



What's New in Active Administrator 5.1?

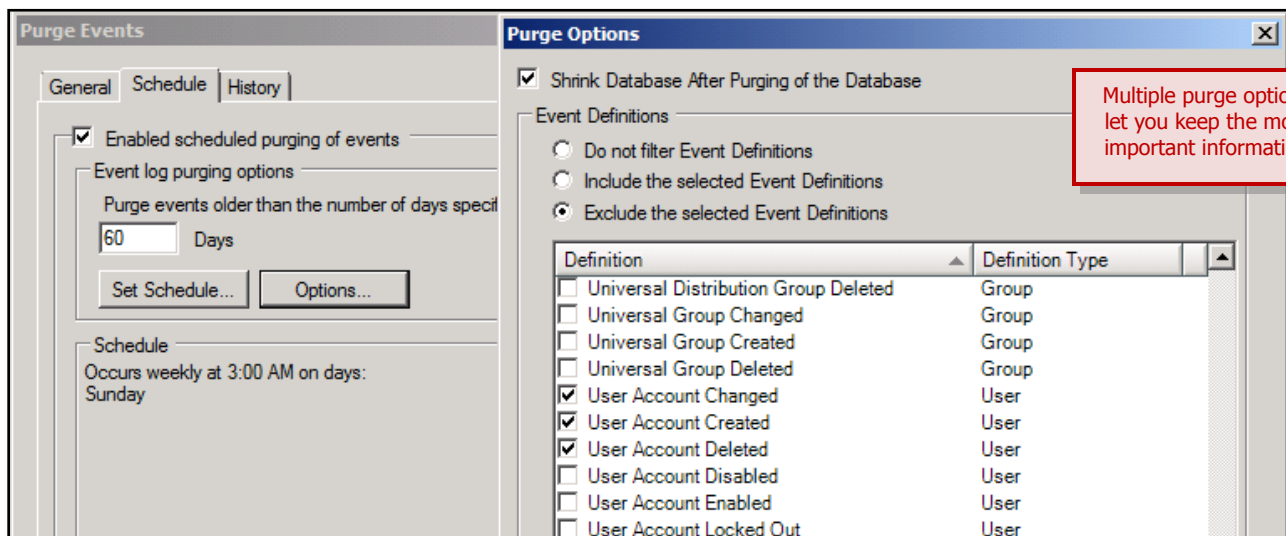
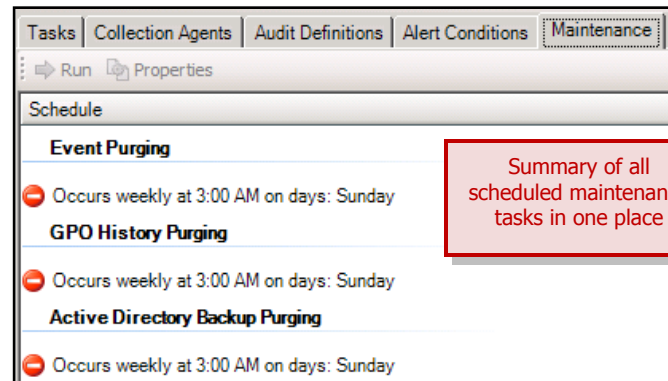
Active Administrator is a comprehensive, integrated Active Directory management and auditing solution for tightening security, increasing productivity and improving business continuity in organizations with Windows networks. This new release extends this award-winning product's feature set across the board with advanced auditing, automated maintenance, many ease-of-use enhancements.

New Feature Highlights for Version 5.1

Scheduled Maintenance of Databases, GPO History and Backup Files

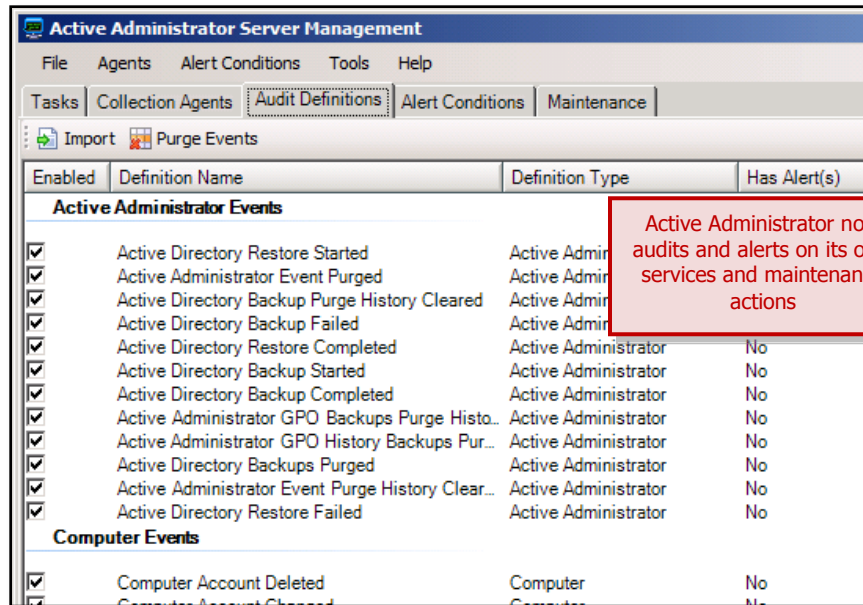
Despite Active Administrator's efficient storage, the event auditing, Group Policy history and backup features will use storage space over time and many users have requested the ability to schedule automatic purges of old data.

Version 5.1 introduces a set of "Maintenance" features in the Server Management console for purging all 3 data stores. Options include selection of event types, the age of data to be removed and extensive schedule creation.



Active Administrator keeps a log of all maintenance activity, and events are now recorded in the database so the administrator can review or set alerts for these actions.

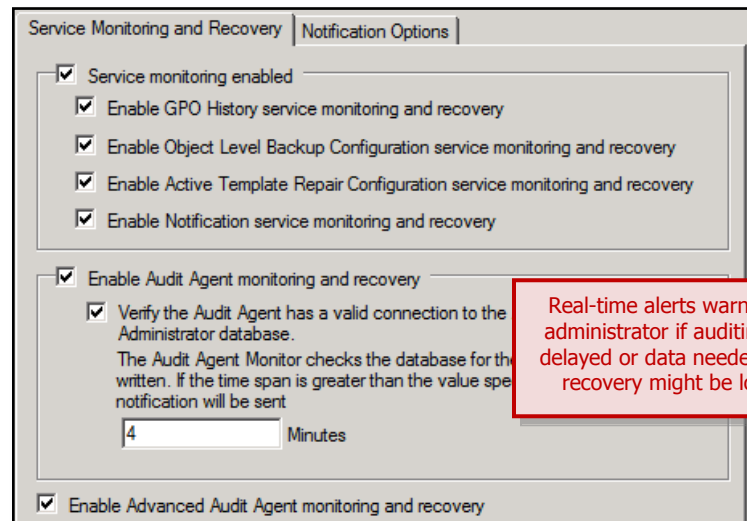
A related change is that temporary files used in creating AD backups can now be written to a selected file location to better manage disk capacity.



Self-Monitoring of Server Components

Active Administrator relies on a number of components to provide an unbroken audit trail and ensure that Active Directory and Group Policy changes can always be undone. In addition, the audit agents will always catch up if they lose their connection to the database, but it might delay the sending of alerts.

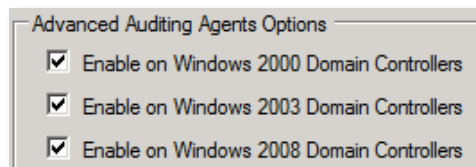
Version 5.1 introduces self-monitoring of all these components, and will alert the administrator when one of them fails so that action can quickly be taken. In addition, Active Administrator services will now attempt to restart automatically on failure.



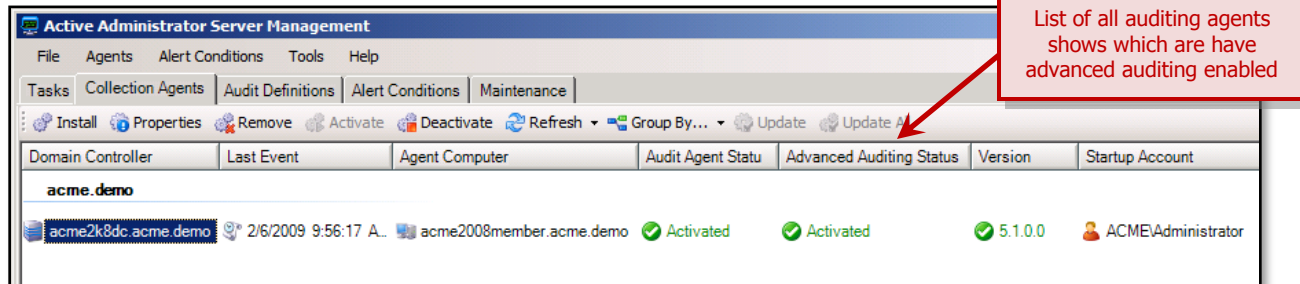
Advanced Auditing

With this release, the Active Administrator auditing agents can now collect "before" as well as "after" values for attribute changes on Active Directory objects. To collect these events from Windows Server 2000 and 2003 Domain Controllers the new advanced auditing agent must be installed directly onto the Domain Controller. Where it is not possible to do that, the audit agents can continue to collect "after" values remotely as in version 5.0.

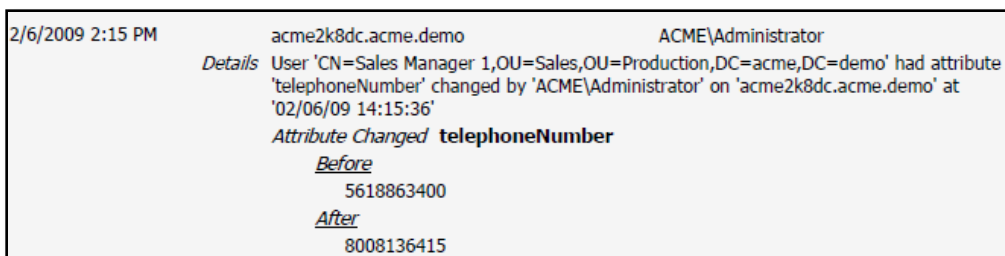
For Windows Server 2008, Active Administrator uses new functionality in Windows to capture these changes directly from advanced entries in the Domain Controller event log, but interprets them and displays them in the same format



as all other events in the auditing console. The advantage of this approach that it is possible to capture "before" and "after" values from Windows Server 2008 Domain Controllers without installing any software on the Domain Controller!



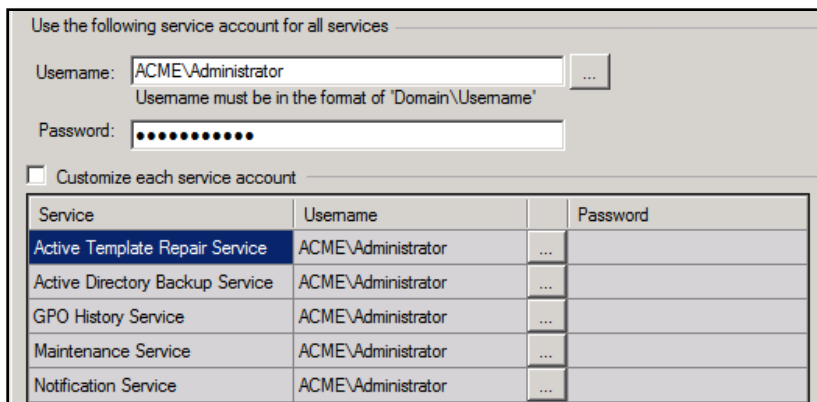
The real-time event viewer and formatted reports both show before and after values for attribute changes:



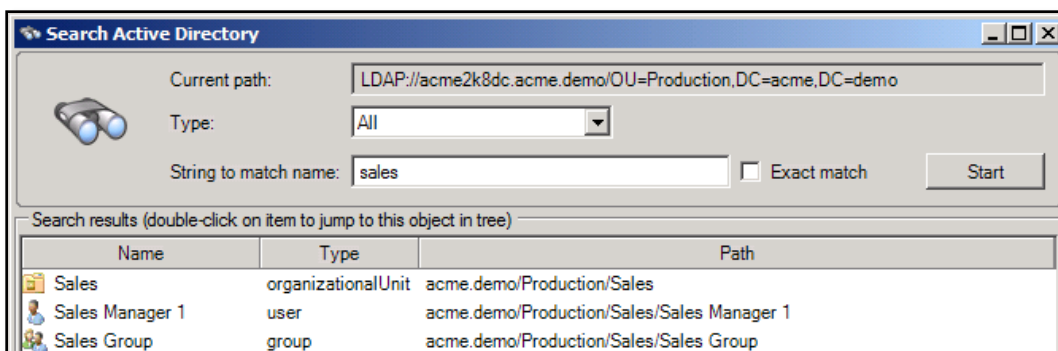
Ease-of-Use Enhancements: More "Point, Click, Done!"

There are new usability features and enhancements throughout Active Administrator 5.1. Many of these have come directly from customer feedback, which is highly valued by our product teams! We will highlight just some of the enhancements here but there are many more.

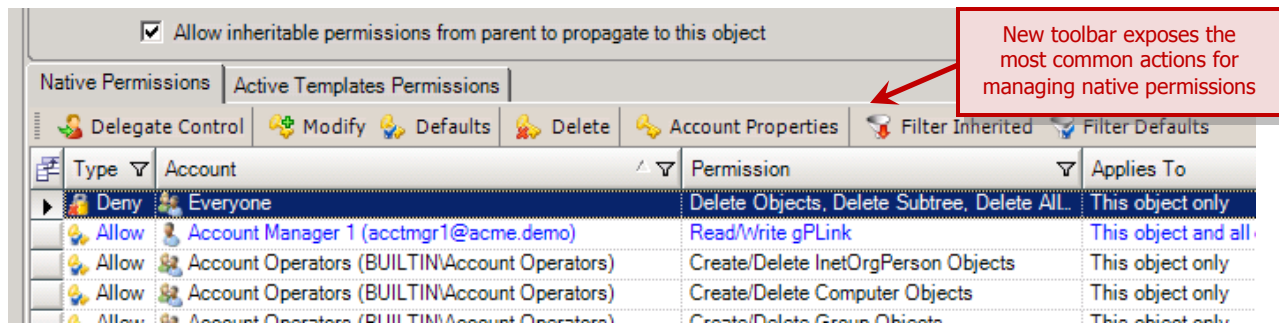
Configuration of the 5 services that power Active Administrator's server components has been consolidated into a wizard, and configuration of the credentials used by those services has been simplified in a single dialog:



To help locate objects buried deep in AD, the new search feature finds all matches so you can jump to the right spot in the tree!



Another enhancement is a toolbar for management of native permissions. Related to this addition are some enhancements to the interface for management and creation of Active Templates:



Other usability improvements include:

- The columns in the selection of auditing filters can now be sorted, making it easier to select specific user accounts, or events
- Installation of Active Administrator Server pieces has been dramatically simplified and is now achieved through a wizard which includes configuration of all services
- The management console Security module now allows selection of multiple objects for modifying properties of multiple objects at once. In addition, disabled accounts are shown with a red cross, and accounts can be enabled/disabled and reset
- Throughout the user interface, Windows Server 2008 Read-Only Domain Controllers are indicated
- The unnecessary and confusing option to backup and restore Active Directory security from the Security module has been removed. Security can be recovered in using the Backup and Recovery module by recovering the values of the nTSecurityDescriptor attribute.
- In line with Windows Server 2008 terminology, "Resultant Set of Policies" has been renamed in many places as "Modeling"
- The event order in the auditing view and reports now exactly matches the DC event logs

Summary

Active Administrator 5.1 introduces many exciting enhancements and improvements, delivering even greater value and productivity while increasing usability and reducing setup time. For more information please visit www.scriptlogic.com.