GPOADmin™

Simplified Group Policy management and administration

As one of the most robust configuration tools in your Microsoft® Windows® infrastructure, Group Policy plays a major role in establishing a secure and compliant networking environment for your users. But with Group Policy regulating everything from critical business processes and security settings to individual workstations and printers, managing and administering Group Policy objects (GPOs) can become a time-consuming and expensive task — unless you have the right tools.

Award-winning Dell™ GPOADmin™ automates critical Group Policy management tasks to reduce costs and eliminate manual processes.

GPOADmin can optionally extend the Microsoft Group Policy Management Console (GPMC) so you can quickly use a familiar interface to administer GPO changes and compare GPO versions over time to confirm the consistency of different GPO settings.

With so many GPO comparison features combined with enhanced security and workflow capabilities, you'll be able to more effectively control and manage your Windows infrastructure — while supporting change management best practices and driving compliance to corporate policies, regulatory standards and frameworks such as ITIL, MOF, SOX, Basel II, HIPAA and C-198.

> Approval-based workflows with optional email notifications ensure that modifications adhere to change management best practices. Approved changes can be immediately implemented or scheduled.

Benefits:

- Quickly verifies setting consistency and improves GPO auditing with side-by-side GPO version comparisons
- Protects GPOs from accidental modification
- Delivers a configurable GPO review and approval workflow with comments and email notifications
- Deploys changes as they're approved or on your schedule
- Automates administrative tasks with pre-packaged PowerShell scripts
- Helps ensure compliance with ITIL, MOF, SOX, Basel II, HIPAA and C-198
- Supports change management best practices through workflow and automation
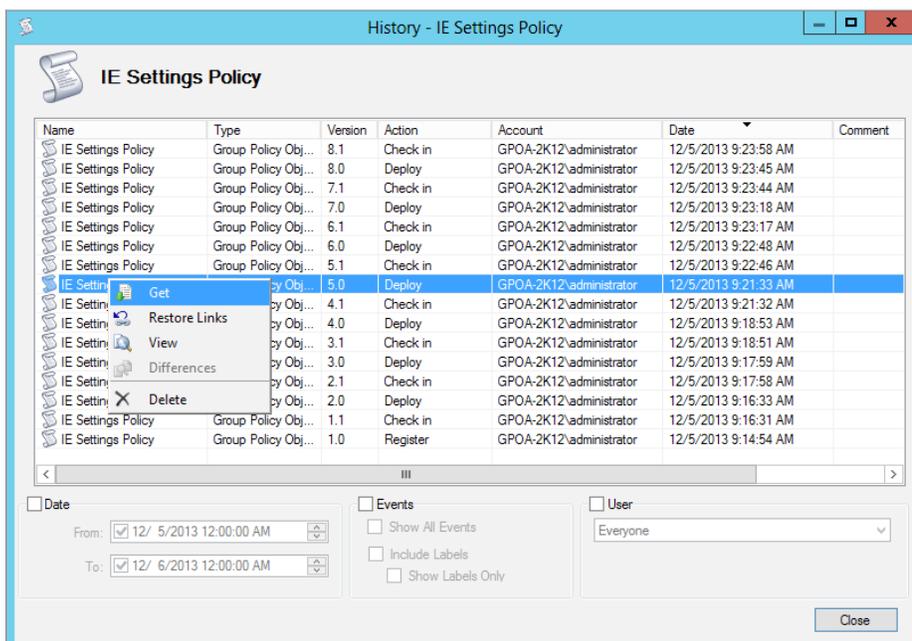
With GPOADmin, you can easily roll back Group Policy objects to their previous versions, eliminating any ill effects of an undesired change.

Features

Improved and simplified native Group Policy capabilities

With no need for scripting or manual processes, you can save valuable time, reduce the risk of network outages, and drive improved server and desktop management throughout your entire enterprise. An optional GPOADmin extension for Microsoft GPMC allows you to work in a familiar interface.

Improved security and increased reliability

Effective Group Policy auditing reduces security breaches and increases the overall reliability of your Windows infrastructure. GPOADmin integrates with current processes — including Dell ChangeAuditor™ — to ensure that critical tasks such as version control and auditing are performed efficiently and effectively.

Streamlined compliance and rollback

GPOADmin automatically ensures that all GPO versions and edits are recorded by creating a log of each setting change — including the individual who executed the change — for audit and rollback purposes. GPOADmin is compliant with FIPS (Federal Information Processing Standard) and supports Windows 2008 policy preference settings.

Automation and scripting

GPOADmin includes pre-packaged PowerShell scripts to automate administrative tasks, saving time and reducing the risk of error. Custom actions can be executed before or after a GPOADmin change to facilitate integration with internal processes and systems.

Approval workflow and testing

Approval-based workflows with optional email notifications ensure that modifications adhere to change management best practices. Approved changes can be immediately implemented or scheduled. Comments can be added to requests to accelerate reviews. GPOs can be tested before rolling them out to production or deployed remotely using Dell Mobile IT, a mobile device app from Dell Software.

Reduced backup footprint

GPOADmin enables you to control the size of your backup store by deleting versions you no longer need. Side-by-side comparisons simplify the process of determining which versions to keep or delete.

Protected Settings policies

Administrators can define a list of GPO settings with predetermined values that must exist and cannot be modified. Once the Protected Settings policy is applied to a GPOADmin container, policies that are modified and become in violation will be blocked from being checked in.

Approval/Rejection via email

Workflow requests to modify GPOs can be approved or rejected by email, without opening the GPOADmin console. The email contains a Settings report to help inform the approval decision.

Improved object management

Specific users can be assigned responsibility for specific policies, either at the object level or GPOADmin container level. This helps all administrators identify who is responsible for managing specific policies.

Customized email templates

Email notifications can be customized with specific text and/or attachments for specific roles (e.g., help desk, senior management, etc.). For example, if an organization requires a change request form to be completed to modify a GPO, it can be attached to the email notification to streamline the process. When combined with auditing and object protection, GPOADmin supports change management best practices.

About Dell Software

Dell Software helps customers unlock greater potential through the power of technology—delivering scalable, affordable and simple-to-use solutions that simplify IT and mitigate risk. This software, when combined with Dell hardware and services, drives unmatched efficiency and productivity to accelerate business results. www.dellsoftware.com.