



# What's new in Active Administrator™ 7.0

## May 2014

Active Administrator™ 7.0 is the upcoming release of Dell™ Software's complete solution for managing Microsoft® Active Directory® security auditing, delegation, GPOs, accounts, recovery, and health. The enhancements in version 7.0 include a completely new interface and user experience, improved performance and support for Windows Server 2012 R2 and Windows 8.1. This document provides a highlight of these improvements.

This document highlights key features new in this release. For more information about these or any features, see the Active Administrator 7.0 User Guide.

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## Unified console

In Active Administrator 7.0, there is now one unified console that incorporates almost all the functionality previously made available through the server console. The server console – AA Server Manager available from the Start menu – is now a lightweight utility whose main functions are service and licensing management.

The main console navigation tree is two-tiered. The main functional areas of the console, such as Security and Delegation, are root nodes on the navigation tree, which provide at-a-glance status information of various sub-functions. The sub-functions, such as Active Templates or Password Policies, are presented as second-tier nodes in the navigation tree.

Each main functional area has a landing page that presents an overview of each sub-function in active tiles. You can choose to access sub-functions by clicking an active tile or choosing from the navigation tree.

## Performance improvements

In Active Administrator 7.0, Active Directory object information, once acquired, is cached in memory for 30 for minutes, after which the cache item is marked as dead. Every two minutes the cache store is locked and all cache items marked as dead are deleted. These default time values can be altered by modifying the appropriate registry settings.

# Domain controller management

With the new DC Management module, you can select the specific domain controller through which all operations will be performed, manage its services, and monitor its status, performance metrics, and event logs to identify potential issues or trends before they become critical.

Also, through the Domain Controller tool bar, which appears on various pages, you can easily add or remove domain controllers, switch to another domain controller, connect through remote desktop, and reboot the domain controller.

# Delegation wizard and status

A new Active Template Delegation Wizard lets you choose multiple delegation paths in a single path and set delegations to apply automatically, as well as expire automatically, at a set date. You can access the new delegation wizard from the Security and Active Template areas of the Security & Delegation module.

Also accessible in the Security & Delegation module is a related new feature Delegation Status, which provides a unified and sortable view of the Active Template, the security principal, path, and status of all delegations.

# Account expiration

With the new Account Expiration feature in the Security & Delegation module, you can configure daily email notifications of pending account expirations, as well as preview all accounts in the selected domain(s) that will expire by the user-defined threshold.

# Active Directory search

Active Administrator 7.0 now includes a universal search function that easily and efficiently enables you to locate any user, group, contact, computer, or Organizational Unit in a selected domain. Once the object is located, you can view its properties and perform management tasks appropriate to the object directly from the Search page. You can initiate Active Directory searches from both the Home page and the Search module.

# Quick tasks

Accessible from the Home page, Quick Tasks are six of the most common tasks AD administrators perform. From this page, you can initiate a search for an Active Directory object, perform four different operations against user accounts (enable/disable, reset password, unlock, or add/remove from a group), or reset a computer account. Additionally, the most commonly performed Active Directory tasks are listed, which take you to the appropriate sub-function in the navigation tree.

# User logon activity screen

The Workstation Logon Agent, which is deployed through group policy software installation, tracks both remote and interactive logons, logoffs, and lock/unlock events. In addition to the graphical display on the Dashboard, the new User Logon Activity sub-function in the Security & Delegation module provides a more detailed display of activity across the enterprise, including the details and history of each event. You can locate a user through the integrated search function, and, if required, disable a user account.

## Dashboard charts

The dashboard provides a graphical summary of Active Directory data. With version 7.0, the dashboard now includes a count of domain computers, users, and groups of various scopes. The range of charts for audited events and notification alerts is expanded to help administrators identify trends that might otherwise have gone unnoticed. You also can now print the charts.

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Dell Inc.  
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