Active Administrator

Complete Active Directory management that increases security and productivity with ease

Windows-network administrators must increasingly manage critical Microsoft® Active Directory® environments more quickly and with fewer staff. Doing "more with less" increases the likelihood of accidental changes to AD objects, configurations, and Group Policy data that can raise your risk of hardware and software failure. The need to enforce internal policies and address compliance regulations only adds to the challenge. You need an all-inclusive, cost-efficient solution that can help you secure, manage, maintain, audit, and prevent problems in Active Directory and Group Policy environments.

Active Administrator is an extensive Active Directory management solution that allows you to control auditing, security, recovery, and health

for Active Directory from a single integrated console. By centralizing the management of the most important capabilities of Active Directory and Group Policy, Active Administrator saves you time and delivers maximum control over your environment.

Features and benefits

Auditing & change control—Use a single, consolidated audit record to track changes in Active Directory, Group Policy, and Active Administrator. Easily customizable with flexible reporting, alerting, and event filtering, the audit record makes it quick and easy to troubleshoot problems and demonstrate that proper auditing and alerts occurred where appropriate. You can even automate proactive actions to take place when specified events occur.

"Active Directory is the biggest application we use. It controls security and directly affects how all employees do their job. Being able to back up/recover AD and Group Policy Objects is a huge timesaver and offers great peace of mind."

Derek Schauland,
Microsoft MVP, MCTS, IT Manager, Briess Malt & Ingredients Co.

Source: TechValidate.
www.techvalidate.com/tvid/ D38-554-04D

Benefits
- Improves regulatory compliance enforcement of internal policies with comprehensive audit trails, access controls, and reporting.
- Tightens security through simplified, standardized security management, elimination of over-privileged users, and consistent delegation of AD administration.
- Maintains business continuity by delivering alerts on AD and GPO changes to reduce network and user downtime and by ensuring rapid recovery from accidental changes, deletions and administrative errors.
- Increases IT efficiency by simplifying routine AD management tasks to give you more time for business critical tasks.
- Ensures Active Directory health by monitoring replication and domain controller status and performance, and by automating database maintenance.

Figure 1. Active Administrator delivers a complete solution for managing your Active Directory

Security management—Streamline processes for applying security policies and permissions to improve productivity. You can quickly identify over-privileged users and clean up their accounts. You can also delegate administrative control quickly and consistently with customizable, reusable, and self-healing templates. A centralized audit trail of all changes helps you manage change control.

Group Policy management—Manage, report, compare, roll back and analyze changes in Group Policy easily from a single location. "Modeling" enables you to simulate changes and test "what if" scenarios. The Offline Repository enables users without administrative rights to manage Group Policy Objects, without the risk of editing them live. Undo changes using automated backups and version history.

Accounts—Perform universal searches that easily and efficiently locate any user, group, contact, computer or Organizational Unit in a selected domain. You can view object properties and perform management tasks directly from the Search page. Quickly identify inactive users and computers to clean up these accounts, and simplify management in an automated, proactive manner. Configure daily email notifications of pending account

expirations, as well as preview all accounts that will expire by a user-defined threshold. Send reminders to users with expiring or expired passwords to reduce user/password maintenance headaches. Enhance password security with fine-grained password policies (FGPPs) for individual users or groups.

Backup and recovery—View essential Active Directory and Group Policy information in one place. Preview and quickly restore items, including users, security descriptors, OUs, objects, attributes, group memberships, and individual Group Policy versions from your automated backups.

Active Directory health—Monitor and run health and performance assessment reports on AD configuration, replication and domain controllers to ensure availability of your Active Directory and ease administrative burden.

About Dell Software

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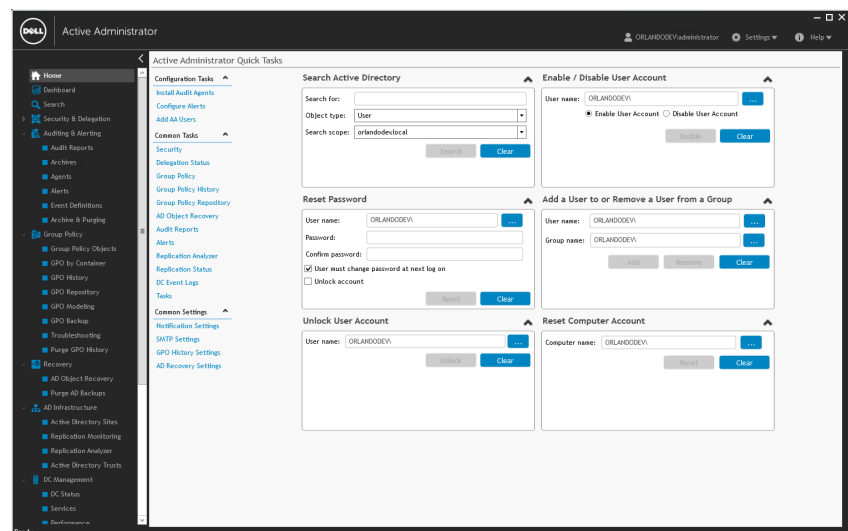

Figure 2. Quick Tasks provides administrators fast access to six of the most common AD tasks.