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Whitepaper

Enhance Your Policy Management Deployment

SDM SOFTWARE | 2100 4TH STREET, #132 SAN RAFAEL, CA 94901

Enhance Your Policy Management Deployment

Whether managing mobile or desktop devices, virtual or physical environments, or remote workers, Microsoft Intune provides a unified solution for securing access to company resources and keeping your workforce productive. While this capability is powerful, it also introduces complexity, particularly when managing policies across hybrid environments that integrate both traditional Group Policy Objects (GPOs) and modern Intune profiles.

Why Change Control is Essential

Group Policy and Intune configurations are powerful tools for configuring Windows environments, but they can also lead to vulnerabilities if misused.

Proper change control of GPOs, their associated containers, and Intune configuration profiles is critical for protecting your Microsoft infrastructure. Change Control is essential because Group Policy Objects (GPOs) and Intune configurations directly influence the security and operational stability of your Windows environments. Without proper change management, unauthorized or accidental modifications can introduce vulnerabilities, disrupt business operations, or lead to compliance issues.

By implementing rigorous change control processes for GPOs and Intune configurations, you can:

1. **Prevent Unauthorized Access:** Control who can modify critical configurations, reducing the risk of malicious or unintended changes.
2. **Ensure Consistency:** Maintain uniformity across an IT infrastructure, that prevents a common issue that could lead to security gaps - configuration drift.
3. **Enhance Security Posture:** Regularly auditing and monitoring changes helps to identify and mitigate potential threats quickly, ensuring that your configurations comply with security best practices.
4. **Simplify Troubleshooting:** A clear “audit record” of changes allows for quicker diagnosis and resolution of issues that arise from configuration modifications.
5. **Support Compliance Requirements:** Change control helps to meet regulatory requirements by providing an audit trail of changes both within a tool and out-of-band. There needs to be role-based checks and balances to ensure that changes are reviewed and approved before they are deployed and rolled out immediately or on a defined implementation schedule.

With the approaching deprecation of AGPM, organizations that have relied on this technology are left with a gap to ensure that configurations are managed securely, consistently, and in compliance with organizational policies. Other 3rd party solutions are dated and limited in their scope in addressing these challenges.

SDM Software's Comprehensive Approach to Policy Management

SDM Software focuses on integrating Microsoft Active Directory Group Policy management with Microsoft Intune, enabling organizations to leverage both technologies within a unified management interface. This approach allows organizations to manage the migration from GPOs to Intune profiles seamlessly, supporting both during the transition or the retention of legacy GPOs that may be required. This integration ensures consistent and secure IT environments, making SDM Software an invaluable asset for organizations seeking a more stable and comprehensive alternative to Microsoft Advanced Group Policy Management (AGPM), which is set to be deprecated on April 16, 2026.

Simplify and Secure Group Policy and Intune Management

Change Manager for Group Policy/Intune (CMGPI) delivers modern change control to customers who rely on Group Policy and Intune to configure and secure their Windows systems. CMGPI provides a web-based workflow that allows you to delegate control of GPO editing, GPO linking, Intune profile editing, and profile assignment to the appropriate personnel. This delegation ensures the security and integrity of your Group Policy and Intune environments.

Key Features of CMGPI:

- **Web-based Change Control:** Manage changes to GPOs, containers (site, domain, OU), and Intune Configuration Profiles from a modern, intuitive web interface.
- **Delegated Control:** Securely delegate access to GPO editing, container linking, and Intune settings with approval-based workflows.
- **Version Control and Rollback:** View differences between versions of GPOs, containers, and Intune profiles, and roll back or schedule the deployment of changes as needed.
- **Comprehensive Auditing:** Maintain a detailed history of changes for each object, with full audit trails and email alerts for approvals and deployments.
- **Emergency "Break Glass" Role:** Allows for urgent changes without the usual approval overhead, providing flexibility in critical situations.
- **Integration with Entra ID:** Leverage Entra ID for single sign-on (SSO) and role-based access control, ensuring secure and streamlined user management.
- **PowerShell Automation:** Automate CMGPI tasks with a PowerShell module, enhancing efficiency and reducing manual overhead.

Benefits of CMGPI:

- **Unified Policy Control:** Ensure robust policy governance across both traditional and modern IT infrastructures, aligning security and configuration policies seamlessly.
- **Enhanced Compliance and Reporting:** Offer comprehensive compliance validation and reporting that spans both Intune-managed devices and traditional domain-joined systems.
- **Reduced Manual Overhead:** Automate policy management tasks to decrease the likelihood of errors and inconsistencies, enhancing operational efficiency.
- **Improved Security Posture:** Strengthen your security framework by maintaining detailed audit trails and verification mechanisms for GPOs and Intune profiles.
- **Scalable and Flexible Deployment:** CMGPI supports high availability (HA) deployment and can scale to meet the needs of large enterprises.

Final Thoughts

Whether you are new to GPO and Intune Change Control or are looking for an alternative following the deprecation of Advanced Group Policy Management (AGPM), SDM Software's Change Manager for Group Policy/Intune (CMGPI) can meet your needs. With CMGPI, you can simplify and secure either Group Policy and/or Intune Profile management, to ensure that only authorized and approved changes are made within your environment.

For more information or to evaluate [Change Manager for Group Policy/Intune \(CMGPI\)](#), contact us at sales@sdmsoftware.com.

About SDM Software

Since 2006, **SDM Software** has been **the** leader in providing products for managing Windows configuration in general, and Group Policy technology (and now Intune®) specifically. With extensive real-world knowledge and experience managing Windows environments ranging from 100 to 100,000+ systems and with over 600 customers worldwide, we build products that are designed with security and simplified management in mind. Our Group Policy and Intune products – commercial and freeware – are in use by thousands of administrators around the world.

SDM Software is a privately held company that was founded by Darren Mar-Elia – a 14-time Microsoft MVP in Cloud & Data Center Management, and longtime writer, speaker and industry expert around Windows Group Policy and IT infrastructure. Darren, also known as the “GPOGuy”, brings 30+ years of IT and enterprise software experience to SDM Software. You can visit our [blog](#) to keep up to date on what's new in the world of Group Policy and Intune.