Group policy comparison report.

User guide

Lepide

Contents

1   Introduction

Lepide Auditor now features a new Group Policy Comparison Report within the web console, designed to simplify the process of identifying differences between selected Group Policies across multiple domains. This report provides users with a clear, side-by-side comparison, whether the policies are from the same domain or different domains. By enabling users to efficiently track policy changes and ensure consistency, this new tool helps maintain control over group policy settings across the network. This guide outlines the steps to generate the Group Policy Comparison Report and leverage its features for enhanced policy management.

2   Verify the Group Policy Comparison Report

2.1   Verify the New Report

- Login to the **Web Console**

- Navigate to the **Auditor** tile

- Under the **Group Policy** tree node, confirm that **Group Policy Comparison** is available
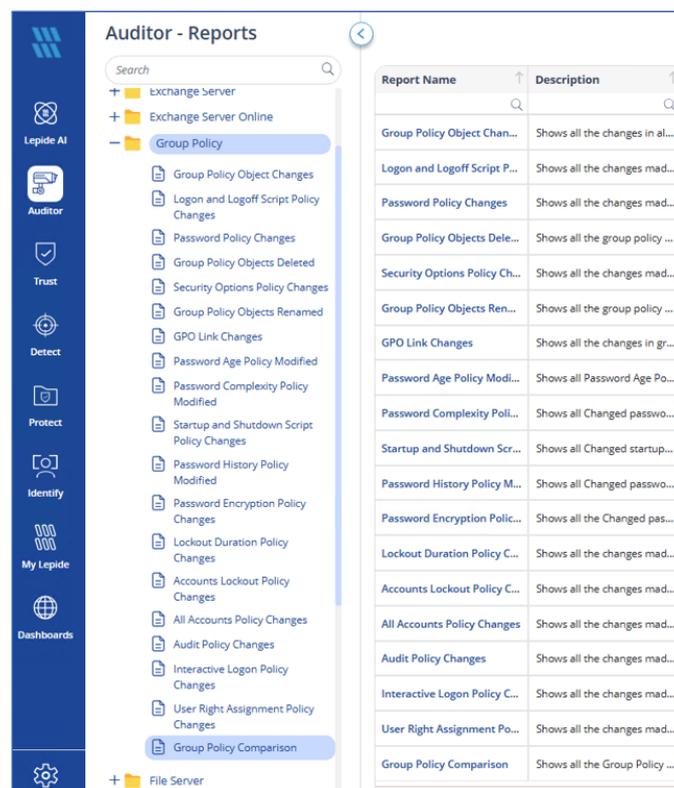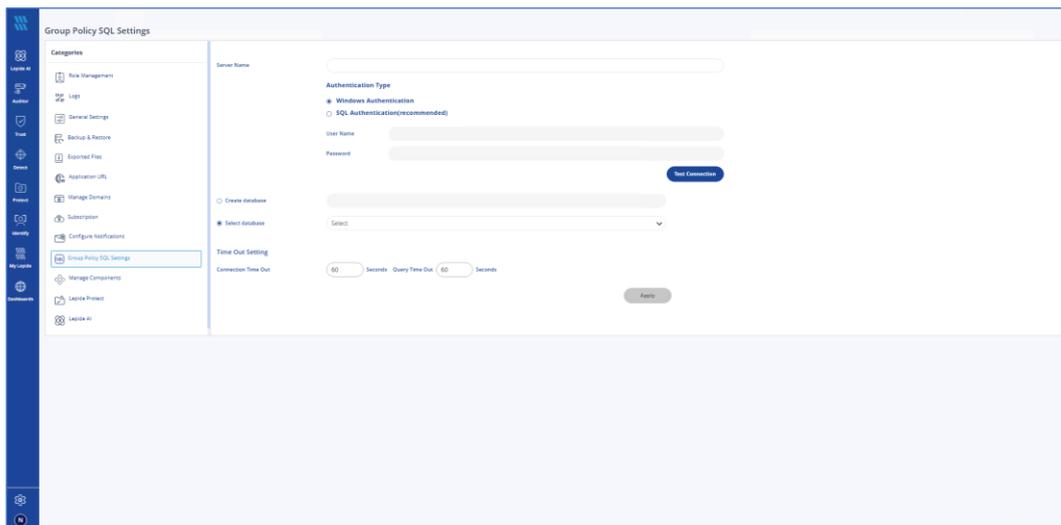

Figure 1: Confirm Group Policy Comparison Report

3   Configure Database for GPO Backup

3.1   Configure SQL Settings

- Go to the Settings section of the web console.

- Check and configure the SQL connection details for the **Group Policy SQL Settings** to ensure the report functions correctly.

Figure 2: Configure Database for GPO Backup

4   Backup Group Policy

Follow the steps below to enable a Group Policy backup in the Lepide console:

- Open the **Lepide Main Console**

- Click on **Settings**

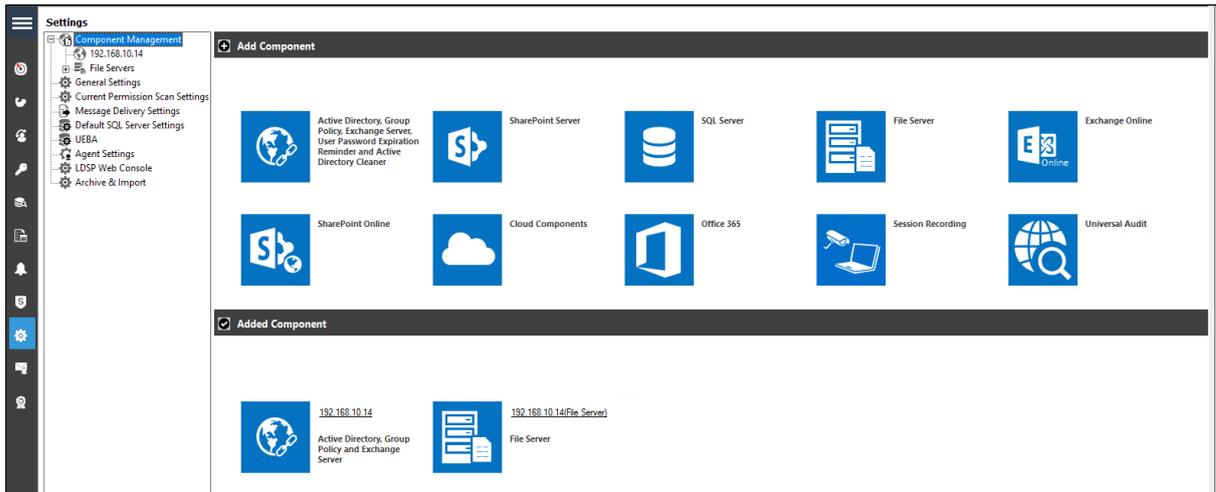- Select **Component Management** from the available options

Figure 3: Open the Component

- Click on Added Domain as shown above.

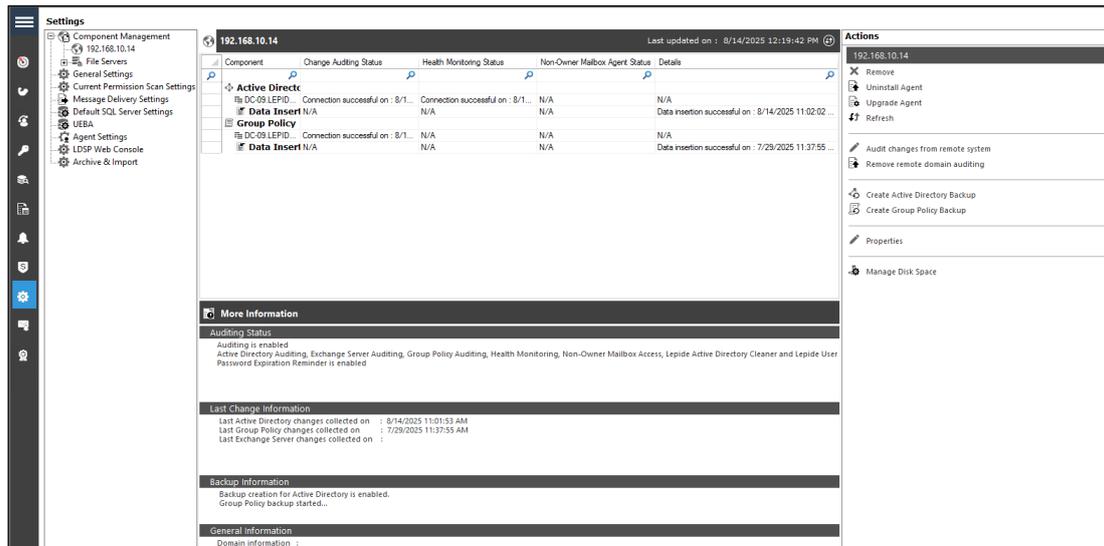- In the right-hand panel, click on **Create Group Policy Backup** as shown in the image below.

Figure 4: Create Group Policy Back Up
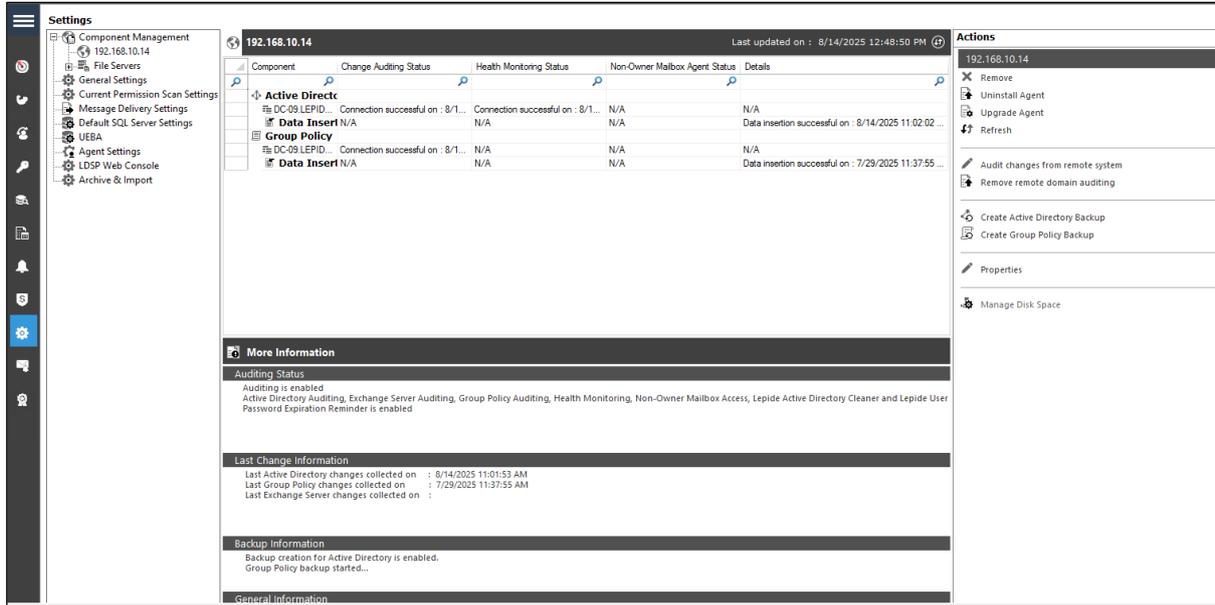
- Once clicked, the **Group Policy Backup** started.

Figure 6: Group Policy Backup Started

NOTE: Group Policy Backup can also be scheduled. Click on Properties from the left panel click on Advanced Domain Configuration. Then select Active Directory Backup and click the side icon beside ⚒. Backup Setting wizard will open. Select the backup timings to schedule Group Policy Backup.
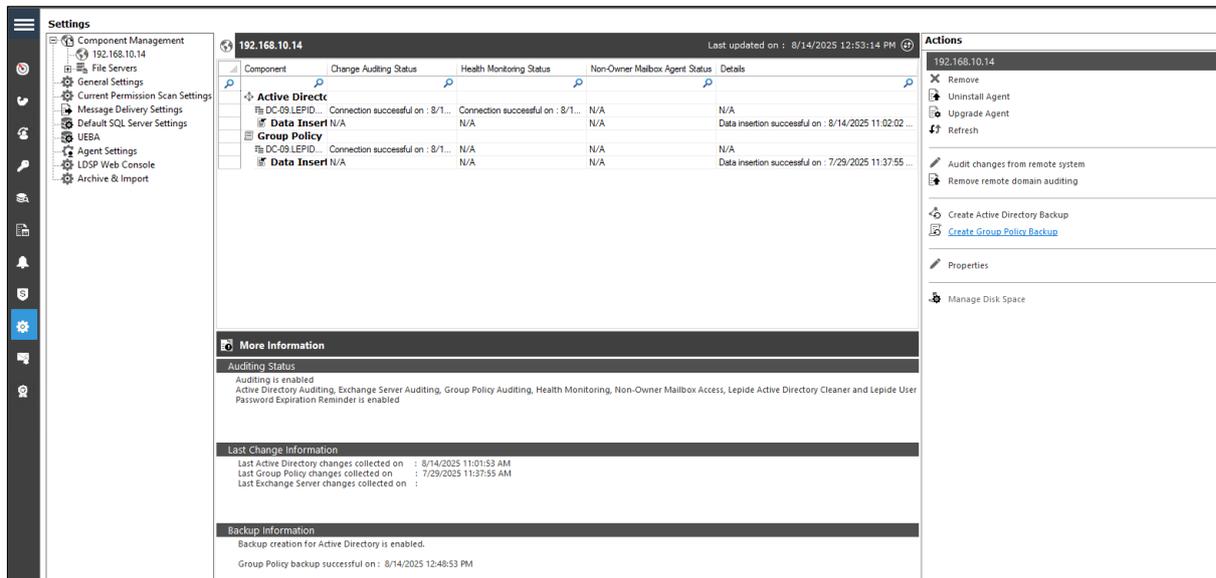

Figure 5: Group Policy Backup is Successful

- Group Policy Back up is successful

> **NOTE**: If you change the database from web console in SQL Configuration (Fig 2). Then you need take Group
> Policy Backups again following the above steps.
>
> If you change the default location of Group Policy backup, then you need again restart LepideDSPsvc
> service from task manager, then take Group Policy Backups again following the above steps.

Follow these steps to perform a Group Policy comparison and generate the report:
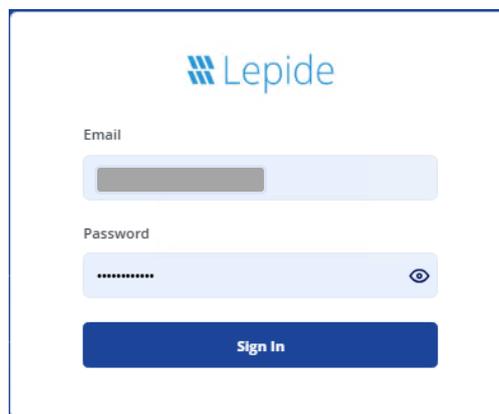
- Log in to the Lepide Web Console

Figure 7: Web Console Login

- Click on the **Auditor** tile.
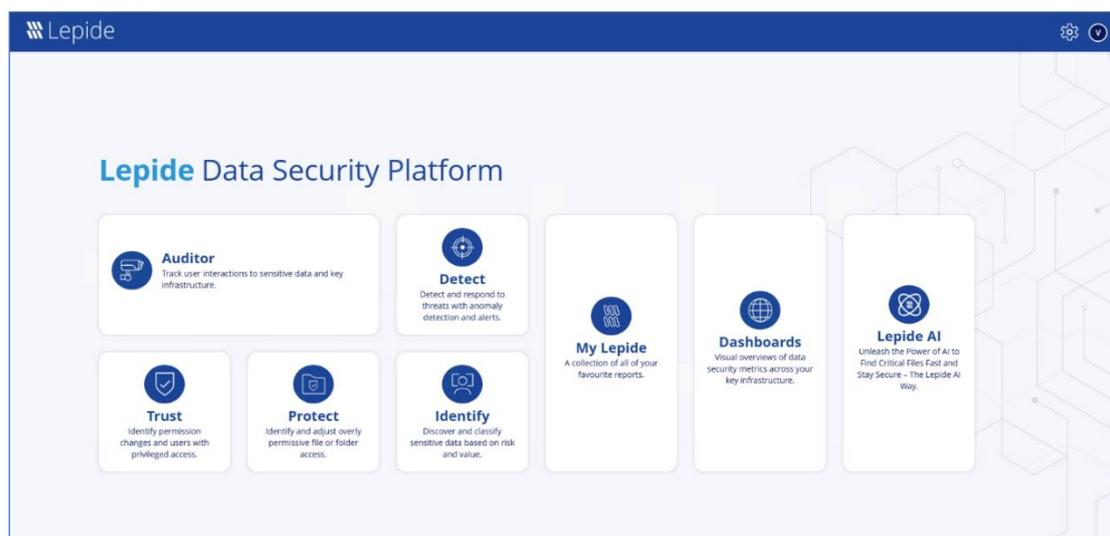
Figure 8: Web Console Homepage

- In the left-hand navigation pane:

- Expand the **Group Policy** node

- Click on **Group Policy Comparison Report**
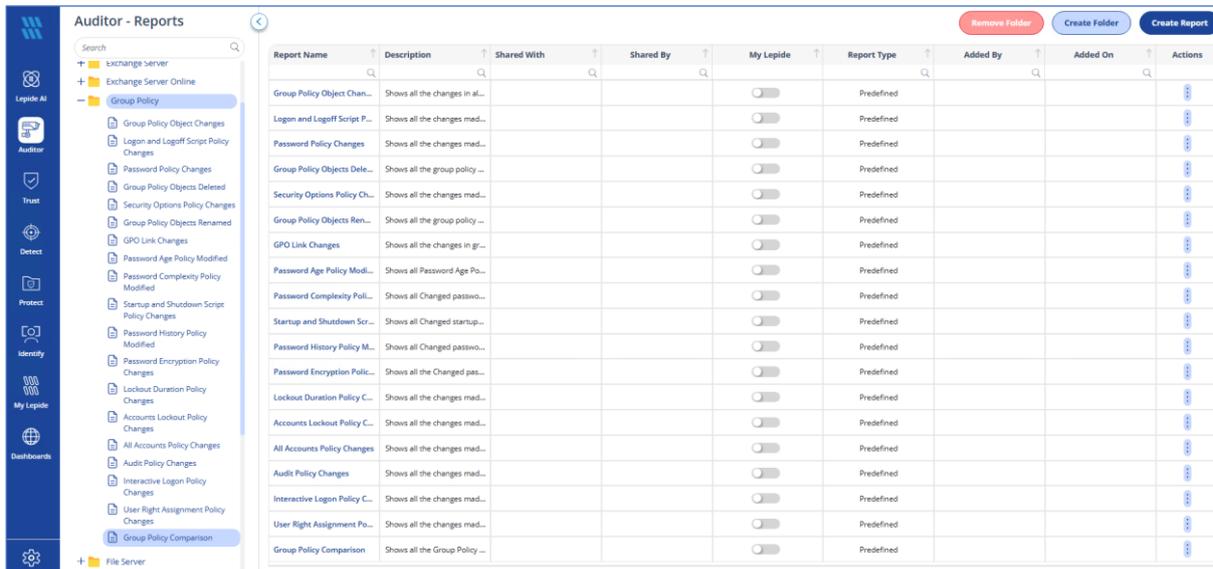
Figure 9: Group Policy Comparison Report

- Click on **Start Comparison**
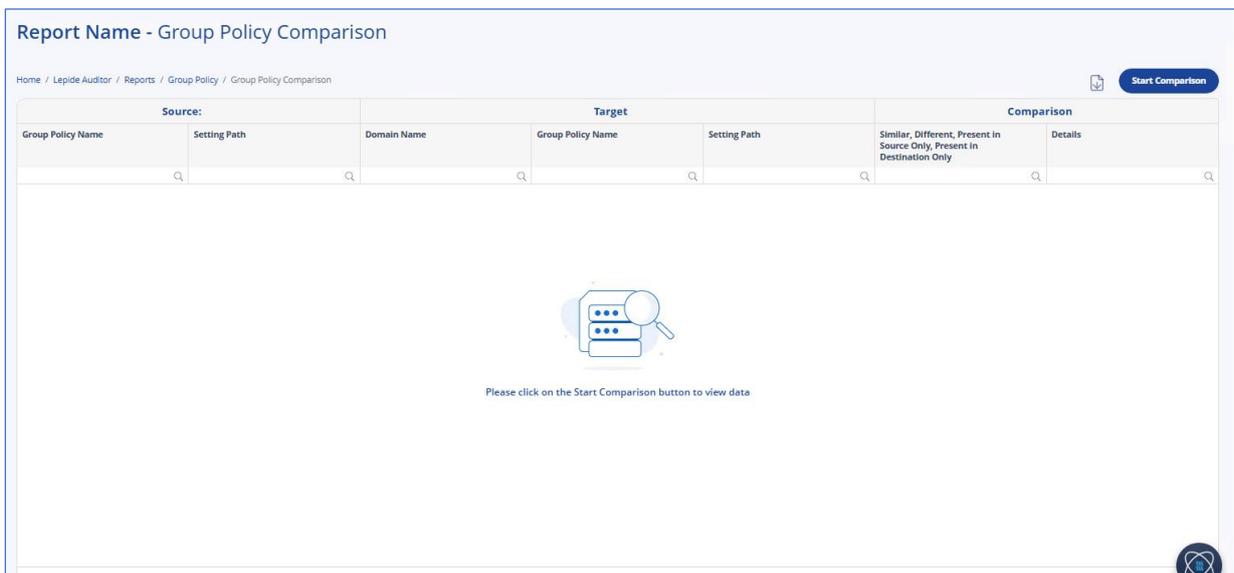
Figure 10: Group Policy Comparison Screen

- Select the Source Domain

In the **Source Selection Wizard**:

  – Choose the **Source Domain**

  – Select the **Group Policy Name**
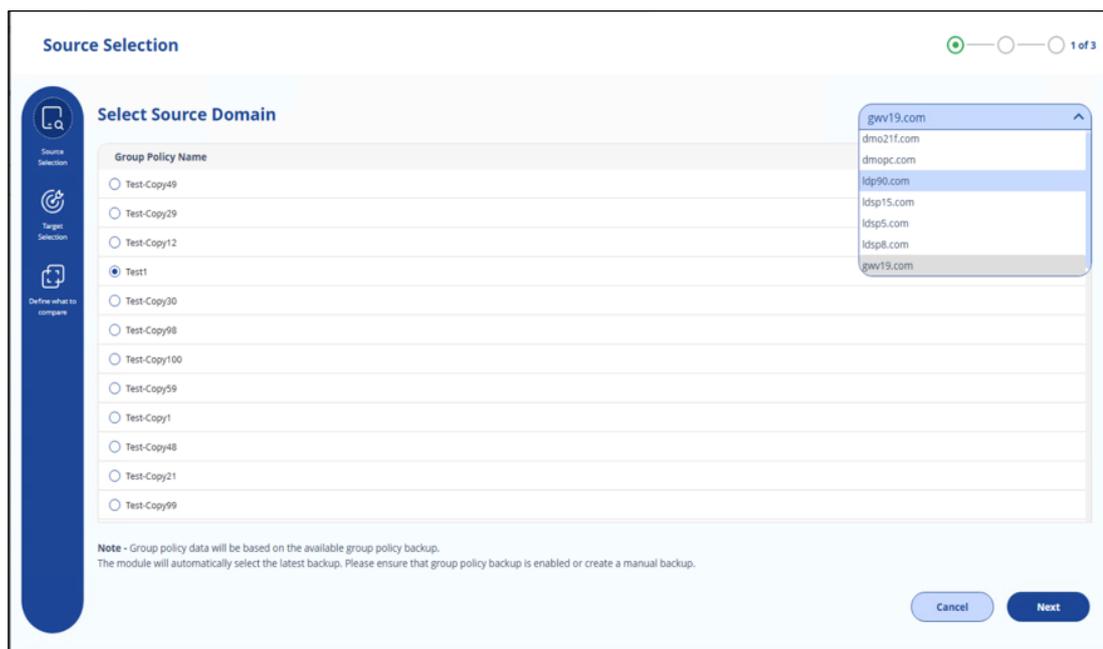
  – Click **Next**

Figure 11: Source and Domain Selection

- Target Selection

  – Expand and select the **Target Group Policy** to compare

  – Choose the group policy on which the comparison should be performed
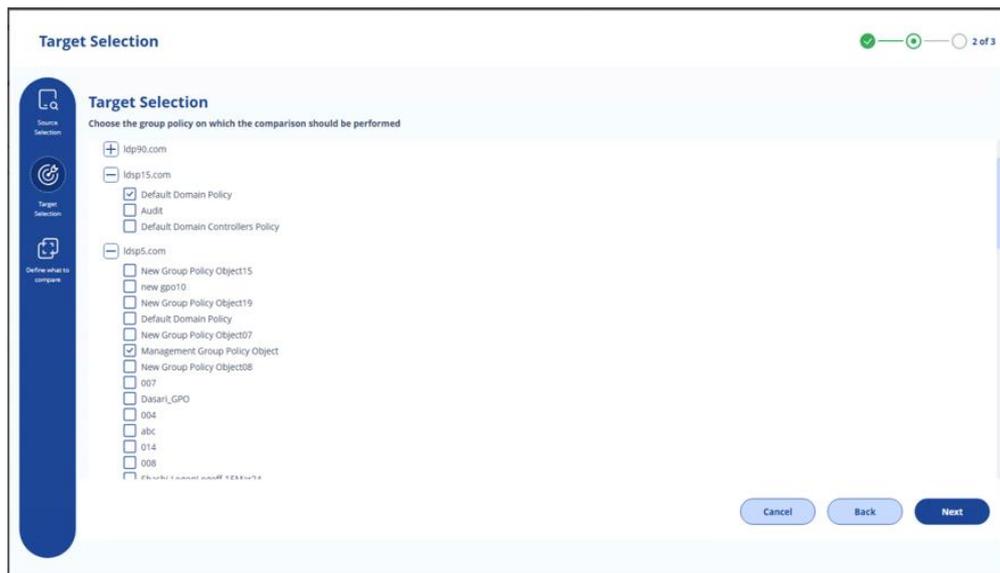
Figure 12: Target Selection

- Define the Comparison Criteria

- Choose one/multiple of the followings:

    − Similar Settings

    − Different Settings

    − Present in the source but missing in the destination

    − Present in the destination but missing in the source

- Click **Finish**.
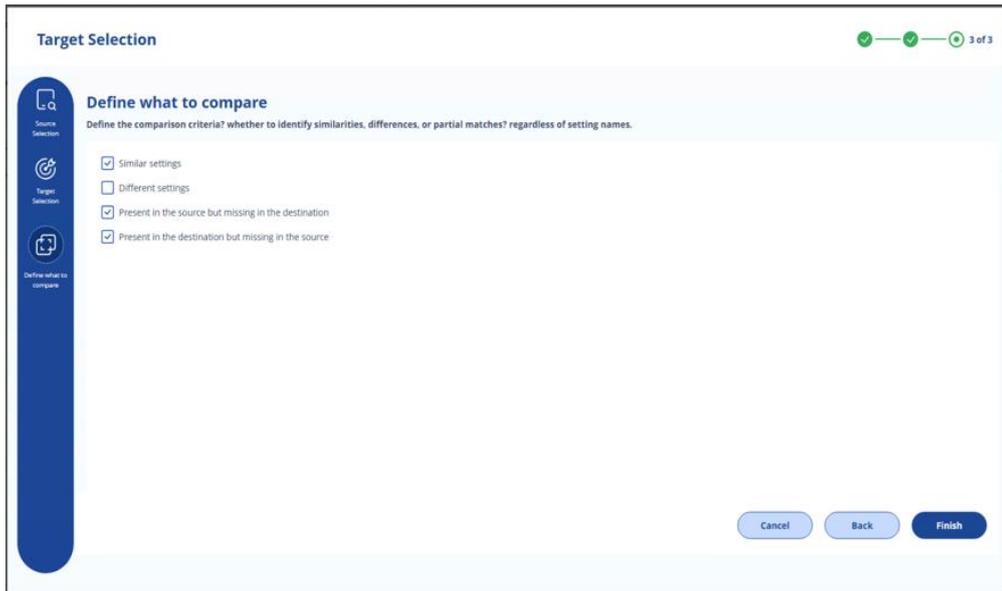
Figure 13: Define What to Compare

- The report will be displayed

Figure 13: Group Policy Comparison Report

6   Export the report in CSV file

- Click **Export** to save the report as a .CSV file.

Figure 15: Exporting the Report

Figure 14: CSV File is Exported

Now open the .CSV file to view the report.

Figure16: CSV View of the Report

7 Excluded Group Policy Objects Nodes

The following Group Policy Object (GPO) nodes are excluded from comparison because they contain **forcefully created settings or configurations that are unique to each environment**.

- Preferences, Windows Settings

    - No nodes will be shown,

- Windows Settings

    - Name Resolution Policy

    - Scripts Startup/Shutdown

    - Deployed Printers

- Windows Settings, Security Settings

    - Restricted Groups

    - Registry

    - File System

    - Wired Network (IEEE 802.3) Policies

- Windows Firewall with Advanced Security

- Network List Manager Policies

- Wireless Network (IEEE 802.11) Policies

- User Configuration → Preferences

- Policies

  – Software Settings

  – Windows Settings

- Policies, Windows Settings, Security Settings

  – Software Restriction Policies

  – Application Control Policies

> **NOTE:**   These exclusions ensure that comparison reports focus only on relevant, configurable GPO settings that have meaningful differences or similarities across environments.

8   Support

If you are facing any issues whilst installing, configuring, or using the solution, you can connect with our team using the contact information below.

Product Experts

USA/Canada: +1(0)-800-814-0578

UK/Europe: +44 (0) -208-099-5403

Rest of the World: +91 (0) -991-004-9028

Technical Gurus

USA/Canada: +1(0)-800-814-0578

UK/Europe: +44 (0) -208-099-5403

Rest of the World: +91(0)-991-085-4291

Alternatively, visit https://www.lepide.com/contactus.html to chat live with our team. You can also email your queries to the following addresses:

sales@Lepide.com

support@Lepide.com

To read more about the solution, visit https://www.lepide.com/data-security-platform/.

9   Trademarks

Lepide Data Security Platform, Lepide Data Security Platform App, Lepide Data Security Platform App Server, Lepide Data Security Platform (Web Console), Lepide Data Security Platform Logon/Logoff Audit Module, Lepide Data Security Platform for Active Directory, Lepide Data Security Platform for Group Policy Object, Lepide Data Security Platform for Exchange Server, Lepide Data Security Platform for SQL Server, Lepide Data Security Platform SharePoint, Lepide Object Restore Wizard, Lepide Active Directory Cleaner, Lepide User Password Expiration Reminder, and LiveFeed are registered trademarks of Lepide Software Pvt Ltd.

All other brand names, product names, logos, registered marks, service marks and trademarks (except above of Lepide Software Pvt. Ltd.) appearing in this document are the sole property of their respective owners. These are purely used for informational purposes only.

Microsoft®, Active Directory®, Group Policy Object®, Exchange Server®, Exchange Online®, SharePoint®, and SQL Server® are either registered trademarks or trademarks of Microsoft Corporation in the United States and/or other countries.

NetApp® is a trademark of NetApp, Inc., registered in the U.S. and/or other countries.