



A Paramount Need

At the very foundation of organizational security of a Microsoft Windows Server based IT infrastructure lies the Active Directory.

Active Directory stores and protects the very building blocks of organizational IT security –

1. **All user accounts** used to logon to the network and access data, and their passwords,
2. **All computer accounts** used to logon to and store data,
3. **All security groups** used to provision access to organizational data across the network, and
4. **All security policies** used to secure all computers and thus, all data stored on all computers.

In addition, administrative privileges to manage these building blocks of security are also granted in the Active Directory itself.

An Active Directory security breach, or the compromise of a single one of these building blocks, could possibly jeopardize the security of all organizational IT assets protected by the compromised building block, including the Active Directory itself.

Consequently, the need to secure and defend Active Directory and its content, and to know precisely who has what access to which of these very foundational building blocks in Active Directory, is mission-critical and paramount to organizational security.

Fulfilling the Need

In order to adequately secure and defend an organization's Active Directory, IT personnel require the ability to –

1. Generate reports to perform an inventory of all security building blocks stored in and protected by the Active Directory
2. Obtain a list of all individuals who belong to all Active Directory security groups that are used to provision access
3. Analyze security permissions protecting each of these security building blocks in Active Directory
4. Determine precisely who has what effective access on each of these security building blocks in Active Directory
5. Determine and control precisely who can perform which administrative tasks on each of these security building blocks

IT personnel require specialized tools to fulfill this need because the tools provided with Active Directory are insufficient.

In-house development of these tools is neither easy nor efficient, because building them requires substantial time, effort and highly specialized expertise. Procurement of specialized tools is thus the most efficient means of fulfilling this paramount need.

The trustworthiness of a procured tool is also very important because these tools are used by highly privileged IT personnel, and the use of an untrustworthy tool could very easily and substantially endanger the security of the entire IT infrastructure.

Efficient and Trustworthy Fulfillment

The Gold Finger security analysis solution for Active Directory from Paramount Defenses is a specialized tool designed to fulfill this very paramount need, and do so efficiently and trustworthily.

“The Gold Finger from Paramount Defenses empowers organizations to add an additional level of security to protect vital Active Directory content.”

– Tejas Dixit, Group Product Manager, Identity and Access Solutions, **Microsoft**

The Gold Finger is architected by former Microsoft Program Manager for Active Directory security, developed by Paramount Defenses Inc, a valued Microsoft partner, and endorsed by Microsoft. It is built in the United States (US), developed by US citizens, and protected by *state-of-the-art* security to deliver the highest level of trustworthiness.

Today, it is used and trusted worldwide, by some of the world’s most prominent organizations including the US Government.

Return on Investment (ROI)

Gold Finger (GF) uniquely delivers substantial value by completely automating the means that IT personnel need to obtain precise, and thus reliable insight into the security of all building blocks in the organization’s foundational Active Directory –

Capability	Need to Perform ¹	Time to Perform ²		Annual Time Cost ³		Editions			
		Manually	With GF	Manually	With GF	001	003	005	007
Security Audit Reporting	Daily (365)	1 – 4 hrs	10 min	\$ 10K	\$ 1K	✓	✓	✓	✓
Group Membership Enumeration	Weekly (52)	¼ hr /group	1 min /group	\$ 40K	\$ 2K		✓	✓	✓
ACL Viewer & Exporter	Weekly (52)	½ hr /object	1 min /object	\$ 80K	\$ 3K		✓	✓	✓
Permission Analyzer	Weekly (52)	½ hr /object	1 min /object	\$ 80K	\$ 3K			✓	✓
Effective Permissions Analyzer	Weekly (52)	1 hr /object	2 min /object	\$160K	\$ 6K			✓	✓
Effective Delegated Access Analyzer	Monthly (12)	2 hr /object	2 min /object	\$ 320K	\$ 12K				✓
Annual license cost (US\$)						1K	10K	20K	20K+

1 – Average number of times, per year, that organizations need to perform this task/capability

2 – Per occurrence i.e. each time it is performed

3 – Calculation: Number of times needed to perform / year x Hours needed each time to perform x US \$32 / hr IT admin time cost x 100 AD objects

Paramount Defenses

The protection of an organization’s foundational security building blocks is a matter of paramount defenses, and IT personnel cannot adequately protect these foundational security building blocks without the means to adequately secure and defend them.

An organization’s IT infrastructure is only as secure as are its security building blocks in its Active Directory. **Protect them.**