



# Meeting compliance and managing risks with identity-based GRC

[www.manageengine.com/ad-manager](https://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 GRC

# GRC 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

.....  
**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

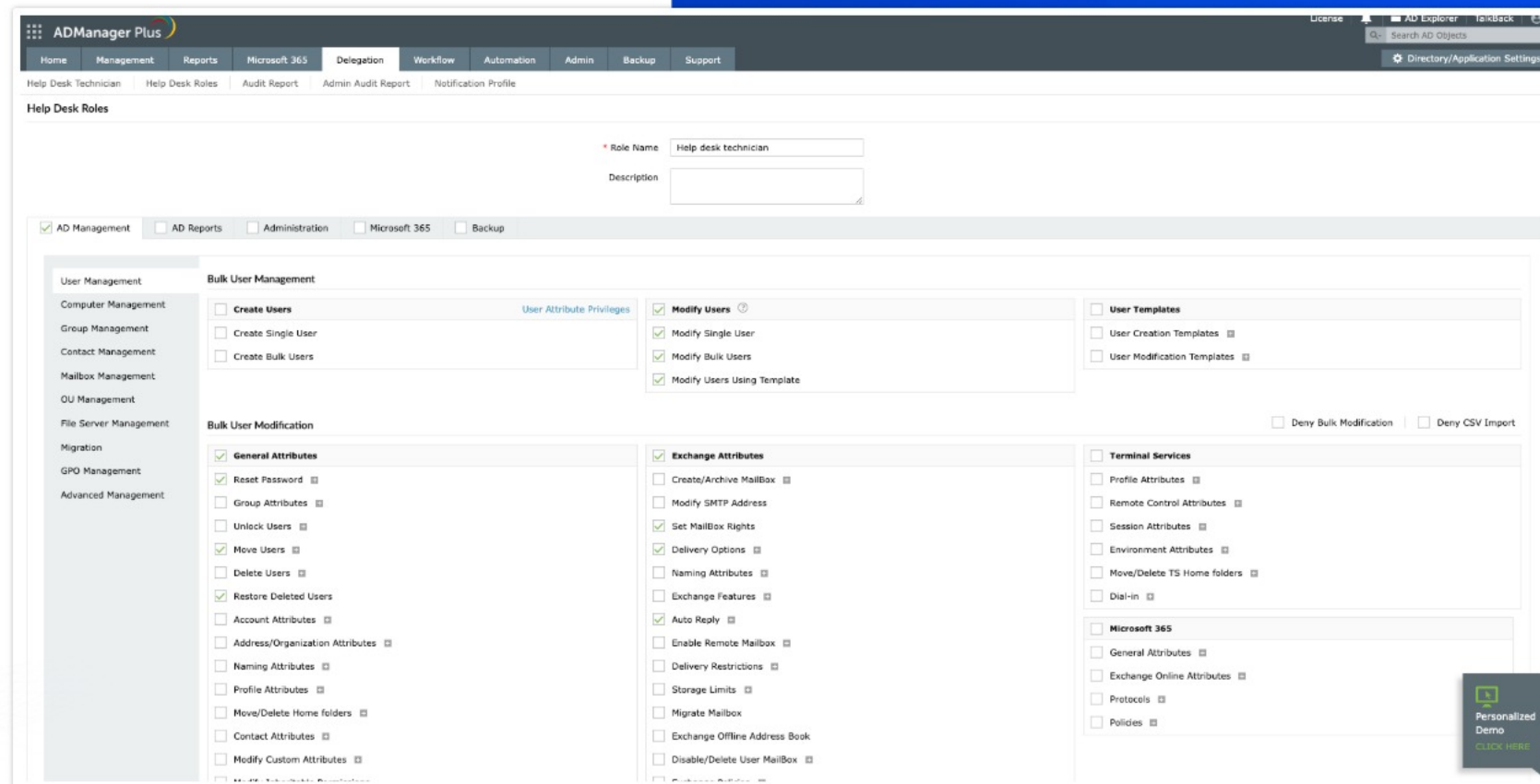
.....  
**Approval-based workflows:** Multi-level approval processes for access requests and changes

.....  
**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





## USE CASES

# Streamline administration with permission-based delegation



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



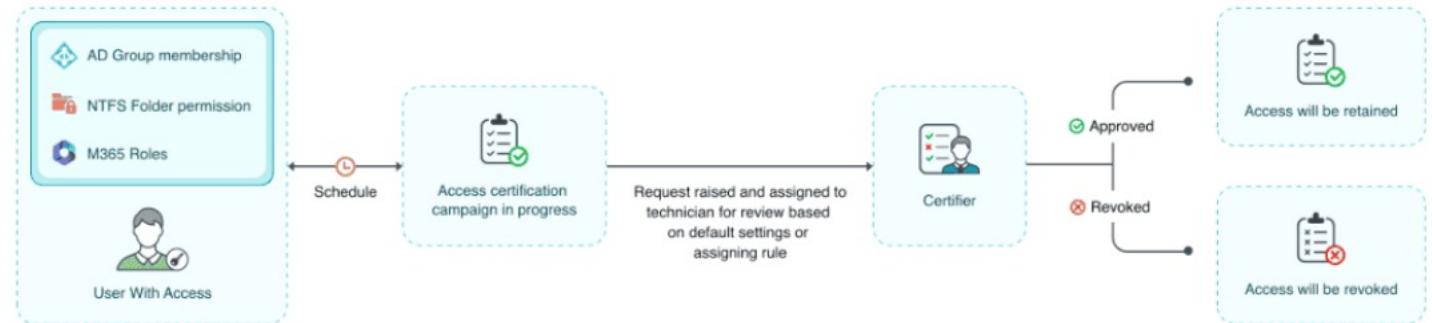
**HR teams:** Can manage employee onboarding and offboarding without full AD administrative access



**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





## USE CASES

# 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 displays the ADManager Plus Business Workflow configuration page. The interface includes a top navigation bar with tabs for Home, Management, Reports, Microsoft 365, Delegation, Workflow, Automation, Admin, Backup, and Support. A left sidebar contains a menu with options like Requests, Workflow Delegation, Configuration, and Business Workflow. The main content area is titled 'Business Workflow' and includes fields for 'Workflow Name' and 'Description'. Below these is a 'Workflow Stages' diagram showing a four-step process: Requester, Reviewer, Approver, and Executor, each with a brief description and a 'No. of [Role]' dropdown. At the bottom, a table lists existing workflows with columns for Action, Workflow Name, Description, and Workflow Stages.

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



## USE CASES

# 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 displays the ADManager Plus web interface. The top navigation bar includes links for Home, Management, Reports, Microsoft 365, Delegation, Workflow, Automation, Admin, Backup, and Support. The main content area is titled 'Directory/Application Settings' and features a tab for 'Application Integrations'. Under this tab, the 'Workday' integration is shown with an 'Enable Integration' toggle switch. Below the toggle, a descriptive paragraph explains the integration's purpose. The 'Account Details' section contains input fields for 'Username', 'Password', and 'Workday Endpoint URL', along with 'Test Connection and Save' and 'Remove' buttons. A 'Data Source - LDAP Attribute Mapping' section is also visible. At the bottom, a 'Supported Actions in Automation' section lists various tasks such as creating, modifying, and deleting user accounts, as well as managing groups and licenses. A 'Learn more...' link is provided at the bottom right of the interface.

## USE CASES

# 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

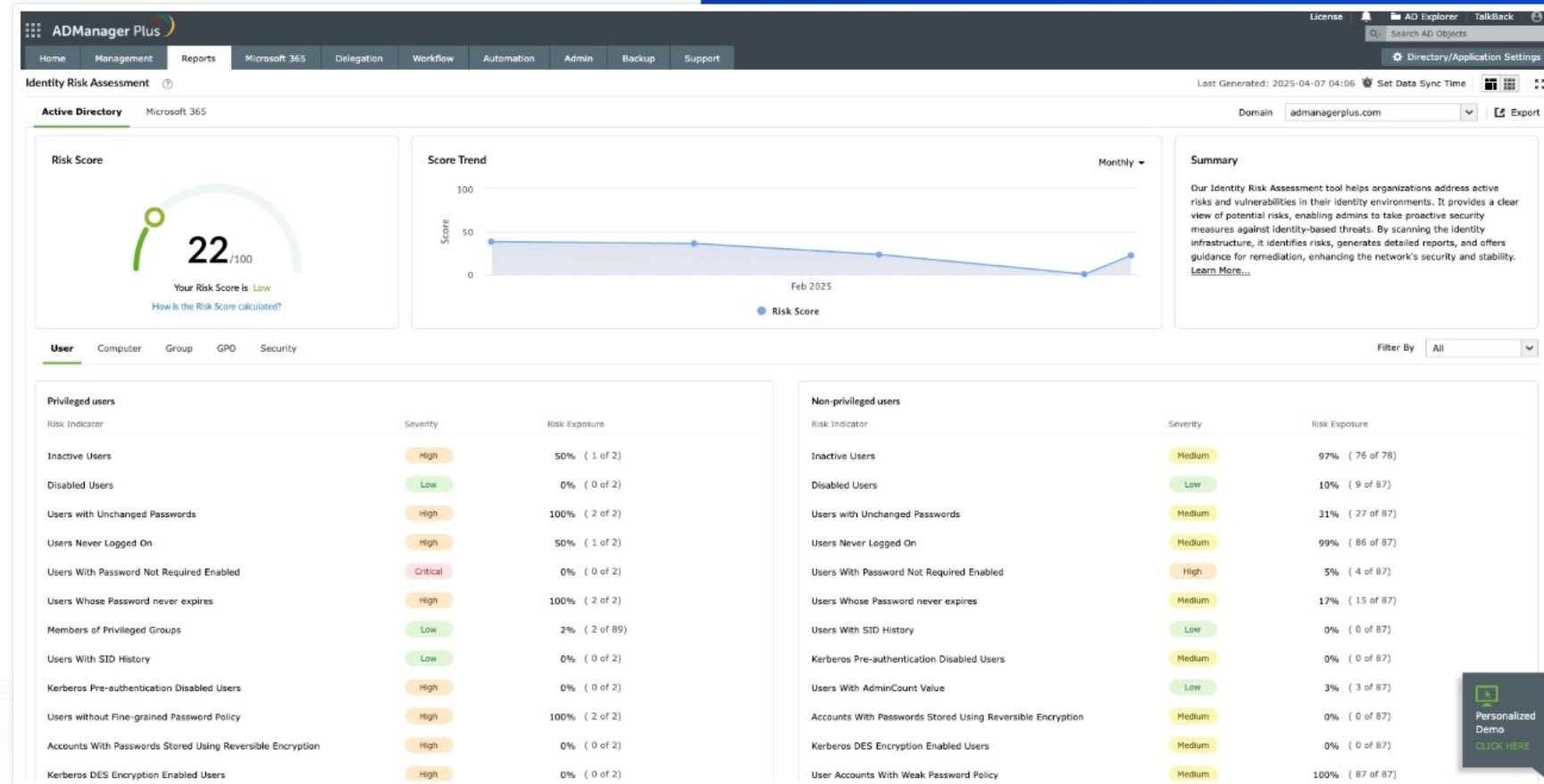
**Identity risk assessment:** Detects risks in AD and Microsoft 365 and views the overall risk score for your organization

**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



## USE CASES

# 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 screenshot displays the ADManager Plus interface. On the left, a sidebar menu lists various risk categories under 'Identity Risk Assessment', including 'Privileged users', 'Inactive Users', 'Disabled Users', and others. The main panel shows the 'Inactive Users' report for the domain 'admpcart.com'. It features a progress bar indicating that 58% of risky objects (15 of 26) are inactive. Below this, a table lists individual users with checkboxes for selection and columns for 'Display Name', 'Common Name', and other details.

**Inactive Users**

**Description**  
Privileged users who have been inactive for the configured time period.

**Likelihood of compromise**  
The identified dormant privileged user accounts may belong to former employees or attackers and their passwords may or may not have expired. Since these are accounts with elevated privileges, they can get your network compromised and pave way to Golden Ticket, DCSync and DCSync attacks. They can also take up unwanted space in your database and make your Active Directory look cluttered.

**Remediation measures**  
Periodically review and assess your organization's user accounts and their statuses. Disable or delete them as per your organization's policy.

**Security frameworks**  
MITRE Attack  
• Credential Access  
• Privilege Escalation  
ANSI  
• Dormant Accounts

	Display Name	Common Name		
<input type="checkbox"/>	afasdfafasafasdfsdfasfsd	afasdfafasafasdfsdfasfsd		
<input type="checkbox"/>	ayyanar	ayyanar		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bea Abino	Bea Abino		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Daniel	Daniel Wright		
<input type="checkbox"/>	GroupTypeUser	GroupTypeUser		
<input type="checkbox"/>	sureshkumar	sureshkumar		
<input type="checkbox"/>	sysadmin	sysadmin		
<input type="checkbox"/>	test user01	test user01		
<input type="checkbox"/>	TestMsgUser01	TestMsgUser01	TestMsgUser01	TestM
<input type="checkbox"/>	TestTech01	TestTech01	TestTech01	Test
<input type="checkbox"/>	TestTech02	TestTech02	TestTech02	Test
<input type="checkbox"/>	TestTech03	TestTech03	testTech03	Test
<input type="checkbox"/>	TestTech04	TestTech04	testTech04	Test
<input type="checkbox"/>	TestTech10	TestTech10	TestTech10	Test
<input type="checkbox"/>	UserX	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

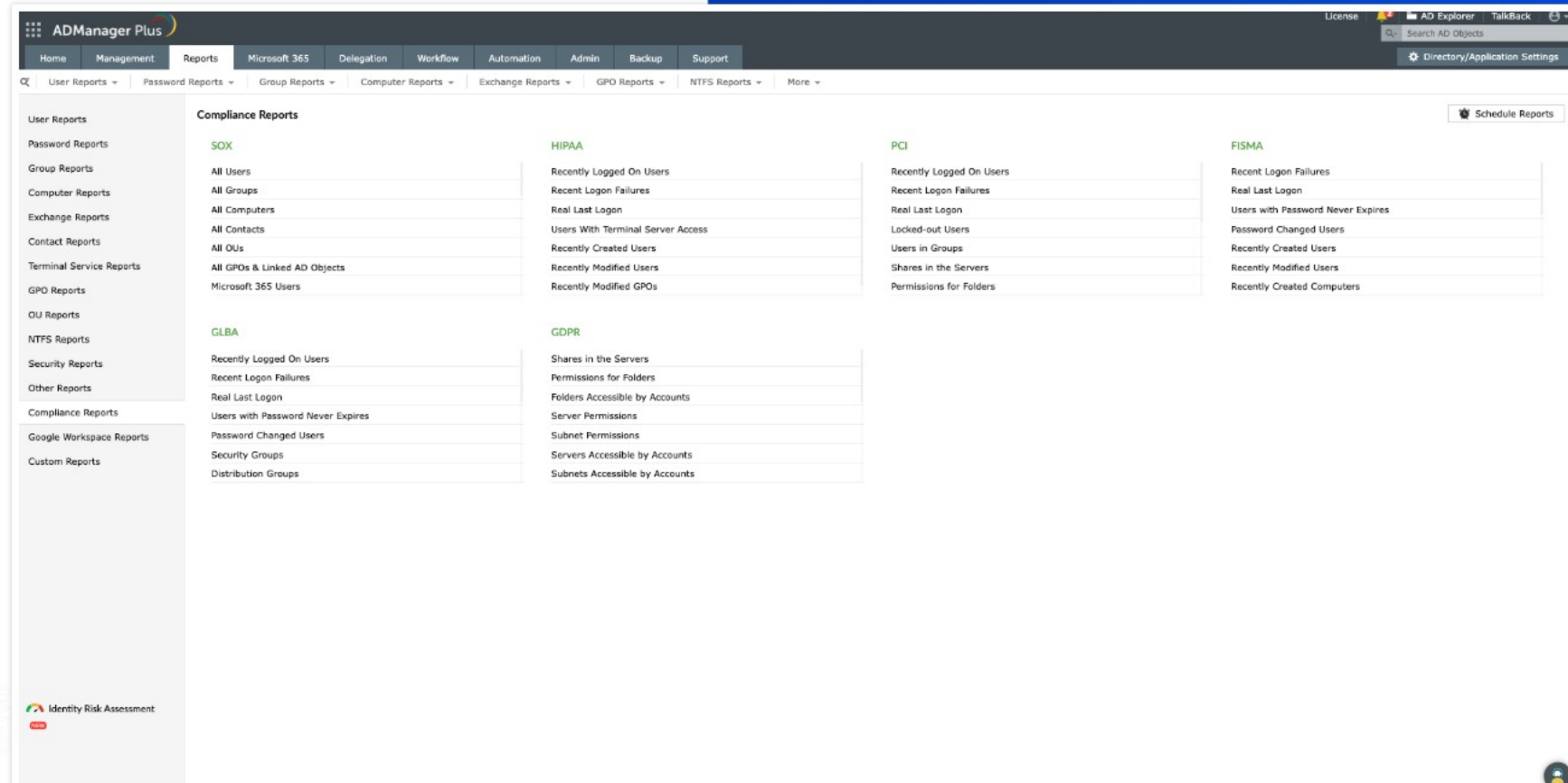
**Audit tracking:** Logs all user and administrative activities for accountability and security

**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)



## 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

ADManager Plus

Home Management Reports Microsoft 365 Delegation Workflow Automation Admin Backup Support

User Reports Password Reports Group Reports Computer Reports Exchange Reports GPO Reports NTFS Reports More

Recently Modified Users

Selected Domain: ☒ admanagerplus.com  
Selected OUs: All Add OUs

Select the desired time period: Last Month

Generated on: 2025-04-03 07:30:51

Generate Stop

View Type: Default View

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	-	-	-	-

« 1-1 of 1 » 25



## USE CASES

# 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

# GRC IN ACTION:

## 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 GRC 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)