LepideAuditor

Enable Auditing Manually
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1. Introduction

Welcome to the “Enable Auditing Manually” guide created for LepideAuditor. This solution provides a comprehensive means of auditing Active Directory, Group Policy, Exchange Server, SharePoint, SQL Server, and File Server.

This guide helps you to enable domain auditing manually. If you have any questions at any point in the process, you can contact our Support Team. The contact details are mentioned at the end of this document.

2. Enable Auditing Automatically

While adding a domain, after you provide the appropriate details, LepideAuditor shows the following dialog box to enable auditing at the domain level automatically.

![Configure Auditing]

*Figure 1: Option to enable auditing automatically*

While modifying the properties of an already added domain, “Enable Audit” option appears for “Domain Credentials” property.
Figure 2: Modifying an already added domain

You can click the button. It displays the following dialog box.

Figure 3: Enable Auditing
Enter either IP Address of the primary domain controller or name of the domain. Select any of the following options.

1. **Create New Policy (Recommended):** Select it to create a new Domain Controller Policy. Once selected, you have to provide the name of new Group Policy to be created.

![Figure 4: Creating new Group Policy](image)

Click "OK" to create a new Group Policy at the domain to enable the auditing.

2. **Use Selected Domain Controller Policy:** This option lets you select a policy to enable the auditing.

![Figure 5: Select a GPO](image)
Select this option to enable its section. Perform the following steps to select an existing Group Policy.

A. If a Group Policy is not listed here, you can click icon to rescan the domain for listing the updated set of Group Policies.

B. You cannot select "Default Domain Controller Group Policy" or "Default Domain Group Policy" to enable the auditing using LepideAuditor. If you try, the following error message appears on the screen.

![Figure 6: Error message while enabling auditing at Default Domain Controller Policy](image)

C. Select a custom Group Policy created at the Domain Level or Domain Controller Level upon which the auditing setting has to be applied.

D. Make sure to check "Create backup of selected GPO before enable auditing" box if you are enabling the auditing on an existing Group Policy. This backup allows you to restore the previous default Domain Controller Policy if any issue persists after enabling the auditing.

It is recommended to create a new Domain Controller Policy to enable the auditing to avoid any such issue.

E. Click "OK." The software tries to enable the auditing and create the backup of the selected group policy on the server in "%systemdrive%\Windows\Lepide\GPOBKP_24-01-2017 18_13_35\" folder. Here, 24-01-2017 will be replaced with the date and 18_13_35 will be replaced with the time when you have clicked "OK" to enable auditing on the selected policy.

If you face any issue in future, you can use this backup to restore the policy to the earlier state. Refer to Section 5 of this document restore the group policy.

F. You have to wait until the auditing is enabled.

3. Issue

If LepideAuditor faces any problem in enabling the auditing, it displays the following error message while adding/modifying the domain.
4. Solution

Auditing settings of the Active Directory environment could be setup as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Auditing Entries for</th>
<th>AD Forest Partition for</th>
<th>Object</th>
<th>Access type</th>
<th>Apply onto</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Active Directory objects</td>
<td>Domain naming context</td>
<td>Everyone</td>
<td>Successful</td>
<td>This object and all descendant or child objects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active Directory Configuration Objects</td>
<td>Configuration context</td>
<td>Everyone</td>
<td>Successful</td>
<td>This object and all descendant or child objects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active Directory Schema Objects</td>
<td>Schema Context</td>
<td>Everyone</td>
<td>Successful</td>
<td>This object and all descendant or child objects.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Table 1: Auditing Settings*

If LepideAuditor displays any error message or does not enable the auditing, then you have to enable the auditing manually in the domain in both Group Policy Management Console and ADSIEdit Console. The steps to be performed in both consoles are listed below.

**4.1 Enable Auditing using Group Policy Objects**

You have to enable the local and advanced auditing policies in the Group Policy Management Console.

**4.1.1 Enable Local Audit Policies**

1. Go to "Start Menu" → "All Programs" → "Administrative Tools" → "Group Policy Management". It opens "Group Policy Management."

**NOTE:** You can also type "GPMC.msc" in "Run" box and press "Enter" to access it.

2. In the left panel of Group Policy Management Console, navigate to "Forest: domain.com" → "Domains" → "domain_controller.com" → "Domain Controllers".

3. Select an already existing customized policy in “Domain Controllers” folder, which is active and enabled on the domain controller organizational unit.

**NOTE:** We do not recommend to edit "Default Domain Policy" or "Default Domain Controllers Policy" to enable auditing at domain level for LepideAuditor.

4. If an existing custom policy does not exist, right-click on "Domain Controllers" node.

![Figure 8: Option to create new Group Policy](image)

**Figure 8: Option to create new Group Policy**

5. Click "Create a GPO in this domain, and Link it here..." to create a new Custom Group Policy. This command also links the newly created Group Policy to the domain controller's node.

6. The following dialog box appears on the screen, in which you have to provide the name of new policy.

![Figure 9: Dialog box to create a new Group Policy](image)

**Figure 9: Dialog box to create a new Group Policy**

7. Enter the name of new Group Policy. Keep "none" selecting in "Source Starter GPO".
8. Click “OK” to create the new Group Policy Object. It takes you back to Group Policy Management Console, which now shows the newly created Group Policy in the left panel under “Domain Controllers” node.

9. Right-click newly created Group Policy to access the following context menu.

```
Figure 10: Option to edit Group Policy
```

10. Click “Edit” to access “Group Policy Management Editor” for the selected policy.

12. Here, you have to configure the following policies for both successful and failed events.
   
a. Audit account logon events
   
b. Audit Account Management
   
c. Audit directory service access
   
d. Audit Logon Events
   
e. Audit Policy Change
   
13. Double-click "Audit account logon events" policy to access its properties.
14. Check "Define these policy settings" box. It enables the subsequent section.

15. Check both "Success" and "Failure" boxes under "Audit these attempts."

16. Click "Apply" and "OK." It takes you back to "Group Policy Management Editor", which now shows the configured policy.

17. Follow the same steps to configure the following policies.

   1. Audit Account Management
   2. Audit directory service access
   3. Audit Logon Events
   4. Audit Policy Change
4.1.2 Enable Advanced Audit Policies

There are two different methods for Windows Servers to enable the advanced auditing policies in Group Policy Management Console. You have to run the commands on Command Prompt for Windows Server 2008, whereas you have to use Group Policy Management Console for Windows 2008 R2, Windows Server 2012, Windows Server 2012 R2, and Windows Sever 2016.

4.1.2.1 Steps to Enable Advanced Audit Policies in Windows Server 2008 Only

Start the Command Prompt using Administrator privileges and execute the following commands one by one.

1. Auditpol /set /category:"Account Logon" /success:enable /failure:enable

NOTE: Do not close “Group Policy Management Editor” as you have to perform more steps here to enable the Advanced Audit Policies, which are mentioned in the next section.
2. Auditpol /set /category:"Account Management" /success:enable /failure:enable
4. Auditpol /set /category:"Logon/Logoff" /success:enable /failure:enable
5. Auditpol /set /category:"Object Access" /success:enable /failure:enable
6. Auditpol /set /category:"Policy Change" /success:enable /failure:enable

4.1.2.2 Steps to Enable Advanced Audit Policies in Windows Server 2008 R2 and above versions

You have to perform the following steps to enable the Advanced Auditing Policies in the same customized Group Policy Object, in which you have enabled the Local Auditing Policies in the previous steps.

1. In the left panel of Group Policy Management Editor, navigate to "Computer Configuration" → "Policies" → "Windows Settings" → "Security Settings" → "Advanced Audit Policy Configuration" → "Audit Policies." It displays the different policy categories in the Right Panel.
2. You have to configure all policies of the following categories.

I. Account Logon
   a. Audit Credential Validation
   b. Audit Kerberos Authentication Service
   c. Audit Kerberos Service Ticket Operations
   d. Audit Other Account Logon Events

II. Account Management
   a. Audit Application Group Management
   b. Audit Computer Account Management
   c. Audit Distribution Group Management
   d. Audit Other Account Management Events
   e. Audit Security Group Management
   f. Audit User Account Management

III. DS Access
   a. Audit Detailed Directory Service Replication
b. Audit Directory Service Access

c. Audit Directory Service Changes

d. Audit Directory Service Replication

IV. Logon/Logoff

a. Audit Account Lockout

b. Audit IPsec Extended Mode

c. Audit IPsec Main Mode

d. Audit IPsec Quick Mode

e. Audit Logoff

f. Audit Logon

g. Audit Network Policy Server

h. Audit Other Logon/Logoff Events

i. Audit Special Logon

V. Object Access

a. Audit Application Generated

b. Audit Certification Services

c. Audit Detailed File Share

d. Audit File Share

e. Audit File System

f. Audit Filtering Platform Connection

g. Audit Filtering Platform Packet Drop

h. Audit Handle Manipulation

i. Audit Kernel Object

j. Audit Other Object Access Events

k. Audit Registry

l. Audit SAM

VI. Policy Change

a. Audit Audit Policy Change

b. Audit Authentication Policy Change

c. Audit Authorization Policy Change

d. Audit Filtering Platform Policy Change

e. Audit MPSSVC Rule-Level Policy Change

f. Audit Other Policy Change Events
3. Execute the following steps to configure the above policies in the above listed different categories.

A. Click "Account Logon" category in the left panel to list all of its policies.

![Figure 15: Account Logon Policies](image)

B. In the Right Panel, double-click any policy say "Audit Credential Validation" to access its properties.
C. Check "Configure the following audit events" box. It enables the subsequent section.

D. Check both "Success" and "Failure" boxes.

E. Click "Apply" and "OK." It takes you back to "Group Policy Management Editor", which now shows the configured policy.

F. Execute the above steps to configure other policies of "Account Logon" category.

4. Follow the same steps to configure all policies in the above-listed categories.

5. Close "Group Policy Management Editor." It takes you back to "Group Policy Management Console".

6. Select the newly created Group Policy to view its details the right panel.

7. In Right Panel, the "Security Filtering" section lets you select the objects like users, groups and computers on which this policy will be applied.

8. Click "Add" to display the box to add the objects upon which this policy will be applicable.

9. Type "Everyone" in the text box as adding everyone means this Group Policy will be applicable on all Active Directory Objects.
10. Click "Check Names". It verifies the provided entry and formats it as a link.

11. Click "OK" to add it. It takes you back to "Group Policy Management Console", which now shows "Everyone" has been added to the selected custom Group Policy.

12. Close "Group Policy Management Console".

13. In "Run" box or at "Command Prompt", execute the following command to update the Group Policy on all domain controllers.

Figure 17: Selecting Everyone

Figure 18: Added "Everyone" to apply new Group Policy on all Active Directory Objects
4.2 Enable Auditing using ADSIEdit.msc


You have to perform the following steps for all Windows Server.

1. Open ADSIEdit.msc using the “Run” dialog box. You can also open it from “Start Menu” → “Administrative Tools” → “ADSIEdit”.
2. Connect to the Active Directory. Select any node and perform below steps. Repeat these steps for each root node.
3. Right-click on the root “ADSI Edit” and select “Connect to”.
4. It is required to connect to the following three naming contexts and to turn on their auditing.
   a. Default Naming Context
   b. Configuration
   c. Schema

**NOTE:** We will connect to all these naming contexts one by one and then turn on their auditing.
5. Select “Default Naming Context”.

6. Click “OK” to establish the connection. Default Naming Context will be connected and its root node will be displayed in “Left Panel”.

7. Expand the root node to access the domain controller’s node – “DC=www,DC=domain,DC=com”.

8. Again, right click on “ADSIEdit” parent node and select “Connect To”.

9. In “Connection Settings” box, select “Configuration” for naming context and click “OK”.

Figure 20: Select the naming context to which you want to connect
10. It connects ADSI Edit to the Domain Configuration and displays its root node in the Left Panel.

11. Expand the node to access “CN=Configuration,DC=www,DC=domain,DC=com”.

12. Right click on “ADSI Edit” parent node and select “Connect To”.

13. Select “Schema” as the naming context and click “OK” to connect to it.

15. Expand its node to access “CN=Schema,CN=Configuration,DC=www,DC=domain,DC=com”.

16. Now, it is required to enable the auditing settings for the following four root nodes of different naming contexts.
   a. DC=www,DC=domain,DC=com
   b. CN=Configuration,DC=www,DC=domain,DC=com
   c. CN=Schema,CN=Configuration,DC=www,DC=domain,DC=com

17. The user has to perform the following steps one by one for each of the above nodes.
   a. Right click on “DC=www,DC=domain,DC=com” under “Default Naming Context”.

**Figure 22: Connecting to Schema**
b. Select “Properties” option to access its properties.

c. Switch to “Security” tab.

d. Click “Advanced” button to access the Advanced Security settings.

e. Switch to “Auditing” tab in “Advanced Security Settings”.

Figure 23: Right click on root node of Default Naming Context

Figure 24: Security Tab of Node Properties
f. Click "Add" to add "Everyone" for auditing using the following box:

![Add User](image)

**Figure 26: Add User**

g. Type "Everyone" to audit the changes made by all objects.

h. Click "Check Names" to verify the username.

i. Click "OK" to add the user. It shows "Auditing Entry" dialog box.
j. Select “This object and all descendant objects” in “Apply onto” drop-down menu.

k. Click “Full Control” in “Successful” column first.

l. Now, you have to uncheck the following entries in “Successful” column.
   - Full Control
   - List contents
   - Read all properties
   - Read permissions
   - Read permissions
   - Modify permissions
   - Modify owner
   - All validated entries
   - All extended rights

Keep other entries checked in “Successful” column.

m. Make sure all checkboxes in “Failed” column are blank or not checked.

n. Keep “Apply these auditing entries to objects and/or containers within this container only” unchecked.

o. Click “OK” to apply the auditing entries. It takes you back to “Auditing” tab of Advanced Security Settings.

p. Click “Apply” and “OK” to apply the auditing settings.

q. Close “Properties”.

18. Repeat the steps (a) to (q) of Step 17 to enable the auditing of remaining root nodes.
   a. CN=Configuration,DC=www,DC=domain,DC=com
   b. CN=Schema, CN=Configuration, DC=www, DC=domain, DC=com
19. Close the window of ADSIEdit.msc.

5. Restore Backed up Group Policy

While enabling the auditing, LepideAuditor lets you select an existing Group Policy or create a new one. If you are selecting an existing Group Policy, the solution allows you to take its backup. The backup is created on the server in "%systemdrive%\Windows\Lepide\GPOBKP_24-01-2017 18_13_35" folder. Here, 24-01-2017 will be replaced with the date and 18_13_35 will be replaced with the time when you have clicked "OK" to enable auditing on the selected policy.

You can perform the following steps to restore the Group Policy using this backup to restore to its earlier state before enabling the auditing.

1. Go to "Start" → "Administrative Tools" → "Group Policy Management Console" to access its console.
2. In the left panel of "Group Policy Management Console", browse to "Forest" → "www.domain.com".
3. Right click on "Group Policy Objects" node and click "Manage Backups" option.

![Group Policy Objects]

**Figure 28: Option to manage the Group Policy Backups**

4. "Manage Backups" dialog box appears on the screen.
5. Click "Browse" and open "%systemdrive%\Windows\Lepide" folder.
6. Now select "GPOBKP_*" folder of that date and time when you have selected to create the backup while enabling the auditing.
7. Click "OK". It takes you back to "Manage Backups" dialog box that shows the Group Policy from the selected backup.
8. You can click "Restore" to restore this backup.

6. Support

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

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Alternatively, visit http://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

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