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Migrating from Advanced Group Policy Management

Historically, organizations relied on Advanced Group Policy Management (AGPM) to manage Group Policy. With the AGPM end of life approaching, it's time to adopt a solution that supports both Group Policy and Intune to gain full change control.

This guide outlines the key phases and tasks for migrating from AGPM to Change Manager for Group Policy/ Intune by SDM Software. Whether your IT environment is on premises, in the cloud, or hybrid, this guide will help you achieve a secure, flexible, and consistent configuration state after migrating from AGPM.

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Phase 1: Planning and Preparation

Task	Details
Inventory and document current GPOs	Catalog all existing GPOs, their settings, links, security filtering, and version history. Pay special attention to critical GPOs.
GPO clean-up and consolidation	Review GPOs for redundancy, non-applicable, or deprecated settings. Clean up and consolidate where possible to simplify the migration.
Install Change Manager	Install and configure the server and client components of Change Manager.
Define New Change Management Workflow	Map the AGPM workflow (check-out/in, approval) to the new approval-based process in Change Manager for GPOs and, if necessary, for Intune profiles.
Establish Role-Based Access Control (RBAC)	Define RBAC roles in Change Manager: Creator, Editor, Approver, Deployer, Administrator, Auditor, Break Glass. This way, you align/augment existing AGPM roles and, if necessary, future Intune management roles.

Ready to see Change Manager in action?

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Phase 2: GPO Migration to SDM Change Manager

Task	Detail / Note
Take control of GPOs within Change Manager	In a phased approach, take control of the GPOs you identified for onboarding to Change Manager. This will change the AGPM service account's permissions to read-only.
Delegate roles to the newly controlled GPOs within Change Manager	Delegate appropriate roles for the newly controlled GPOs so that, once migrated, end users can immediately use the updated change control workflow.
Verify GPO control and change workflow	Test the full change lifecycle (edit, submit for approval, approve, schedule deployment) for a few non-critical migrated GPOs.
Migrate GPOs into Change Manager	Using the Change Manager's migration utility, migrate AGPM history, and backup to Change Manager.
Configure additional settings and alerts	Address additional Change Manager configurations like restricted settings, mail settings, teams alerting, etc.
Decommission AGPM Service	Scaled approach including un-controlling GPOs from AGPM. Timing will depend on business needs.

**Do you want to move GPOs with a couple of clicks?
Book a demo for GPO Migrator**

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Phase 3: Intune Readiness and Migration (Cloud Profiles)

Task	Detail / Note
Run GPO Migrator	Leverage GPO Migrator to pick the exact settings within each GPO that you want to migrate and see if they are supported by Intune before you start.
Analyze Migration Readiness	Based on GPO Migrator's data on unsupported settings, map out workarounds as you migrate your estate to Microsoft Intune.
Migrate Settings to Settings Catalog Profiles	Choose all settings, or be selective about which are most valuable and relevant to your business.
Enroll Pilot Devices and Users	Use a phased approach to enroll a small group of test devices and users into Intune for policy testing.
Integrate Intune Profiles with SDM CMGPI	Use Change Manager to bring Intune Configuration Profiles and assignments under its approval-based change control.
Take control of Intune Profiles	We will need to take control of them for the next step.
Delegate Roles to Intune Profiles	Delegate appropriate roles to Intune profiles as done above for GPO delegation.

Thrilled to have a consistent configuration state across Group Policy and Intune? See how Change Manager can ensure it

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Key Elements to Focus On

GPO Clean-up and Consolidation

This is your chance to simplify a potentially complex environment. As you modernize, it is time to consider settings that are no longer relevant or appropriate. Avoid migrating old, unused, or irrelevant settings.

Migration Readiness Analysis

Verify which Group Policy settings are supported in Intune. You must understand which Group Policy settings are not supported or differently configured in the cloud before deploying Intune profiles.

Role-Based Access Control (RBAC) in Change Manager

Securely defining the Editors, Approvers, and Deployers for both GPOs and Intune ensures proper governance and prevents unauthorized configuration changes across your hybrid environment. With Entra ID, consider the benefits of more secure multifactor authentication.

Phased Deployment and Policy Conflict Testing

Deploying to a small pilot group first is essential. You must rigorously test how existing GPOs interact with new Intune profiles on hybrid devices to avoid unexpected configuration overlaps or downtime.

About SDM Software

Since 2006, SDM Software has been delivering advanced configuration governance solutions that help organizations secure their Windows environments and maintain business continuity both on premises and in the cloud. Solutions cover the full lifecycle of configuration management on Microsoft platforms, including reporting, migration, automation, auditing, change control, recovery, and compliance reporting. As experts in Group Policy and Intune, SDM Software helps optimize the configuration journey on Microsoft platforms for organizations of all sizes