

# Quest® Group Policy Manager

TAKE THE FEAR OUT OF GROUP POLICY

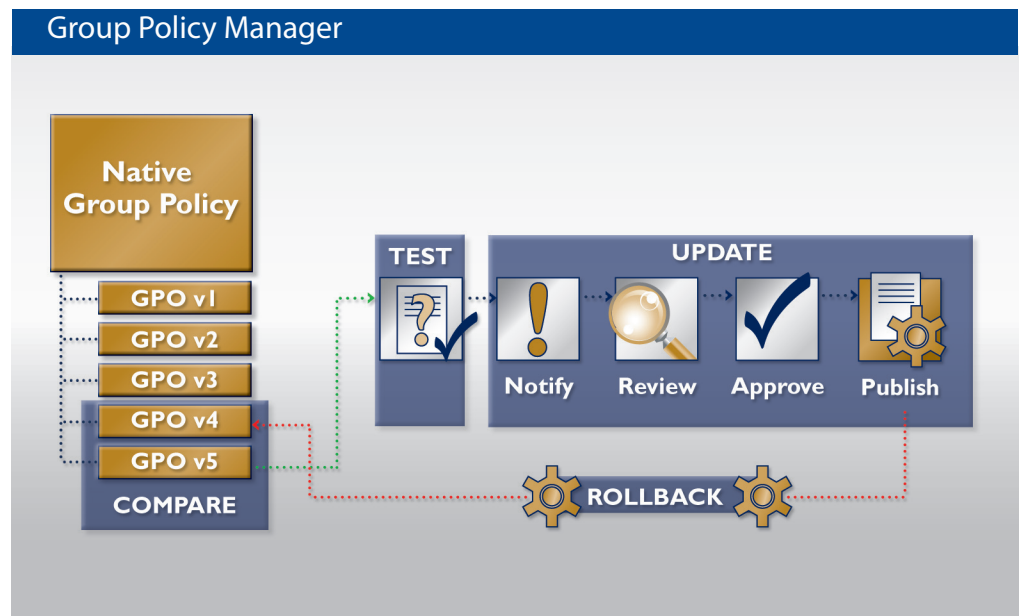
- Improves security by allowing GPOs to be implemented in a more controlled fashion
- Reduces risk of error, because GPO changes can be edited and tested offline and then approved before being implemented in the production system
- Speeds recovery from unexpected results of a GPO change, as the GPOs can be restored to any former state in seconds

Windows Group Policy is both powerful and complex. It provides many ways to secure and manage Windows resources. Unfortunately, its complexity often discourages enterprises from taking full advantage of its power. For example, unplanned effects of a Group Policy Object (GPO) change can prohibit groups of users from logging on, remove critical software applications, or expose system settings. So, rather than risk serious problems, organizations have had to minimize their use of Group Policy. Until now that is.

Quest® Group Policy Manager provides the solution you need to augment the native capabilities in Microsoft's Group Policy Management Console (GPMC) and take control of its' intricate technology. Group Policy Manager allows Active Directory administrators to extend the power of Group Policy for better security and more control of their IT infrastructure. Group Policy Manager allows you to test GPOs in the lab before implementing them into production. It also provides difference reporting, version control and archival, change notification and approval, and rapid rollback. Since compliance is at the forefront of IT challenges, the ability to effectively enforce corporate practices using Group Policy has become a crucial step in streamlining regulatory compliance.

## Reduce the Risk of Error

Group Policy Manager allows GPOs to be exported to a connected or disconnected test environment, where changes can be validated prior to their implementation into production. This ensures that administrator's can edit and test the GPO before it is implemented, so mistakes can be caught before it goes live.



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## Must be run on computers

### configured with:

- For a workstation, Windows XP platform (SP1 or higher); for a domain controller, Windows Server 2003 (Standard, Enterprise or Data center edition)
- MMC 2.0 or higher
- Microsoft .NET Framework 2.0
- Microsoft GPMC v1.0 or higher
- MDAC 2.6 or higher
- English locale settings only

## Runs in the following Active

### Directory configurations:

- Windows 2000, mixed or native mode
- Windows Server 2003, mixed or native mode
- Containing either:
  - clustered or non-clustered servers
  - one to many domain controllers
  - one to many domains
  - parent/child hierarchy
  - multiple roots
  - one to many sites

## Update Group Policy Objects Safely and Reliably

Group Policy Manager provides reliable GPO version control with editor, moderator, linker and approver roles. GPO editors can check out GPOs, edit and test them offline, and check them back in for review and approval. GPO approvers are notified of proposed changes, so they can reject or approve them, and then a member of the deployment group would then deploy all approved changes into the production environment. Linkers will only be delegated the rights to link GPOs, view GPO properties, generate basic reports, and run the GPO Export Wizard. Lastly, approver's will only be delegated the rights to approve or reject the pending GPO edits, view GPO properties, generate basic reports and run the GPO Export Wizard.

## Speed Recovery from Unplanned Change Results

Provide a way to quickly roll back GPO policy setting, links, security and WMI filter changes, in the event that a change has unexpected results.

## Protect System Security

Assist with regulatory compliance efforts by allowing administrator's to determine if a GPO policy setting, link, security and WMI filter has been changed outside the version control system. Changes from the last historical backup are easily detected by scheduling reports.

## Strengthen Infrastructure Investments

Leverage and complement native Microsoft technology, including GPMC, to strengthen infrastructure investments.

## Group Policy Manager features:

**Control Test:** Greatly reduces the number of incorrect or unapproved changes by giving administrators the ability to export GPOs to a test environment in order to validate changes. Once reviewed and approved, it can be rolled out to the production environment.

**Group Policy Objects Compare:** Provides historical reporting, which allows the tracking of changes made to GPOs over time. It also allows the comparison of different versions of GPOs.

**Safe Update:** Provides reliable GPO version control. GPO editors can check out GPOs, edit and test them offline, and check them back in for review and approval. GPO approvers are notified of proposed changes, so they can reject or approve them, then a member of the Deployment group would then deploy all approved changes into the production environment.

**Rapid Rollback:** Quickly revert back to a working GPO in the event that a GPO policy setting, link, security and WMI filter change has an undesired effect. In seconds, the environment can be running smoothly again.



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e-mail: info@quest.com  
Please refer to our Web site for  
international office information.



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