



# Meeting compliance and managing risks with identity-based GRC

[www.manageengine.com/ad-manager](http://www.manageengine.com/ad-manager) ↗



# What is GRC?

Governance, risk, and compliance (GRC) is a strategic framework that enables organizations to achieve business objectives while maintaining security, managing risks, and adhering to regulatory requirements





### Risk management:

Identifies potential threats and implements proactive measures to mitigate risks



### Governance:

Establishes policies, guidelines, and strategic direction for security and compliance



### Compliance:

Ensures adherence to industry regulations and legal mandates

# The core functions of GRG

# GR C in ACTION

**Implementation methods:**  
GRC is enforced through regular audits, policies, risk assessments, and reporting mechanisms

**Why it matters:**  
Aligns IT with business goals while tightening security and meeting compliance



# KEY CHALLENGES

when  
implementing  
GRC



**Managing complex user access:** Balancing security with efficiency while preventing excessive privileges



**Meeting regulatory compliance requirements:** Maintaining continuous audit trails and monitoring security controls



**Role-based and least privilege access control:** Ensuring role-based access management without loopholes



**Identity life cycle management:** Automating user provisioning, deprovisioning, and role modifications



**Audit readiness and reporting:** Simplifying compliance audits with structured and real-time reports



**Insider threats:**  
Unauthorized access, privilege misuse, and data leaks



**Regulatory penalties:** Heavy fines for non-compliance with data security laws

# THE GROWING THREAT LANDSCAPE: WHY GRC IS CRUCIAL



**Cybersecurity breaches:**  
Increasing attacks targeting IAM vulnerabilities



**Data governance risks:** Unstructured and excessive access to sensitive information

Introducing



ManageEngine  
ADManager Plus

# Introducing **ADManager Plus**

**A powerful identity governance and administration tool that helps you achieve GRC objectives**

- ❖ Simplifies user provisioning, access control, and compliance
- ❖ Automates repetitive Active Directory (AD) tasks, like onboarding, offboarding, and group management
- ❖ Generates audit-ready reports for regulatory requirements
- ❖ Integrates seamlessly with AD, Microsoft 365, Google Workspace, and other enterprise applications

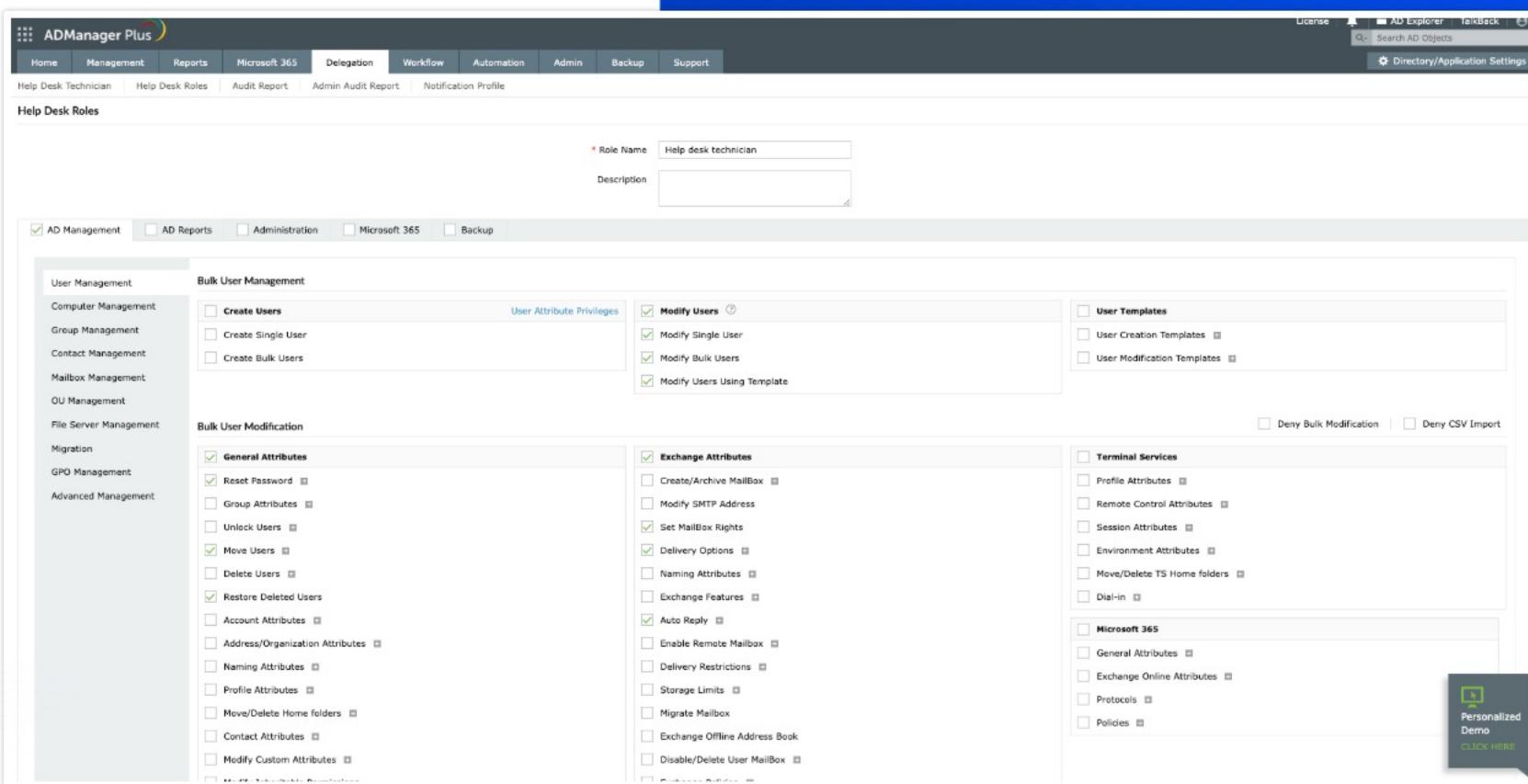
# Governance capabilities

ManageEngine  
ADManager Plus

- **Automated user provisioning and deprovisioning:** Streamlines identity life cycle management, ensures appropriate access controls, and mitigates insider threats
- **Access certification campaigns:** Enables automation of user access reviews across your organization; streamlines the process of approving or revoking access permissions, allowing you to perform periodic reviews and prevent privilege escalation
- **Permission-based delegation:** Assigns granular permissions for administrative tasks based on job roles
- **Approval-based workflows:** Multi-level approval processes for access requests and changes
- **Delegated administration:** Secure delegation of IAM tasks without full administrator privileges

# Streamline administration with permission-based delegation

- ❖ ADManager Plus enables granular delegation by allowing you to assign AD permissions for administrative tasks based on job functions
- ❖ Predefined roles limit overprivileged access for administrative functions



The screenshot shows the ADManager Plus interface with the 'Delegation' tab selected. The main title is 'Help Desk Roles'. The 'Role Name' is set to 'Help desk technician'. The 'Description' field is empty. Under the 'AD Management' tab, several checkboxes are checked, including 'Create Users', 'Modify Users', 'Modify Single User', 'Modify Bulk Users', and 'Modify Users Using Template'. Other tabs like 'AD Reports', 'Administration', 'Microsoft 365', and 'Backup' are available but not selected. The interface is divided into sections for User Management, Bulk User Management, Bulk User Modification, and various system management categories like Computer Management, Group Management, and Migration. A 'User Attribute Privileges' section is also visible. A 'Personalized Demo' button is located in the bottom right corner.

# Streamline administration with permission-based delegation



**Help desk teams:** Can reset passwords and unlock accounts but cannot create or delete users



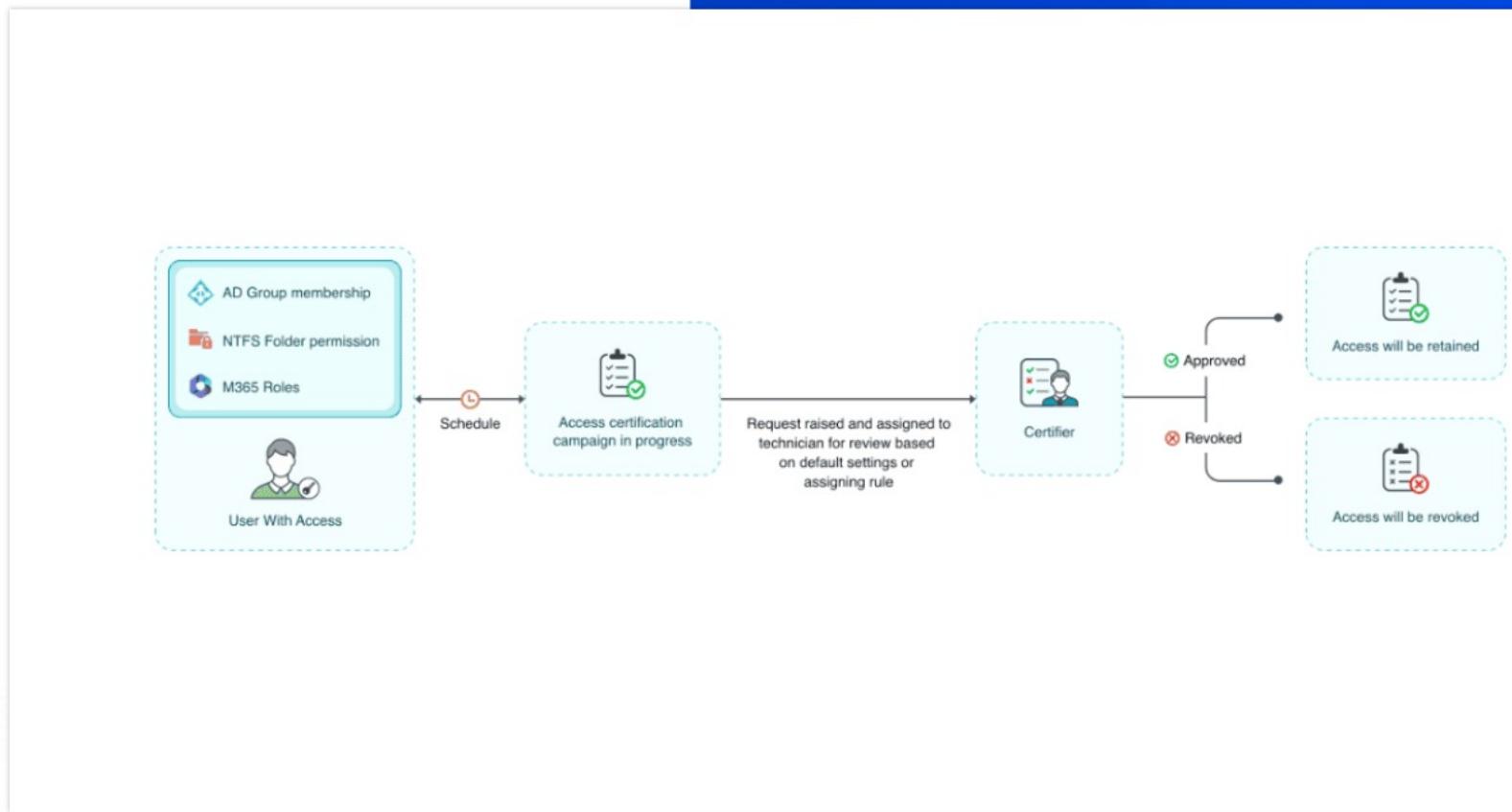
**HR teams:** Can manage employee onboarding and offboarding without full AD administrative access



**Branch admins:** Can handle local user management without global AD administrative privileges

# Automate access reviews to maintain continuous compliance

- ❖ Facilitates periodic access reviews to ensure users retain only necessary permissions
- ❖ Automated workflows allow managers to easily approve or revoke access, streamlining the process



# Automate access reviews to maintain continuous compliance



**Quarterly SOX reviews:** Department heads confirm financial system access for their teams



**JML process:** HR certifies that all terminations are promptly deprovisioned



**Privileged access:** IT leadership revalidates administrative rights every 90 days

# Multi-level approvals for secure access control

- ❖ Configure approval workflows in ADManager Plus for AD changes (e.g., user creation or group modifications)
- ❖ Ensures compliance by requiring manager or IT team approval before granting access or making significant changes

The screenshot shows the ADManager Plus interface. The top navigation bar includes Home, Management, Reports, Microsoft 365, Delegation, Workflow (selected), Automation, Admin, Backup, and Support. The left sidebar has sections for Requests (Create Request, All Requests), Workflow Delegation, Workflow Technicians, Requester Roles, and Configuration (Business Workflow, Assigning Rules, Service Level Agreements). The main content area is titled 'Business Workflow' and shows a configuration for a 'Workflow' with a description field. It displays a four-step approval process: Requester, Reviewer, Approver, and Executor. Below this is a table of existing workflows:

Action	Workflow Name	Description	Workflow Stages
Default business workflow	Default business workflow	This is a predefined workflow present in the product.	Requester => Executor
deshabilitar usuarios AD_test	deshabilitar usuarios AD	deshabilitar usuarios AD	Requester => Approver: 3 => Executor
M123	M123	Workflow	Requester => Reviewers: 1 => Approver: 1 => Executor
Liberar acceso SIRI	Liberar acceso SIRI		Requester => Executor
Reporting To	Reporting To		Requester => Approver: 1
mine	mine		Requester => Reviewers: 1 => Approver: 1 => Executor
GTIT	GTIT	1 solicitante, 1 aprobador y un ejecutor.	Requester => Reviewers: 1 => Approver: 1 => Executor
Test-KK	Test-KK	Creation of Users	Requester => Reviewers: 1 => Approver: 1 => Executor
Admin-User	Admin-User		Requester => Reviewers: 1 => Approver: 1 => Executor
test	test		Requester => Reviewers: 1 => Approver: 1 => Executor

# Multi-level approvals for secure access control



### Temporary access:

Contractors should request access to finance groups (approved by the IT team and project lead)



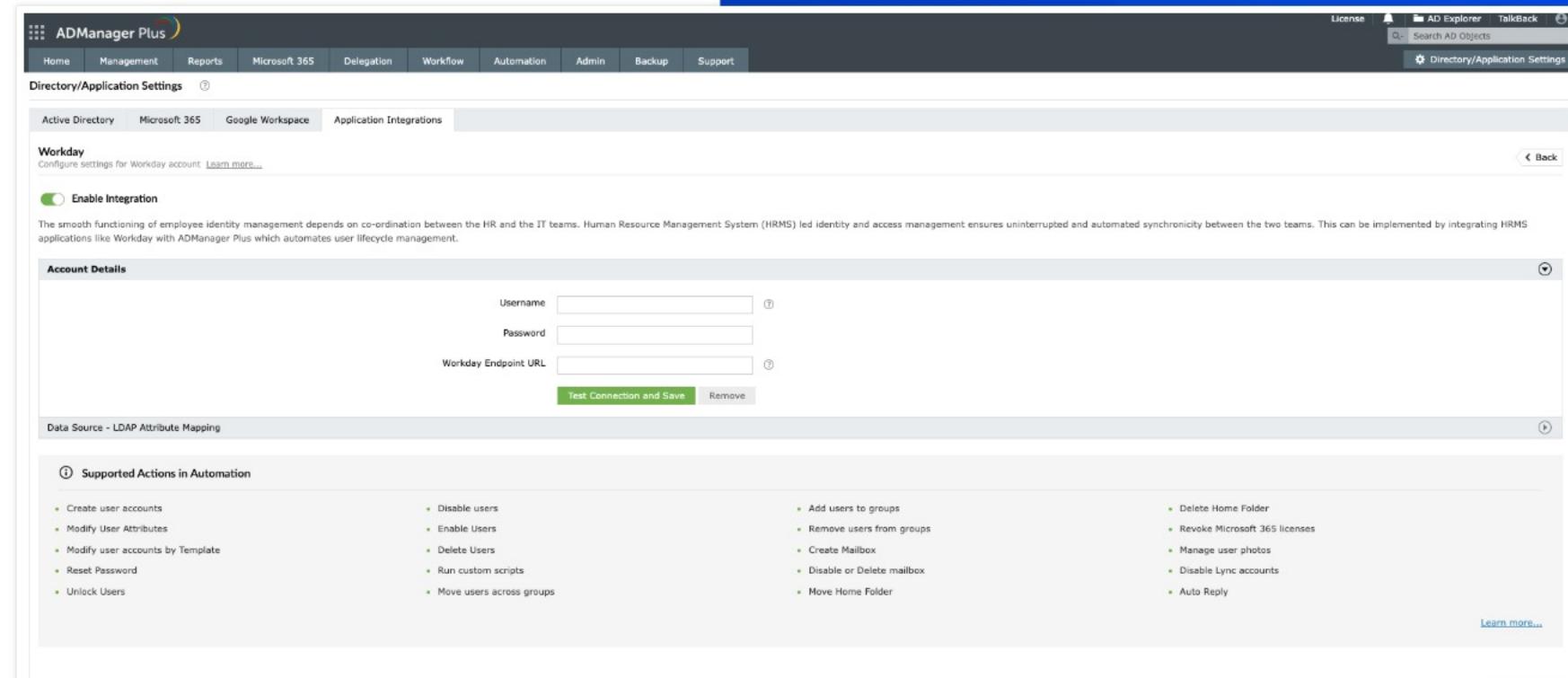
**High-privilege requests:** Granting Domain Admin rights requires a senior-level executive's approval



**Group membership changes:** Adding users to the Executives group triggers HR approval

# End-to-end AD life cycle automation

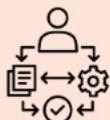
- ❖ ADManager Plus automates user onboarding and offboarding via HR integrations (e.g., Workday or Zoho People)
- ❖ Instant deprovisioning reduces insider threats from orphaned accounts by promptly revoking access



The screenshot shows the ADManager Plus software interface. The top navigation bar includes Home, Management, Reports, Microsoft 365, Delegation, Workflow, Automation, Admin, Backup, and Support. The main menu on the left lists Home, Active Directory, Microsoft 365, Google Workspace, Application Integrations, and Directory/Application Settings. The 'Application Integrations' tab is selected, and the 'Workday' sub-tab is active. The 'Workday' section displays configuration for a Workday account, including an 'Enable Integration' toggle, a note about smooth functioning of employee identity management, and fields for 'Username', 'Password', and 'Workday Endpoint URL'. A 'Test Connection and Save' button is present. Below this, the 'Data Source - LDAP Attribute Mapping' section is shown, featuring a 'Supported Actions in Automation' table with four columns of actions. The table includes items like 'Create user accounts', 'Disable users', 'Add users to groups', and 'Delete Home Folder'. A 'Learn more...' link is at the bottom right of the table. The bottom right corner of the interface features a 'Personalized Demo' button with a 'CLICK HERE' link.

Category	Action 1	Action 2	Action 3
Creation	Create user accounts	Modify User Attributes	Modify user accounts by Template
Deactivation	Disable users	Enable Users	Delete Users
Management	Run custom scripts	Move users across groups	Add users to groups
Deletion	Remove users from groups	Create Mailbox	Remove users from groups
Other	Disable or Delete mailbox	Disable Lync accounts	Delete Home Folder
	Move Home Folder	Manage user photos	Revoke Microsoft 365 licenses
		Auto Reply	Disable Lync accounts

# End-to-end AD life cycle automation



**Onboarding:** New hires automatically have an AD account and email address created and are added to department groups, all on day one



**Offboarding:** Disables accounts, revokes licenses, and removes group access upon termination or an employee leaving the company



**Role changes:** Automatically moves users between OUs or groups when department or job role changes occur

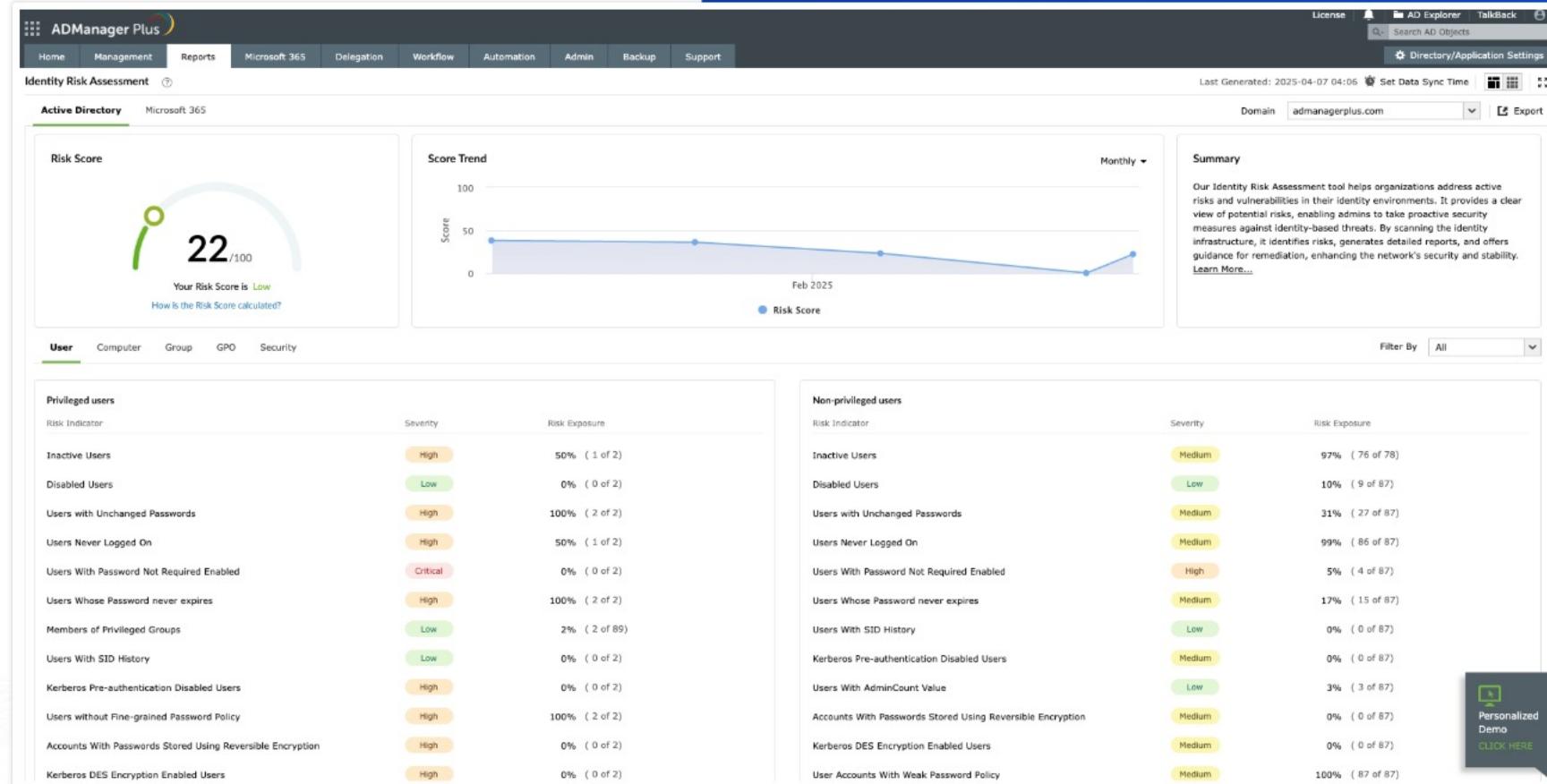


# Risk management

- .....  
**Identity risk assessment:** Detects risks in AD and Microsoft 365 and views the overall risk score for your organization
- .....  
**On-the-fly actions and remediation measures:** Take immediate actions to mitigate potential risk factors and view the recommended remediation measures for each identified risk
- .....  
**Risk exposure management:** Visualize potential attack paths and access permissions that a malicious actor could exploit to compromise privileged entities, then view the necessary remediation measures to prevent such attacks

# Proactive risk detection in AD and Microsoft 365

- ❖ Scans AD and Microsoft 365 for vulnerabilities (e.g., stale accounts, excessive permissions, or weak passwords)
- ❖ Assigns an overall risk score to prioritize remediation and quantify organizational exposure to potential threats



# Proactive risk detection in AD and Microsoft 365



**Stale accounts:** Detect inactive users with active access, flagging potential insider threat risks



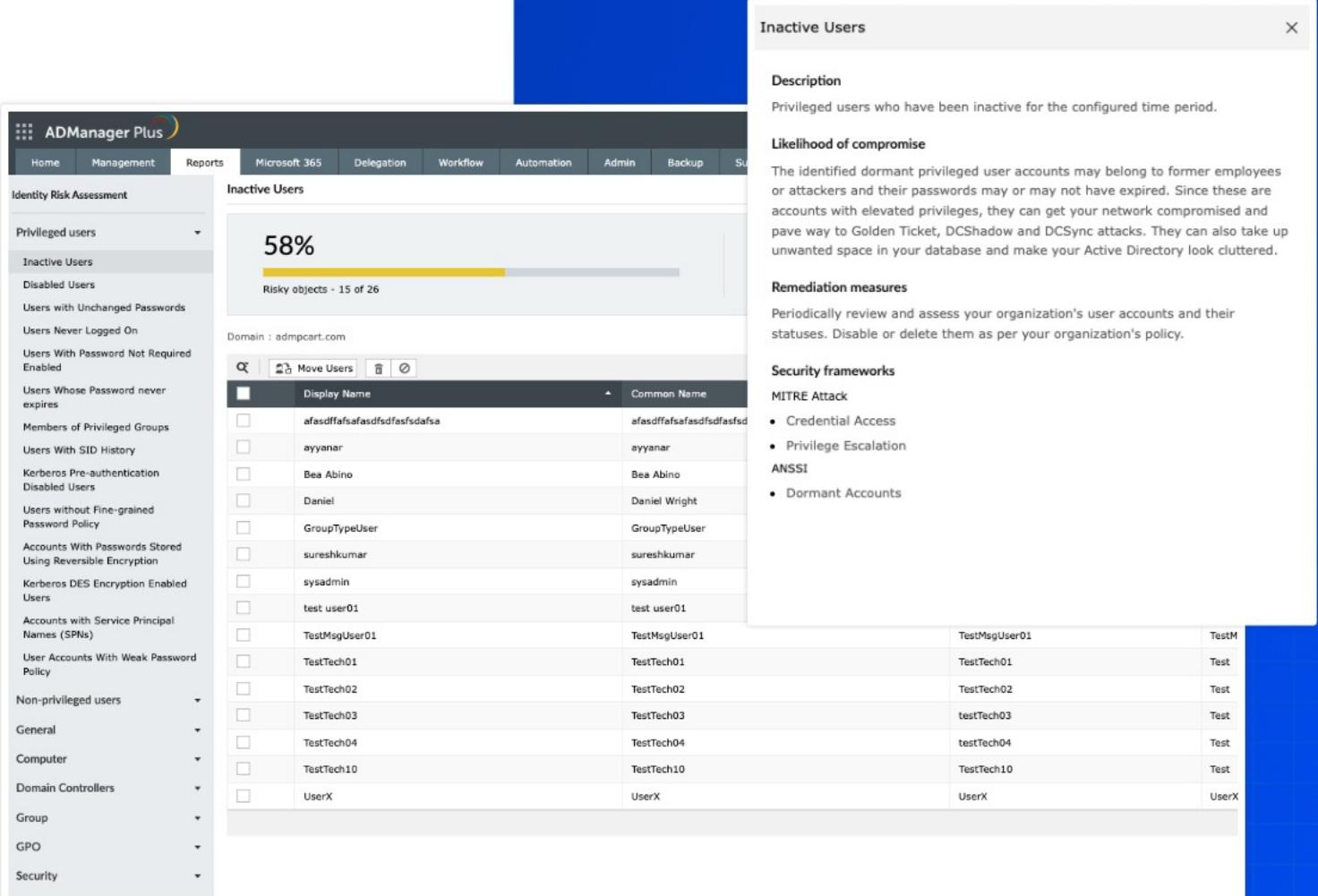
**Compliance audits:** Identify non-compliant accounts (e.g., users with never-expiring passwords) that could lead to audit failure



**Mergers and acquisitions:** Assess inherited AD risks during the integration of new systems and users

# On-the-fly risk mitigation

- ❖ Immediate mitigation: Resolve risks directly from the dashboard (e.g., disable stale accounts or move groups)
- ❖ Guided remediation: View step-by-step recommendations for each risk (e.g., Periodically review and assess your organization's user accounts and their statuses. Disable or delete them as per your organization's policy.)



The image shows the ADManager Plus software interface. The main dashboard displays a large chart showing 58% of users are inactive, with a sub-section for 'Risky objects - 15 of 26'. The left sidebar lists various user categories: Privileged users (Inactive Users, Disabled Users, etc.), Non-privileged users (General, Computer, Domain Controllers, Group, GPO, Security), and other filters like Microsoft 365, Delegation, Workflow, Automation, Admin, and Backup. A detailed list of inactive users is shown in a table, with columns for Display Name, Common Name, and various status indicators. The interface includes sections for 'Description' (Privileged users who have been inactive for the configured time period), 'Likelihood of compromise' (Identified dormant privileged user accounts may belong to former employees or attackers), 'Remediation measures' (Periodically review and assess your organization's user accounts and their statuses. Disable or delete them as per your organization's policy), and 'Security frameworks' (MITRE Attack, ANSSI). A legend at the bottom right indicates 'Test' and 'UserX' status markers.

Display Name	Common Name	Status
afasdffafasdfsdfsdfsdafsa	afasdffafasdfsdfsdfsdafsa	Test
ayyanar	ayyanar	Test
Bea Abino	Bea Abino	Test
Daniel	Daniel Wright	Test
GroupTypeUser	GroupTypeUser	Test
sureshkumar	sureshkumar	Test
sysadmin	sysadmin	Test
test user01	test user01	Test
TestMsgUser01	TestMsgUser01	Test
TestTech01	TestTech01	Test
TestTech02	TestTech02	Test
TestTech03	TestTech03	Test
TestTech04	TestTech04	Test
TestTech10	TestTech10	Test
UserX	UserX	UserX

# On-the-fly risk mitigation



**Help desk:** Quickly disable compromised accounts during a breach with one-click actions



**Auditors:** Document corrective actions for compliance reports with the remediation measures capability



# Compliance and audit

**Prebuilt compliance reports:** Generate reports for the GDPR, SOX, HIPAA, the PCI DSS, and other regulatory frameworks

**Audit tracking:** Logs all user and administrative activities for accountability and security

**Automated access certifications:** Conducts periodic access reviews to maintain continuous compliance

# One-click compliance reports for the GDPR, HIPAA, SOX, and more

- ❖ Ready-to-use reports for major regulations (e.g., the GDPR, SOX, HIPAA, and the PCI DSS)
- ❖ Maps AD and Microsoft 365 data to compliance requirements (e.g., user access logs and permission changes)

The screenshot displays the ADManager Plus software interface, specifically the 'Compliance Reports' section. The interface is organized into several columns:

- Left Column:** A sidebar containing links to various report types: User Reports, Password Reports, Group Reports, Computer Reports, Exchange Reports, Contact Reports, Terminal Service Reports, GPO Reports, OU Reports, NTFS Reports, Security Reports, Other Reports, and Compliance Reports.
- Compliance Reports Section:** This section is divided into several categories:
  - SOX:** All Users, All Groups, All Computers, All Contacts, All OUs, All GPOs & Linked AD Objects, Microsoft 365 Users.
  - HIPAA:** Recently Logged On Users, Recent Logon Failures, Real Last Logon, Users With Terminal Server Access, Recently Created Users, Recently Modified Users, Recently Modified GPOs.
  - PCI:** Recently Logged On Users, Recent Logon Failures, Real Last Logon, Locked-out Users, Users in Groups, Shares in the Servers, Permissions for Folders.
  - GLBA:** Recently Logged On Users, Recent Logon Failures, Real Last Logon, Users with Password Never Expires, Password Changed Users, Security Groups, Distribution Groups.
  - GDPR:** Shares in the Servers, Permissions for Folders, Folders Accessible by Accounts, Server Permissions, Subnet Permissions, Servers Accessible by Accounts, Subnets Accessible by Accounts.
- Right Column:** A section for FISMA compliance with links to: Recent Logon Failures, Real Last Logon, Users with Password Never Expires, Password Changed Users, Recently Created Users, Recently Modified Users, Recently Created Computers.

At the bottom of the interface, there is a 'Identity Risk Assessment' section with a progress bar.

## USE CASES

# One-click compliance reports for the GDPR, HIPAA, SOX, and more



**SOX audit:** Easily prove that only authorized users have access to financial systems



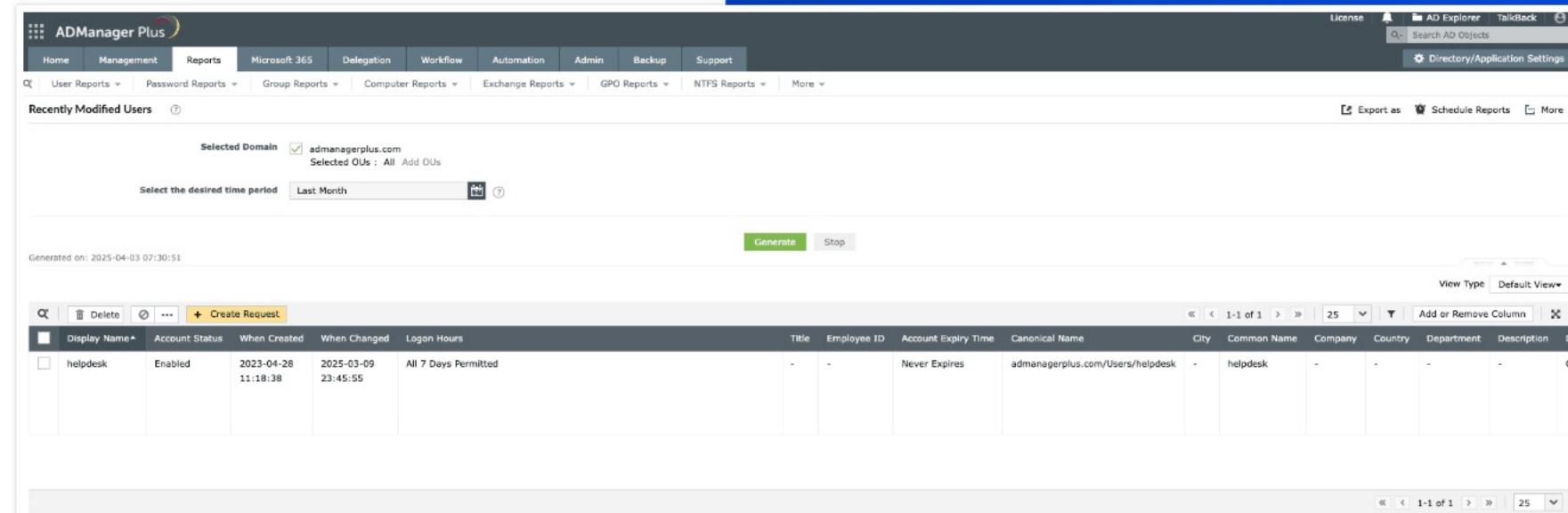
**HIPAA compliance:** Quickly identify all users with access to the Patient Records group



**GDPR cleanup:** Find and remove inactive users who may still hold personally identifiable information

# Tamper-proof audit logs for complete accountability

- ❖ Logs all AD and Microsoft 365 activities (e.g., password resets, group membership changes and account deletions)
- ❖ Receive tamper-proof records that are crucial for forensic investigations and demonstrating compliance



The screenshot shows the ADManager Plus software interface. The top navigation bar includes Home, Management, Reports, Microsoft 365, Delegation, Workflow, Automation, Admin, Backup, and Support. The Reports tab is selected. Below the navigation is a search bar and a 'Directory/Application Settings' button. The main content area is titled 'Recently Modified Users' and shows a table of user activity. The table has columns for Display Name, Account Status, When Created, When Changed, Logon Hours, Title, Employee ID, Account Expiry Time, Canonical Name, City, Common Name, Company, Country, Department, and Description. A single row is visible for a user named 'helpdesk'.

Display Name	Account Status	When Created	When Changed	Logon Hours	Title	Employee ID	Account Expiry Time	Canonical Name	City	Common Name	Company	Country	Department	Description
helpdesk	Enabled	2023-04-28 11:18:38	2025-03-09 23:45:55	All 7 Days Permitted	-	-	Never Expires	admanagerplus.com/Users/helpdesk	-	helpdesk	-	-	-	-

# Tamper-proof audit logs for complete accountability



**Insider threat investigation:** Trace who granted administrative rights to a terminated employee



**Compliance proof:** Demonstrate that no unauthorized changes occurred during an audit period



**Troubleshooting:** Identify accidental permission changes that may be breaking applications

# GRCACTION:

## Real-world use cases and benefits



**Financial sector:** Ensures SOX compliance with automated audits and effective delegated administration



**Healthcare:** Meets HIPAA regulations by tracking user access and maintaining detailed audit logs



**Education:** Automates student and staff onboarding and offboarding with appropriate access assignments



**Enterprises:** Implements least-privilege access through secure delegation to reduce security risks and unauthorized access



# Next steps:

## Turn GRC vision into action

**Try ADManager Plus:**

[Free, 30-day trial](#) available

**Book a consultation:** Schedule a [personalized demo](#) to address your IAM and compliance challenges with experts

**Stay compliant and secure:**

Implement best practices for GRC



# Secure your organization with GR<sup>C</sup> and ADManager Plus

Take control of your identity governance today  
with robust GRC strategies

[www.manageengine.com/ad-manager](http://www.manageengine.com/ad-manager)