N/A
Deploying a GPO containing existing Software Installation packages may cause each of those packages to be reinstalled on target workstations.	N/A
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.	N/A
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.	N/A
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.	N/A
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.	N/A

Table 5. Reports

Known issue	Issue ID
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.	N/A
In the Difference Report, filters are not supported for GPO Preference settings.	N/A
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.	N/A

Table 5. Reports

Known issue	Issue ID
Pre-existing GPO settings are being displayed in the Change Auditor Working Copies report.	N/A
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.	N/A

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.	N/A

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 5.21, 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 Windows Server 2025

GPOADmin requirements

- .NET Framework 4.8
- GPMC Extension compatible for the system where you are installing GPOADmin.
- Microsoft Edge WebView2 Evergreen Bootstrapper

Microsoft Exchange requirements

- Microsoft Exchange 2019
- Exchange Server Subscription Edition (SE)

Configuration store requirements

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

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

i | **NOTE:** GPOADmin supports TLS 1.3; however, TLS 1.2 is still required to be enabled on the SQL Server due to Microsoft SQL Server 2022 requirements.

- 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.

i | **NOTE:** GPOADmin supports TLS 1.3; however, TLS 1.2 is still required to be enabled on the SQL Server due to Microsoft SQL Server 2022 requirements.

- Azure SQL managed instance

Watcher service

Same system requirements as GPOADmin.

Upgrade and compatibility

Upgrade requirements:

- All pending email Approvals should be completed prior to upgrading.
- All registered objects must 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.

- 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 5.18 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**.
- Due to security improvements implemented in GPOAdmin 5.16, the previous custom search folder format is no longer supported. To retain your existing custom search folders, they must be converted to the new format before you upgrade. To update the format, run the Export script found in the Utilities folder of the downloaded installation package, then upgrade to the latest version of GPOAdmin. Once the upgrade is complete, run the Import script located in the same directory to convert your custom search folder to the currently supported format.
 - GPOAdmin.CustomSearchFolderExport.ps1 Description: Exports each custom search folders to an xml file in the specified directory. Parameters: -SearchFilterPath : The location where custom search folder will be exported to.
 - GPOAdmin.CustomSearchFolderImport.ps1 Description: Imports each custom search folder found in the specified directory. Parameters:-SearchFilterPath : The location where the exported custom search folder files are located.
 - Service account requirements:
 - 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 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 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.
 - After upgrading, ensure that the “Ensure service account has access prior to deployment” service option is checked in the Options dialog.
 - 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.
 - Configuration store requirements:

- If multiple GPOAdmin services share the same configuration store or backup store, they must all be upgraded to the same version.
- If multiple GPOAdmin services share the same configuration store or backup store, it is recommended that all of the services, including the watcher, be stopped before upgrading.
- Rolling back to a previous configuration store is not supported.

Compatible Products

GPOAdmin is compatible with the following software:

- Change Auditor 7.5 and 7.6

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**.

GPOAdmin Express license support

A GPOAdmin Express license provides the following functionality and features:

- Roles (System Administrator and User)
- Reports (Latest, Live, Working Copy, Differences, Intune Readiness)
- Group Policy Object support
- General, Links, Security, Approvals, and Notifications tabs in the GPO properties page
- Approval Request notification
- Service Options:
 - Access (Administrators, Users)
 - Storage (Backup location, Network Share, SQL Server)
 - SQL (SQL Input Filters, SQL Timeouts)
 - Delegation (Roles)

- Notifications (SMTP: Basic/Exchange Online & Office 365/Gmail)
- Logging (Configuration)
- Options (General: Perform Group Policy Management Console version check/Enable Unique Names, Preferred Domain Controllers)
- Retention (Backups Retention)
- License (Current license)
- Enable FIPS Mode (Enable FIPS Mode)
- GPOAdmin node context menu options:
 - Connect To
 - GPOAdmin Online Community
- Server node context menu options:
 - Options
 - User Preferences
 - Disconnect
 - Re-configure Version Control server
- Live Environment node context menu options:
 - Properties
- Domain node context menu options:
 - Register (Group Policy Objects)
 - Unregister (Group Policy Objects)
 - Properties
- Intune tenant node context menu options:
 - Properties
- Group Policy Objects node context menu options:
 - Register All
 - Unregister All
 - New Group Policy Object
- Version Control Container node context menu options:
 - Label
 - Show History
 - Properties
 - New (Container, Group Policy Object)
- Lost And Found node context menu options:
 - Properties
- Reports node context menu options:
 - New (Report, Folder)
 - Open Folder in Explorer
- Unregistered GPO context menu options:
 - Register
- Registered GPO context menu options:

- Edit
- Check Out
- Check In
- Undo Check out
- Import
- Export
- Request Approval
- Withdraw Approval Request
- Withdraw Approval
- Approve
- Reject
- Deploy
- Label
- Unregister
- Unregister and Remove History
- Reports (Latest, Live, Working Copy, Differences)
- Show History
- Properties
- Rename
- Live Environment Properties dialog pages:
 - Security
 - Domains
- Domain Properties dialog pages:
 - Security
- Version Control Container Properties dialog pages:
 - General
 - Security
 - Approvals
 - Notifications
- Lost And Found Properties dialog pages:
 - General
 - Security
- Registered GPO Properties dialog options:
 - General
 - Links
 - Security
 - Approvals
 - Notifications
- PowerShell commands:
 - Select-Register

- Select-Unregister
- Select-Lock
- Select-Unlock
- Select-Deploy
- Get-Unregistered

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 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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