

ManageEngine
ADManager Plus

Enhanced security through Group Policy Object reports

www.admanagerplus.com



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Group Policy Objects (GPOs) reflect an organization's policy needs on security, printer management, power settings, and so on. These existing organizational policies may undergo changes as new policies come up, forcing admins to create new GPOs or change existing ones. GPOs that were previously in use, GPOs created for testing purposes, and other unwanted GPOs can accumulate in Active Directory (AD) over time.

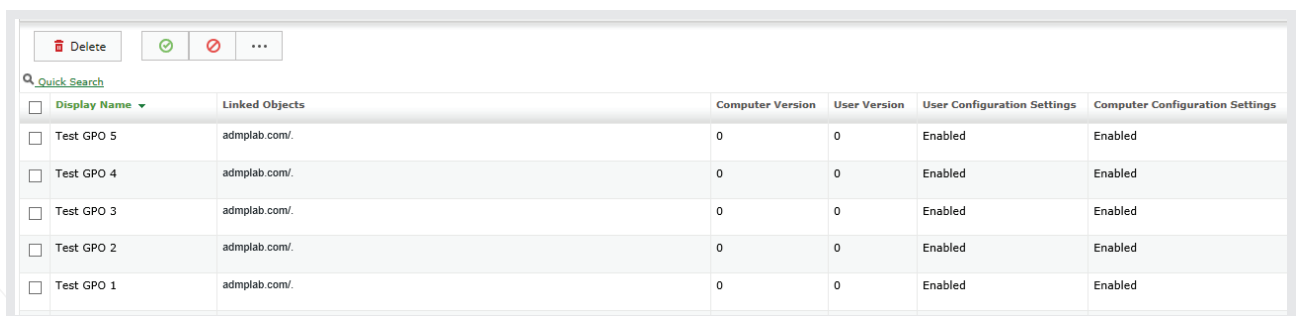
Two typical reasons for GPO clutter in AD are unlinked GPOs and empty GPOs. Whether these GPOs aren't linked to any nodes or they simply don't have any settings, they take up unnecessary space in your AD database. From a security perspective, removing unwanted GPOs is critical, especially since these GPOs could later be wrongly linked to an AD object and cause issues. Routine AD cleanup can help you optimize your database by removing the GPO clutter that has developed over time.

ADManager Plus' GPO reports provide the capability to remove unused and unlinked GPOs in bulk with ease.

Cleaning up empty GPOs

Identify long-forgotten test GPOs using ADManager Plus' All GPOs & Linked AD Objects report. View all the GPOs in your AD, including their linked objects and settings.

Wondering how to detect empty GPOs? If a GPO's Computer Version and User Version are listed as zero, that GPO doesn't have any settings. Once you've identified empty GPOs, you can easily delete them from the GPO reports console itself.



<input type="checkbox"/> Display Name	Linked Objects	Computer Version	User Version	User Configuration Settings	Computer Configuration Settings
<input type="checkbox"/> Test GPO 5	admplab.com/.	0	0	Enabled	Enabled
<input type="checkbox"/> Test GPO 4	admplab.com/.	0	0	Enabled	Enabled
<input type="checkbox"/> Test GPO 3	admplab.com/.	0	0	Enabled	Enabled
<input type="checkbox"/> Test GPO 2	admplab.com/.	0	0	Enabled	Enabled
<input type="checkbox"/> Test GPO 1	admplab.com/.	0	0	Enabled	Enabled

Figure 1. Empty GPOs listed under the All GPOs & Linked AD Object report in ADManager Plus.

Steps to identify and delete empty GPOs using ADManager Plus

1. Click **GPO Reports** under **AD Reports**.
2. Open the **All GPOs & Linked AD Objects report**, then click **Generate**.
3. From the list of GPOs, select the GPOs with the Computer Version and User Version parameter listed as zero.
4. Click **Delete** to remove the empty GPOs from AD.

Cleaning up unused GPOs

GPOs in your AD that were previously linked to containers, but are now unlinked due to policy changes, can cause issues, especially if they're relinked to some other important container. ADManager Plus' **Unused GPOs** report makes it easy to find and delete unlinked GPOs.

Display Name	Linked Objects	User Configuration Settings	Computer Configuration Settings	Domain Name	Computer Version	User Version
New Group Policy Object	-	Enabled	Disabled	admlab.com	0	0
Printer policy	-	Enabled	Enabled	admlab.com	0	0
Test GPO 5	-	Enabled	Enabled	admlab.com	0	0

Figure 2: Unlinked GPOs listed using ADManager Plus' Unused GPOs report.

Steps to identify and delete orphaned GPOs using ADManager Plus:

1. Click **GPO Reports** under **AD Reports**.
2. Open the **Unused GPOs** report, then click **Generate**.
3. Select the GPOs you'd like to remove, then click **Delete**. This deletes the orphaned GPOs and protects your AD from any potential security issues.

About ADManager Plus

ADManager Plus is a web-based Windows Active Directory management and reporting solution that helps Active Directory administrators and help desk technicians accomplish their day-to-day activities. With an intuitive, easy-to-use interface, ADManager Plus handles a variety of complex tasks and generates an exhaustive list of Active Directory reports, some of which are essential requirements to satisfy compliance audits. It also helps administrators manage and report on their Exchange Server, Office 365, and Google Apps environments, in addition to Active Directory, all from a single console.

For more information on ManageEngine ADManager Plus, visit <https://www.manageengine.com/ad-manager/>

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