

Quest® Authentication Services

Group Policy for Mac

Powerful Active Directory-based Group Policy and Authentication for Mac Systems

Most complex heterogeneous enterprises include a growing number of Mac OS X systems. It is challenging for these organizations to manage and authenticate diverse systems without implementing additional dedicated infrastructure and platform-specific tools.

Quest Authentication Services extends the Active Directory infrastructure to Unix, Linux, and Mac platforms, as well as to many standards-based applications. This allows these platforms to participate as “full citizens” in Active Directory. Authentication Services enables heterogeneous organizations to get to one, i.e., one identity, one point of management, and one point of authentication for most non-Windows systems.

Quest now extends these features and more to Mac OS X. Authentication Services Group Policy for Mac provides powerful, intuitive and extensive Group Policy functionality for all Mac Workgroup Manager Policies and preferences. Authentication Services is based on an existing Active Directory installation—there is no need for additional directories, identities or schema extensions. This enables Mac OS X administrators to more easily manage their infrastructure and improve their service levels.

Active Directory Settings Extended to the Mac

Authentication Services also extends many powerful Windows identity and access management policies to the Mac environment for:

- Passwords
- Account lockout
- Kerberos
- User rights assignment
- Security options

Set Preferences and Policies, for multiple settings, including:

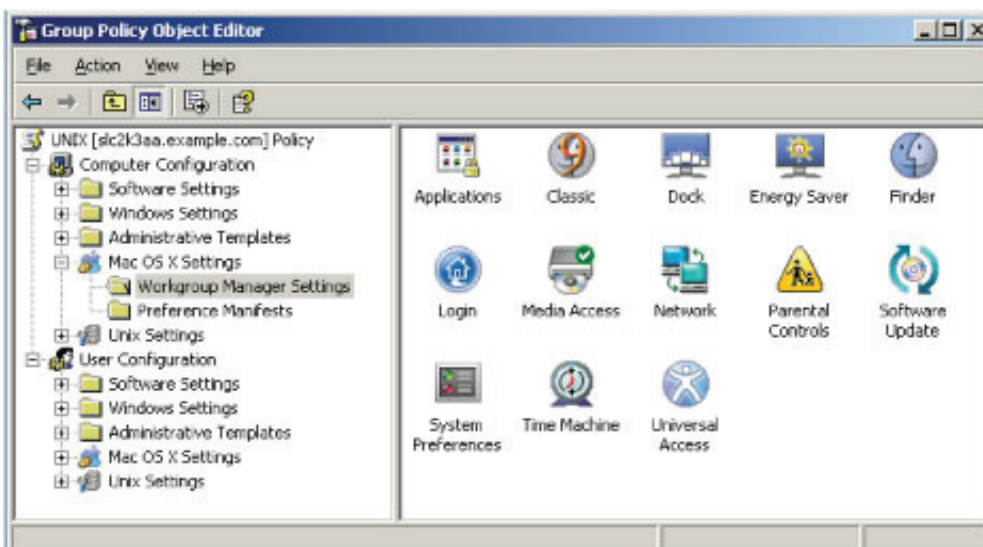
- Finder
- Media access
- Dock
- System preferences
- Login
- Application
- Classic
- Universal access
- Network
- Software
- Energy saver
- Mobility
- Parental control
- Time machine
- Preference manifests

Core Differentiators:

- The most complete set of Mac preferences and policies available
- An intuitive, purpose-built user interface
- Easily extended to manage third-party applications
- Active Directory integration for Apple’s managed client solution

Benefits:

- Manage the entire range of Mac OS X preferences and policies from Active Directory
- Extend Group Policy management to third-party applications
- Improve policy management with a purpose-built user interface
- Implement Mac Group Policy without additional infrastructure
- Authenticate Mac OS X systems with users’ Active Directory identities



Purpose-built User Interface

Authentication Services uses an intuitive and familiar Group Policy management interface that makes it easy to locate and manage Mac OS X settings and preferences from Active Directory.

Extend Group Policy Management to Third-party Applications

Apple's best practices recommend that third-party solutions for Mac applications include a Preference Manifest File that defines setting types and allowable values. Authentication Services Group Policy for Mac automatically interprets the Preference Manifest file and includes it in the user interface, providing a single point of Group Policy management from Active Directory.

Group Policy without Additional Infrastructure

Authentication Services Group Policy for Mac uses only the existing Active Directory infrastructure and an extension of the Group Policy Management Console to enable Group Policy on Mac. There is no need for an additional dedicated directory or proprietary console and interface.

Active Directory Authentication

Authentication Services natively implements Kerberos and LDAP on Unix, Linux, and Mac systems the same way they are in Windows. This provides Mac users a single, secure and compliant authentication tool for both Windows and Mac resources. Bringing Mac OS X into the Active Directory "trusted realm" immediately enables single sign on. A single log in on the Mac desktop provides access to all Mac resources, as well as any other integrated systems or applications, including Windows, SAP, Siebel, Oracle Databases and DB2.

Tying Apple's Managed Client Solution to Active Directory Group Policy

Authentication Services delivers Mac preferences and settings from Active Directory Group Policy directly to Apple Computer's managed client solution. This native integration allows existing Apple applications, such as the System Profiler, to see and display preference settings from Active Directory Group Policy.

About Quest Software, Inc.

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