

Group policy comparison report.

User guide

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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

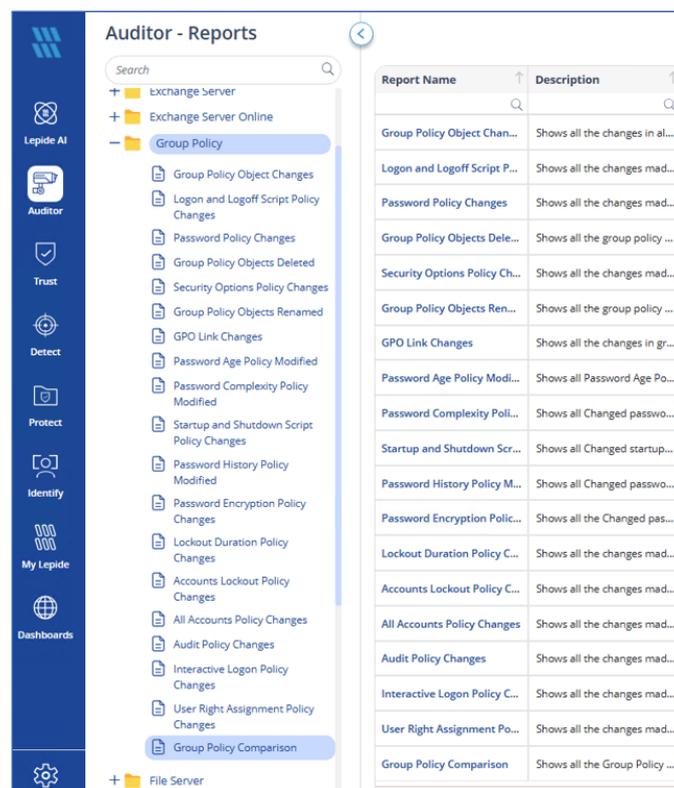
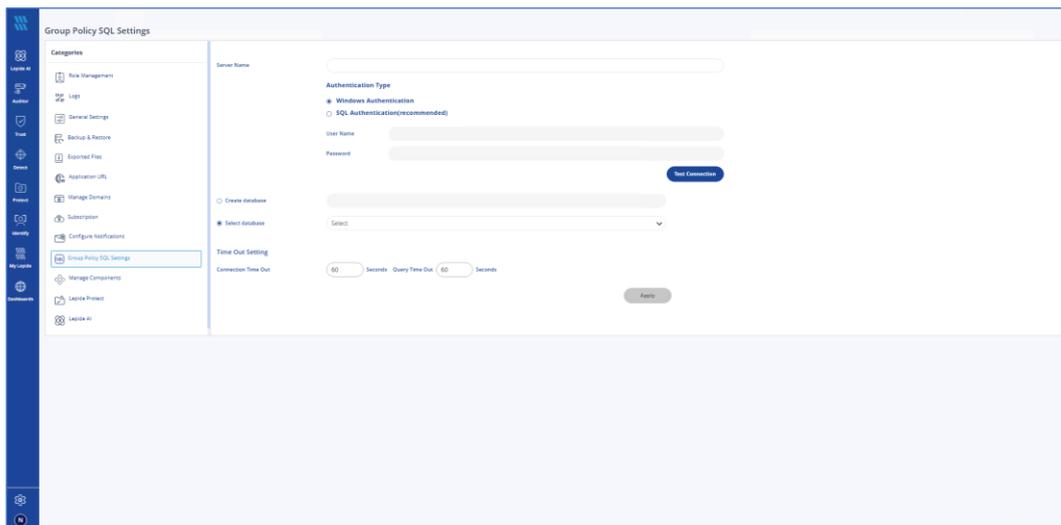


Figure 1: Confirm Group Policy Comparison Report

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.



The screenshot shows the 'Group Policy SQL Settings' configuration page. On the left is a navigation sidebar with categories like 'Risk Management', 'HSM', 'General Settings', 'Backup & Restore', 'Exposed Files', 'Application URL', 'Manage Domains', 'Subscription', 'Configure Notifications', 'Group Policy SQL Settings', 'Manage Components', 'Lepide Protect', and 'Mobile AI'. The 'Group Policy SQL Settings' option is selected. The main content area contains the following fields and controls:

- Server Name:** A text input field.
- Authentication Type:** Two radio buttons: 'Windows Authentication' (selected) and 'SQL Authentication (recommended)'. Below this are 'User Name' and 'Password' text input fields.
- Test Connection:** A blue button.
- Create database:** A radio button.
- Select database:** A dropdown menu with 'Select' as the current value.
- Time Out Setting:** A section with 'Connection Time Out' and 'Query Time Out' fields, each with a numeric input (set to 60) and a 'Seconds' label.
- Apply:** A grey button at the bottom right.

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

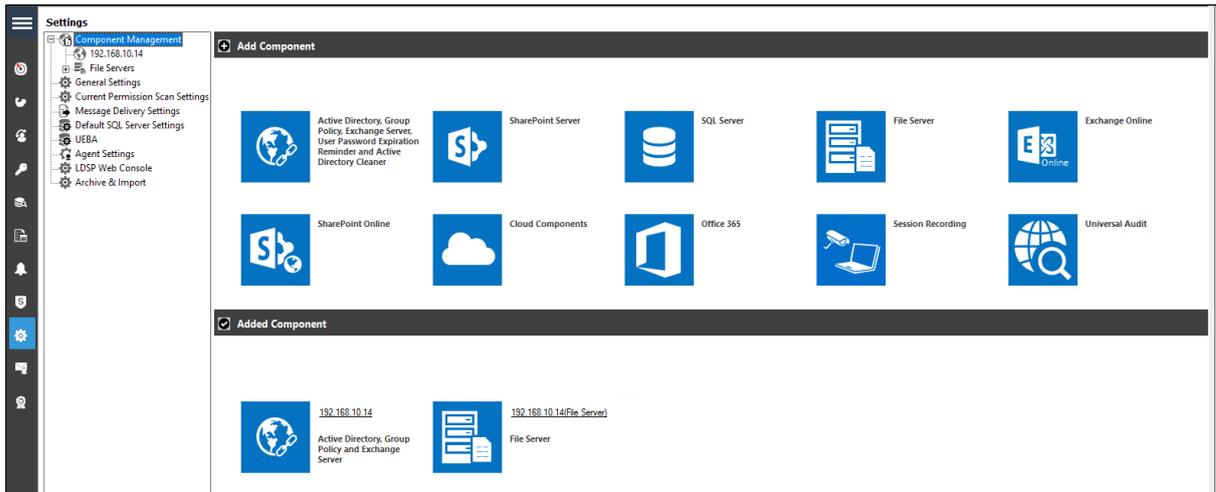


Figure 3: Open the Component

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

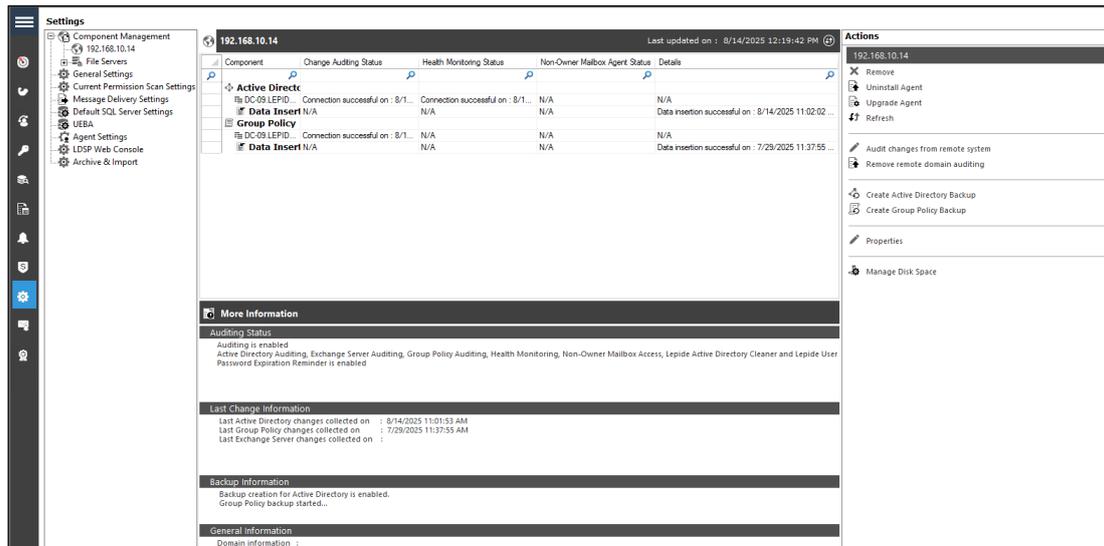


Figure 4: Create Group Policy Back Up

- Once clicked, the **Group Policy Backup** started.

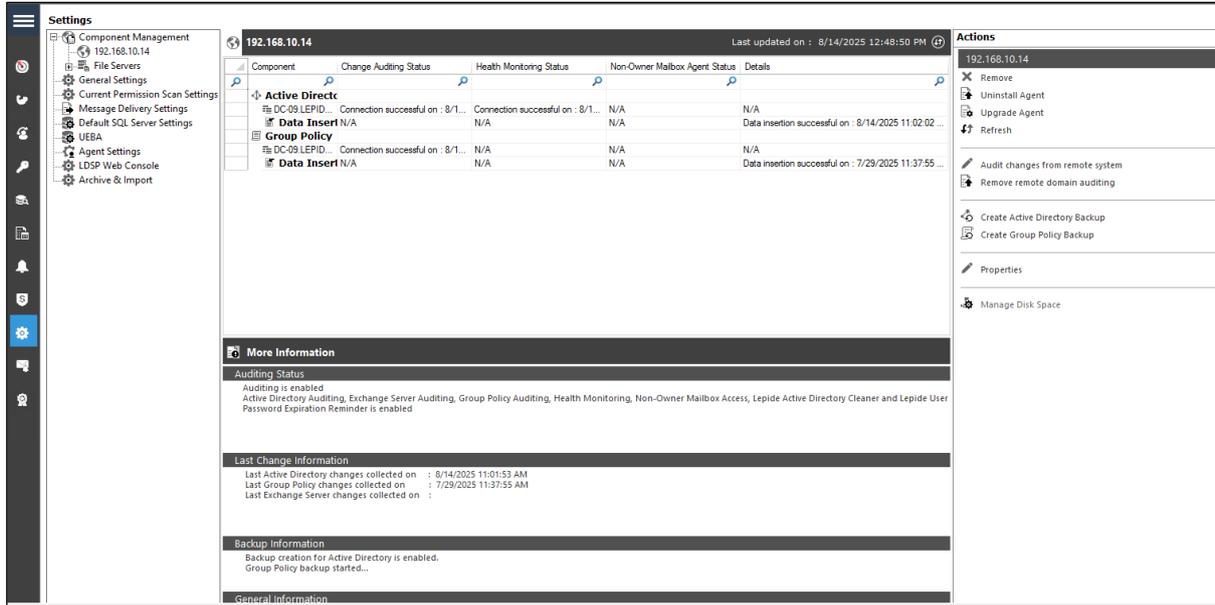


Figure 6: Group Policy Backup Started

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.

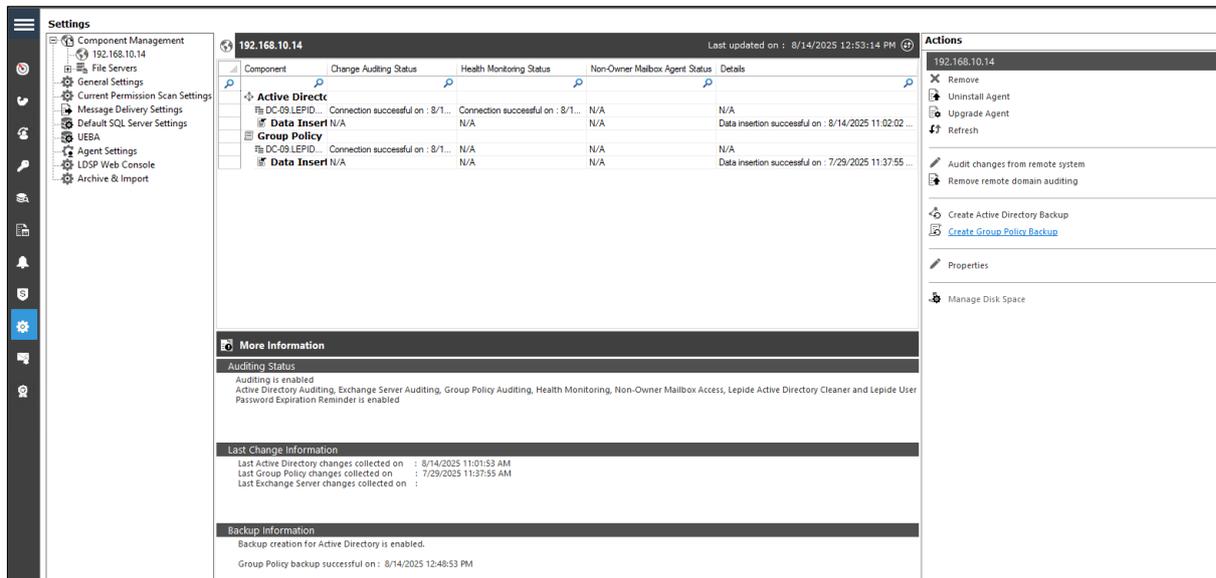


Figure 5: Group Policy Backup is Successful

- 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

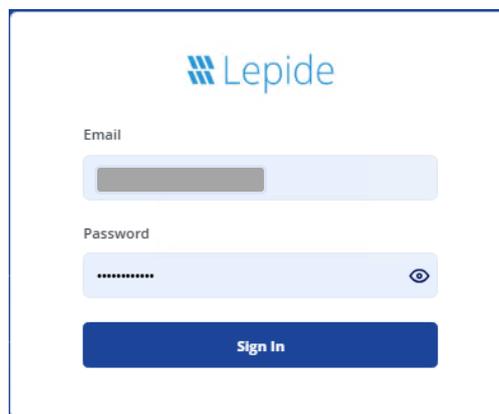


Figure 7: Web Console Login

- Click on the **Auditor** tile.

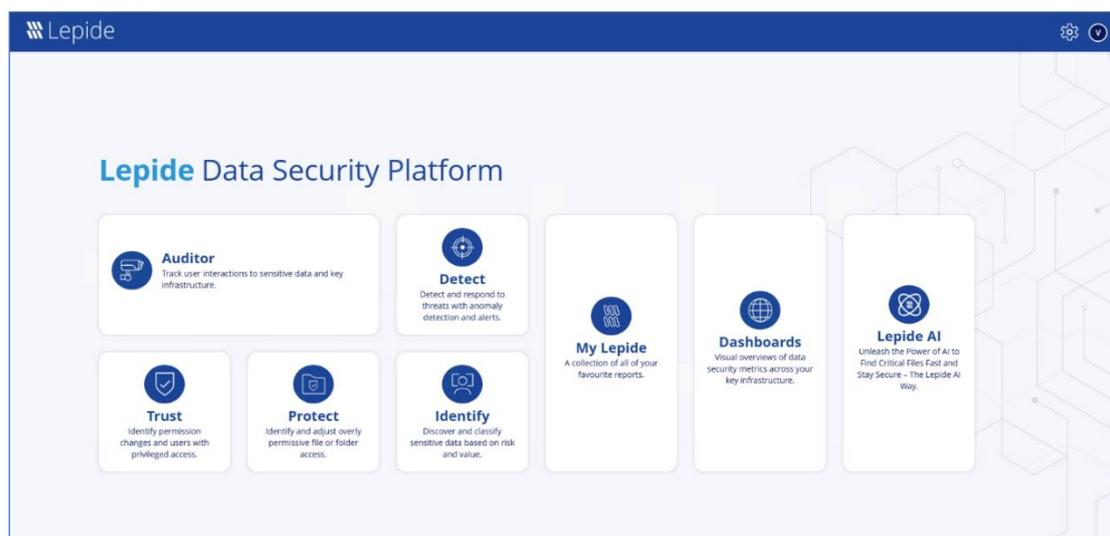


Figure 8: Web Console Homepage

- In the left-hand navigation pane:

- Expand the **Group Policy** node
- Click on **Group Policy Comparison Report**

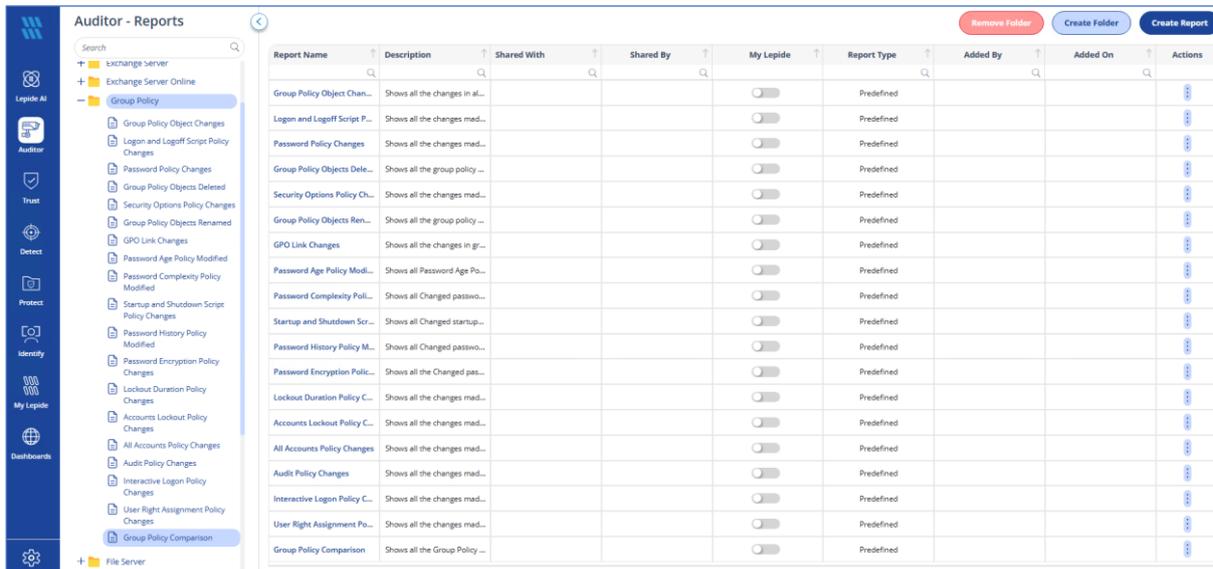


Figure 9: Group Policy Comparison Report

- Click on **Start Comparison**

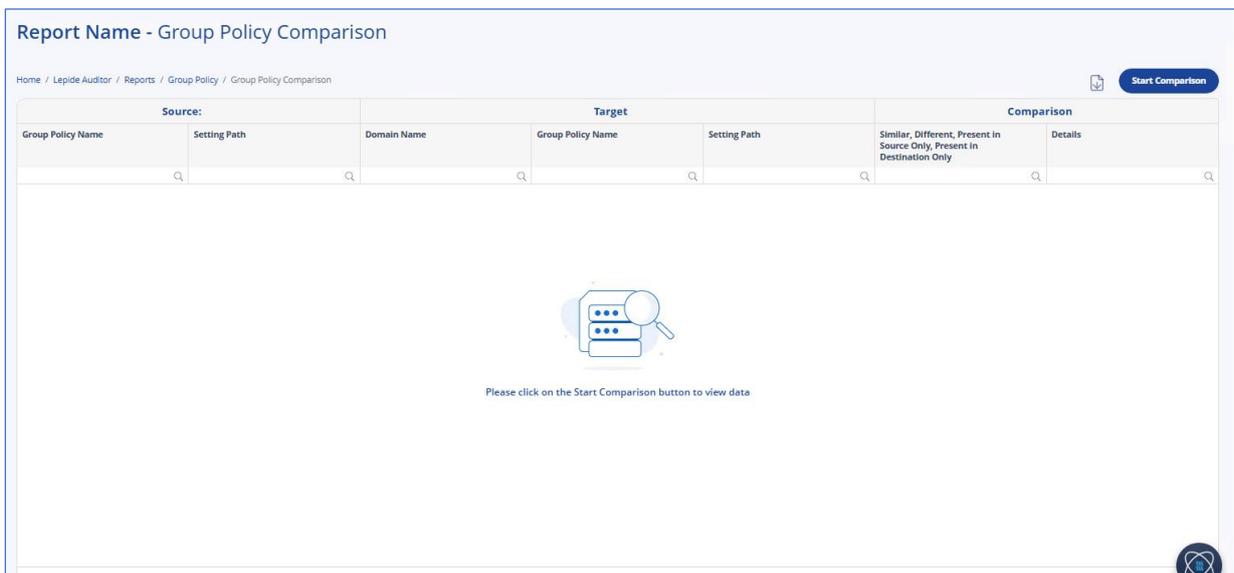


Figure 10: Group Policy Comparison Screen

- Select the Source Domain

In the **Source Selection Wizard**:

- Choose the **Source Domain**
- Select the **Group Policy Name**
- Click **Next**

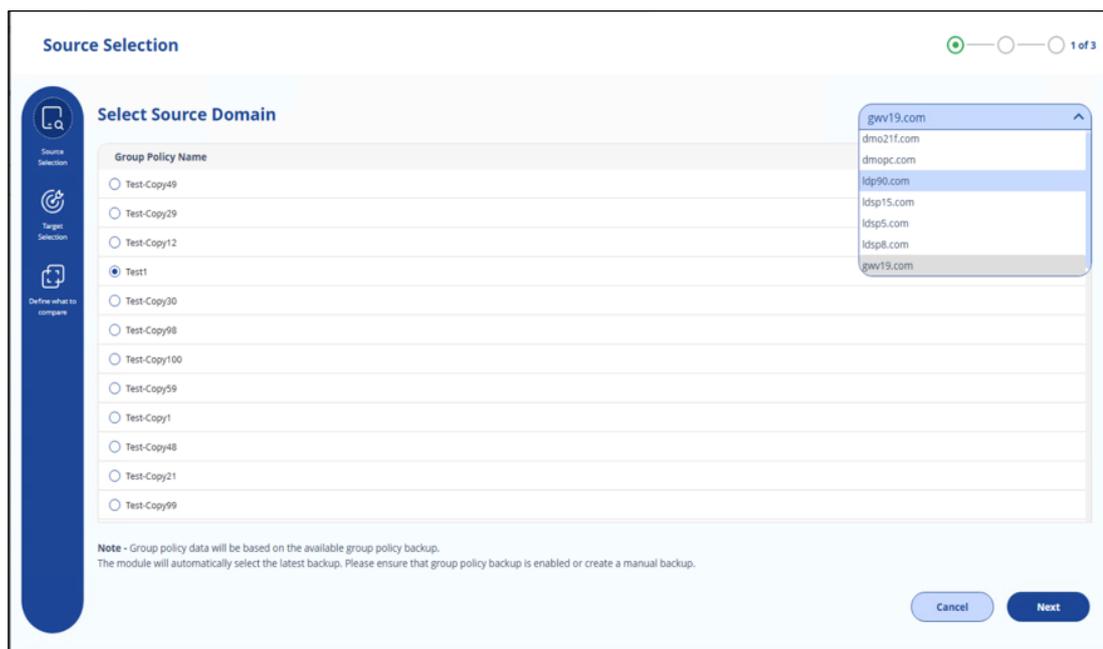


Figure 11: Source and Domain Selection

- Target Selection
 - Expand and select the **Target Group Policy** to compare
 - Choose the group policy on which the comparison should be performed

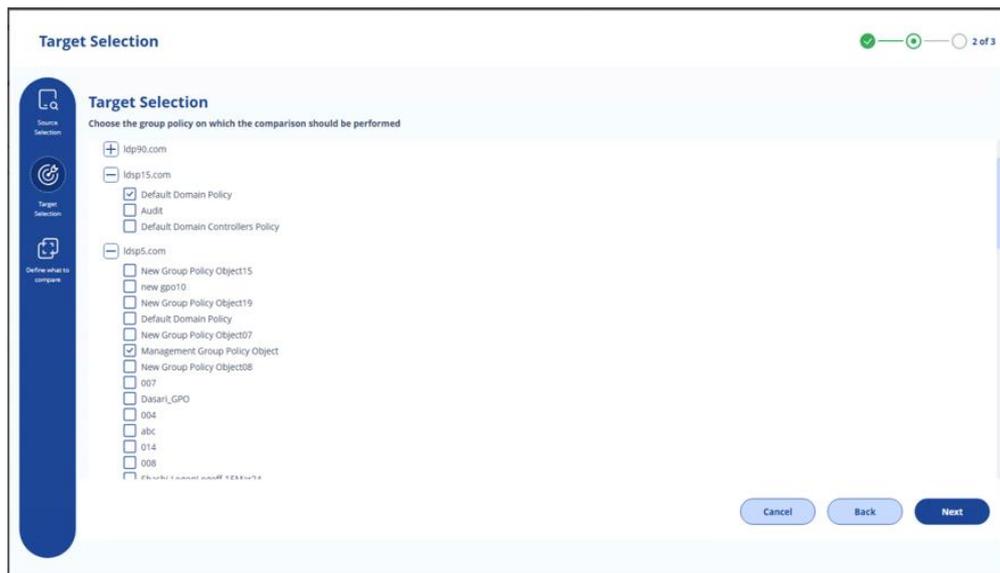


Figure 12: Target Selection

- 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**.

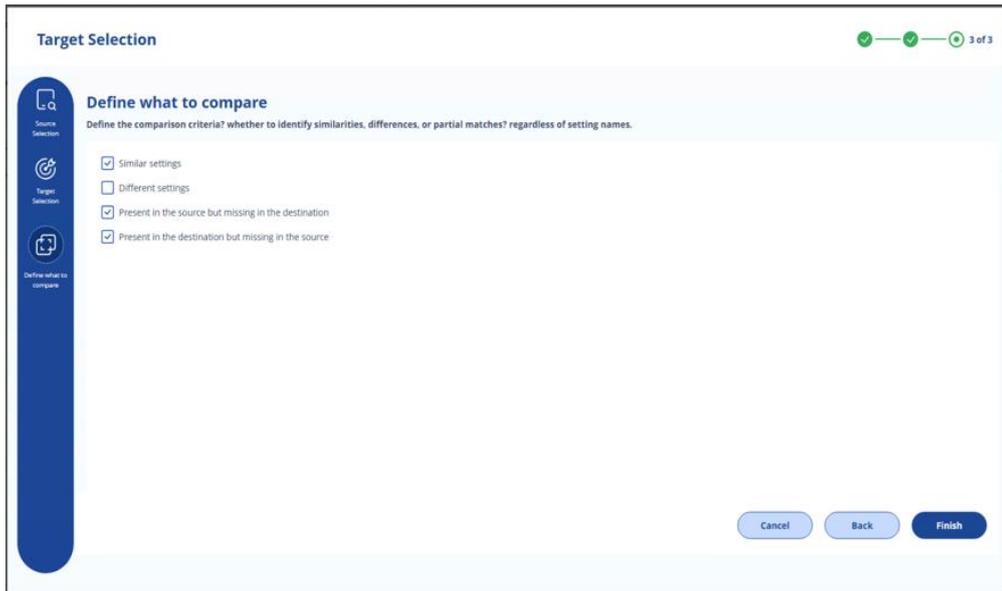


Figure 13: Define What to Compare

- The report will be displayed

Report Name - Group Policy Comparison

Filters : Similar settings, Different settings, Present in the source but missing in the destination, Present in the destination but missing in the source

Home / Lepide Auditor / Reports / Group Policy / Group Policy Comparison

Start Comparison

Source: gwv19.com			Target		Comparison	
Group Policy Name	Setting Path	Domain Name	Group Policy Name	Setting Path	Similar, Different, Present in Source Only, Present in Destination Only	Details
Test1	Computer Configuration\Policies\W...	ldsp15.com	Default Domain Policy	Computer Configuration\Policies\W...	Similar	Store passwords using reversible enc...
Test1	Computer Configuration\Policies\W...	ldsp15.com	Default Domain Policy	Computer Configuration\Policies\W...	Similar	Maximum password age: 42
Test1	Computer Configuration\Policies\W...	ldsp15.com	Default Domain Policy	Computer Configuration\Policies\W...	Different	Source: Minimum password age: 30 Destination: Minimum password age:...
Test1	Computer Configuration\Policies\W...	ldsp15.com	Default Domain Policy	Computer Configuration\Policies\W...	Different	Source: Enforce password history: 0 Destination: Enforce password histor...
Test1	Computer Configuration\Policies\W...	ldsp15.com	Default Domain Policy	N/A	Present in Source Only	Minimum password length audit: Dis...
Test1	Computer Configuration\Policies\W...	ldsp15.com	Default Domain Policy	N/A	Present in Source Only	Audit Credential Validation: Success...
Test1	Computer Configuration\Policies\W...	ldsp15.com	Default Domain Policy	N/A	Present in Source Only	Audit Kerberos Authentication Servic...
Test1	Computer Configuration\Policies\W...	ldsp15.com	Default Domain Policy	N/A	Present in Source Only	Audit Kerberos Service Ticket Operat...
Test1	Computer Configuration\Policies\W...	ldsp15.com	Default Domain Policy	N/A	Present in Source Only	Audit Other Account Logon Events: S...
Test1	Computer Configuration\Policies\W...	ldsp15.com	Default Domain Policy	N/A	Present in Source Only	Audit Application Group Managemen...
Test1	Computer Configuration\Policies\W...	ldsp15.com	Default Domain Policy	N/A	Present in Source Only	Audit Computer Account Managemen...
Test1	Computer Configuration\Policies\W...	ldsp15.com	Default Domain Policy	N/A	Present in Source Only	Audit Distribution Group Managemen...
Test1	Computer Configuration\Policies\W...	ldsp15.com	Default Domain Policy	N/A	Present in Source Only	Audit Other Account Management Ev...
Test1	Computer Configuration\Policies\W...	ldsp15.com	Default Domain Policy	N/A	Present in Source Only	Audit Security Group Management: S...
Test1	Computer Configuration\Policies\W...	ldsp15.com	Default Domain Policy	N/A	Present in Source Only	Audit User Account Management: Su...
Test1	Computer Configuration\Policies\W...	ldsp15.com	Default Domain Policy	N/A	Present in Source Only	Audit DPAP Activity: Success, Fail...

Total Records - 54 First Previous 1 / 2 Next Last 50 / Page

Figure 13: Group Policy Comparison Report

6 Export the report in CSV file

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

Report Name - Group Policy Comparison

Filters : Similar settings, Different settings, Present in the source but missing in the destination, Present in the destination but missing in the source

Home / Lepide Auditor / Reports / Group Policy / Group Policy Comparison

Source: gwv19.com			Target		Comparison	Details
Group Policy Name	Setting Path	Domain Name	Group Policy Name	Setting Path	Similar, Different, Present in Source Only, Present in Destination Only	
Test1	Computer Configuration\Policies\W...	ldsp15.com	Default Domain Policy	Computer Configuration\Policies\W...	Similar	Store passwords using reversible enc...
Test1	Computer Configuration\Policies\W...	ldsp15.com	Default Domain Policy	Computer Configuration\Policies\W...	Similar	Maximum password age: 42
Test1	Computer Configuration\Policies\W...	ldsp15.com	Default Domain Policy	Computer Configuration\Policies\W...	Different	Source: Minimum password age: 30 Destination: Minimum password age: ...
Test1	Computer Configuration\Policies\W...	ldsp15.com	Default Domain Policy	Computer Configuration\Policies\W...	Different	Source: Enforce password history: 0 Destination: Enforce password histor...
Test1	Computer Configuration\Policies\W...	ldsp15.com	Default Domain Policy	N/A	Present in Source Only	Minimum password length audit: Dis...
Test1	Computer Configuration\Policies\W...	ldsp15.com	Default Domain Policy	N/A	Present in Source Only	Audit Credential Validation: Success...
Test1	Computer Configuration\Policies\W...	ldsp15.com	Default Domain Policy	N/A	Present in Source Only	Audit Kerberos Authentication Servic...
Test1	Computer Configuration\Policies\W...	ldsp15.com	Default Domain Policy	N/A	Present in Source Only	Audit Kerberos Service Ticket Operat...
Test1	Computer Configuration\Policies\W...	ldsp15.com	Default Domain Policy	N/A	Present in Source Only	Audit Other Account Logon Events: S...
Test1	Computer Configuration\Policies\W...	ldsp15.com	Default Domain Policy	N/A	Present in Source Only	Audit Application Group Managemen...
Test1	Computer Configuration\Policies\W...	ldsp15.com	Default Domain Policy	N/A	Present in Source Only	Audit Computer Account Managemen...
Test1	Computer Configuration\Policies\W...	ldsp15.com	Default Domain Policy	N/A	Present in Source Only	Audit Distribution Group Managemen...
Test1	Computer Configuration\Policies\W...	ldsp15.com	Default Domain Policy	N/A	Present in Source Only	Audit Other Account Management Ev...
Test1	Computer Configuration\Policies\W...	ldsp15.com	Default Domain Policy	N/A	Present in Source Only	Audit Security Group Management: S...
Test1	Computer Configuration\Policies\W...	ldsp15.com	Default Domain Policy	N/A	Present in Source Only	Audit User Account Management: Su...
Test1	Computer Configuration\Policies\W...	ldsp15.com	Default Domain Policy	N/A	Present in Source Only	Audit DPAPI Activity: Success, Fail...

Total Records - 54 First Previous 1 / 2 Next Last 50 / Page

Figure 15: Exporting the Report

This PC > Downloads

Name	Date modified	Type	Size
Earlier this month (1)			
Group Policy Comparison_02-09-2025-16-26-15_78.csv	9/2/2025 4:26 PM	Microsoft Excel C...	237 KB

Figure 14: CSV File is Exported

Now open the .CSV file to view the report.

Group Policy Name	Source	Target	Comparison
Default Domain Policy	Computer Configuration\Pc lepidedemo22.com AuditGPO	N/A	Present in Do not allow Clipboard redirection: Enabled
Default Domain Policy	Computer Configuration\Pc lepidedemo22.com AuditGPO	N/A	Present in Do not allow COM port redirection: Enabled
Default Domain Policy	Computer Configuration\Pc lepidedemo22.com AuditGPO	N/A	Present in Do not allow drive redirection: Enabled
Default Domain Policy	Computer Configuration\Pc lepidedemo22.com AuditGPO	N/A	Present in Do not allow LPT port redirection: Enabled
Default Domain Policy	Computer Configuration\Pc lepidedemo22.com AuditGPO	N/A	Present in Do not allow smart card device redirection: Enabled
Default Domain Policy	Computer Configuration\Pc lepidedemo22.com AuditGPO	N/A	Present in Do not allow supported Plug and Play device redirection: Enabled
Default Domain Policy	Computer Configuration\Pc lepidedemo22.com AuditGPO	N/A	Present in Store passwords using reversible encryption: false
Default Domain Policy	Computer Configuration\Pc lepidedemo22.com AuditGPO	N/A	Present in Account lockout threshold: 5
Default Domain Policy	Computer Configuration\Pc lepidedemo22.com AuditGPO	N/A	Present in Account lockout duration: 30
Default Domain Policy	Computer Configuration\Pc lepidedemo22.com AuditGPO	N/A	Present in Maximum password age: 42
Default Domain Policy	Computer Configuration\Pc lepidedemo22.com AuditGPO	N/A	Present in Minimum password age: 1
Default Domain Policy	Computer Configuration\Pc lepidedemo22.com AuditGPO	N/A	Present in Minimum password length: 7
Default Domain Policy	Computer Configuration\Pc lepidedemo22.com AuditGPO	N/A	Present in Password must meet complexity requirements: true
Default Domain Policy	Computer Configuration\Pc lepidedemo22.com AuditGPO	N/A	Present in Enforce password history: 24
Default Domain Policy	Computer Configuration\Pc lepidedemo22.com AuditGPO	N/A	Present in Reset account lockout counter after: 30
Default Domain Policy	Computer Configuration\Pc lepidedemo22.com AuditGPO	N/A	Present in Maximum tolerance for computer clock synchronization: 5
Default Domain Policy	Computer Configuration\Pc lepidedemo22.com AuditGPO	N/A	Present in Maximum lifetime for user ticket renewal: 7
Default Domain Policy	Computer Configuration\Pc lepidedemo22.com AuditGPO	N/A	Present in Maximum lifetime for service ticket: 600
Default Domain Policy	Computer Configuration\Pc lepidedemo22.com AuditGPO	N/A	Present in Maximum lifetime for user ticket: 10
Default Domain Policy	Computer Configuration\Pc lepidedemo22.com AuditGPO	N/A	Present in Enforce user logon restrictions: true

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

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/>.

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

9 Trademarks

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