



Quest® Group Policy Manager

Efficiently Deploy and Manage GPOs for Better IT Security and Control

Windows Group Policy is both powerful and complex. It provides many ways to secure and manage Windows resources. Unfortunately, its complexity often discourages enterprises from taking full advantage of its power. For example, unplanned effects of a Group Policy Object (GPO) change can prevent groups of users from logging on, remove critical software applications, or expose system settings. So, rather than risk those issues, organizations have minimized their use of Group Policy.

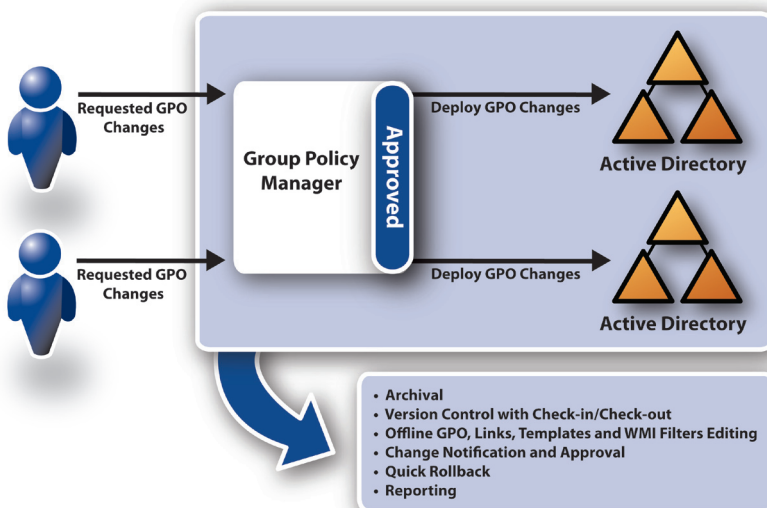
You can fully leverage Group Policy with Quest® Group Policy Manager. It's the solution you need to augment the native capabilities in Microsoft's Group Policy Management Console (GPMC) and take control of its complex technology. Group Policy Manager allows Active Directory administrators to extend the power of Group Policy for better security and more control of their IT infrastructure. It provides change management and allows you to test GPOs in the lab before implementing them in production. The tool also provides variation reporting, version control, archiving, change notification, approval, and rapid rollback. In addition, Group Policy Manager enables IT administrators to effectively enforce corporate practices using Group Policy, a crucial step in streamlining regulatory compliance.

Reduce the Risk of Error

Group Policy Manager allows you to export GPOs to trusted and non-trusted test environments, where you can test and validate changes prior to their implementation into production. This ensures that administrators can catch mistakes in the GPO before it goes live.

Update Group Policy Objects Safely and Reliably

Group Policy Manager provides reliable GPO version control with roles for editor, moderator, approver, and other custom roles defined in the intuitive user interface. Editors can check out GPOs, scopes of management, Windows Management Instrumentation (WMI) filters, and templates, then edit and test them offline, and check them back in for review and approval. Approvers are notified of proposed changes, so they can reject or approve them. Once approved, a member of the deployment group can release all approved changes into the production environment. Approvers are only delegated the rights to approve or reject the pending GPO edits, view GPO properties, generate basic reports and run the GPO Export Wizard.



System Requirements:

Must be run on computers configured with:

- Windows XP platform – SP1 or higher, Windows Vista (for a workstation); Windows Server 2003 – Standard, Enterprise or Data Center edition (for a domain controller)
- Microsoft Management Console (MMC) 3.0 or higher
- Microsoft .NET Framework 2.0
- Microsoft GPMC v1.0 or higher
- Microsoft Data Access Components (MDAC) 2.6 or higher

Runs in the following Active Directory configurations:

- Windows 2000, mixed or native mode
- Windows Server 2003, mixed or native mode
- Containing either:
 - clustered or non clustered servers
 - one to many domain controllers
 - one to many domains
 - parent/child hierarchy
 - multiple roots
 - one to many sites

Speed Recovery from Unexpected Change Results

Group Policy Manager allows you to quickly roll back GPO policy setting, links, security and WMI filter changes in the event that a change has unexpected results.

Protect System Security

Group Policy Manager streamlines regulatory compliance efforts by allowing administrators to determine if a GPO policy setting, link, security and WMI filter has been changed outside the version control system. Changes from the last historical backup are easily detected by scheduled reports.

Strengthen Infrastructure Investments

Group Policy Manager leverages and complements native Microsoft technology, including GPMC, to strengthen infrastructure investments.

Group Policy Manager Features:

Control Test: Greatly reduces the number of incorrect or unapproved changes by allowing administrators to export GPOs to a test environment and validate changes. Once reviewed and approved, the changes can be rolled out to the production environment. This testing and approval capability includes control over who can make granular changes such as GPOs, links, and WMI filters as well as the power to accept or reject those same granular changes. GPOs, scopes of management, and WMI filters have their own version control subsystems within Group Policy Manager.

Group Policy Objects Comparison: Provides historical reporting, which allows you to track changes made to GPOs, links, WMI filters, and templates over time. It also allows you to compare different versions of GPOs.

Multi-Level Approval: Offers enhanced control and security through an approval process that relies on parallel approvals from multiple approvers. These approvals can take place at the container/object level ensuring that all changes made to the live production environment have been carefully approved by all members of the hierarchy.

Rapid Rollback: Allows you to quickly revert back to a working GPO in the event that a GPO policy setting, link, security and WMI filter change has an undesired effect. In seconds, your environment can be running smoothly again.

Intuitive User Interface: Displays the console tree, a hierarchical structure showing the nodes available; details including information and functions (such as version and status) of items within the console tree; and actions that pertain to all available nodes and objects selected within the other console panes (actions include register, check in, check out, request approval.).

Multi-Forest Support: Allows you to easily manage all version control systems from a single console resulting in easier transition from test environment to production. This includes the ability to connect to multiple Group Policy Manager server service instances—from trusted and non-trusted domain/forests—within the same console.

Comprehensive Reporting: Includes a valuable collection of reports relevant to Group Policy management. Reports show differences among versions of a GPO within the version control system, real-time activity, historical (or point-in-time) activity, and more.

About Quest Software, Inc.

Quest Software, Inc. delivers innovative products that help organizations get more performance and productivity from their applications, databases and Windows infrastructure. Through a deep expertise in IT operations and a continued focus on what works best, Quest helps more than 50,000 customers worldwide meet higher expectations for enterprise IT. Quest Software can be found in offices around the globe and at www.quest.com.



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