NetIQ Group Policy Administrator

Control and simplify the administration of Microsoft Group Policy

Introduction

To securely leverage the powerful capabilities of Microsoft Group Policy, you need the ability to model and predict the impact of Group Policy changes before they are deployed. An error or a malicious, unauthorized change can have devastating consequences, such as denying access to critical resources or weakening security controls. However, native tools provide no way to model and predict the impact of changes. Changes are immediately replicated into the live Microsoft Active Directory environment and Microsoft Windows platforms—leaving you vulnerable to downtime or breach.

To reduce risk and enforce security controls, Group Policy Object (GPO) changes should go through an approved change-and-release management process. NetIQ® Group Policy Administrator™ provides the features and controls necessary to help you reduce the risk associated with unmanaged or unauthorized GPO changes.

Product Overview

NetIQ Group Policy Administrator provides an offline environment to help you securely manage Group Policy Objects. This allows you to plan, troubleshoot, and report on Group Policy administration activity without impacting the performance and availability of your live Active Directory environment. It also helps you reduce risk; prevent service interruptions; and achieve, maintain, and demonstrate regulatory compliance.

Capabilities

With the offline repository in NetIQ Group Policy Administrator, you can model and test changes to GPOs without impacting the performance of your live Active Directory environment. In addition, change-and-release approval capabilities help you safely involve necessary stakeholders, reducing the risk of unauthorized changes.

NetIQ Group Policy Administrator gives you the controls necessary to enforce policies securely and consistently across your business by providing:

- **Secure offline repository** – edit, test, review, and compare GPO changes in a test environment to prevent inadvertent changes that could compromise the security and availability of your production environment.

- **Robust workflow and delegation model** – delegate limited administrative authority to various stakeholders to help prevent abuse or misuse of privilege.

- **Enterprise-scale Group Policy management** – manage your entire Group Policy environment (including un-trusted domains and multi-forest and multi-domain environments) from a central repository to help minimize administrative complexity and improve consistency.

- **Advanced analysis** – receive detailed and comparative reports, allowing you to remotely diagnose errors and determine the cumulative effect of a GPO change.

SOLUTION
Identity and Access Governance

PRODUCT
NetIQ® Group Policy Administrator™

NetIQ Group Policy Administrator enables you to quickly view and document all aspects of Group Policy Objects.

Features

- Centralized control and synchronization of GPOs from domain to domain, and across forests, including disconnected forests.

- Live and offline Resultant Set of Policy (RSoP) analysis.

- After-hours GPO deployment.

- GPO check-out, check-in, and approval.

- Tight integration with NetIQ® Change Guardian™ for Group Policy allows you to view Group Policy change activity from within NetIQ Group Policy Administrator.

- Easy modification of Centrify and PolicyPak settings.

- Point-in-time analysis reports, show how many changes have been made and who made them.

- One-button rollback capability.

- Mirrored production makes the offline environment look just like the online environment.

- Synchronized GPO changes ensure master GPOs are consistent across all domains.

- Group Policy administration can be delegated without any permissions being granted within Active Directory.

- Ability to manage and assess Group Policy preferences.

Key Differentiators

NetIQ Group Policy Administrator provides the following differentiated capabilities to organizations that need to securely and efficiently manage Group Policy:

- **Complete Offline Group Policy Management and Analysis** – Create, edit, link, analyze, and report on GPOs off line. Once the impact of GPO changes has been modeled and approved by all stakeholders, changes can be published into the production environment.

- **Cross-Domain/Cross-Forest Group Policy Management and Reporting** – Manage all domains and forests within an environment from one centralized repository, regardless of the trust relationships. GPOs can be easily synchronized across domains and forests and deviations identified.

- **Integrated Group Policy Change Monitoring** – NetIQ Group Policy Administrator and NetIQ Change Guardian for Group Policy can be seamlessly integrated to identify unauthorized changes by evaluating the source of the change.

To learn more about NetIQ Group Policy Administrator, or to start a trial, go to **www.netiq.com/gpa**.