

Summary: Limitations of Native Active Directory Recovery Tools

Netwrix Auditor vs Built-in Tools

| Feature | Netwrix Auditor | Windows Server 2003 or earlier | Active Directory Recycle Bin on Windows Server 2008 R2/2012 |
|---|--|---|--|
| Active Directory Forest Functional Level | 2000 or above, no changes to schema | 2000 or above, no changes to schema | 2008 R2 and later requires irreversible schema modification |
| Interface of AD restore operations | Convenient GUI interface | No, only via 3rd party utilities | PowerShell or 3rd party utilities |
| Automated Group Policy backup and restore | Yes , with granular restore (GPO-level) | Manual backup using GPMC tool | Manual backup using GPMC tool |
| AD object "undelete" functionality | Yes . Restores deleted AD objects with all attributes (including user password - if feature is enabled) | Restores AD objects with attributes stored in Active Directory Tombstone (e. g. group is restored without its membership) | Yes. Restores AD objects with all attributes |
| "Recursive" restore of AD objects (e.g. OU with nested OUs and child objects) | Yes | No, requires multiple restore operations (parent container first, then children) | No, requires multiple restore operations (parent container first, then children) |
| Time-based restoration | Yes . AD object can be restored to a previous state that may differ from the state it was in before deletion | No | No |
| Graphical analysis of AD changes made since a given snapshot | Yes , very detailed: shows what objects were deleted, created and modified since specified date and time. For modified objects shows what were the previous and new values of modified attributes | No | No |

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| Graphical analysis of Group Policy changes made since a given snapshot | Yes , very detailed: shows what GPOs were deleted, created and what GPO settings were modified (with previous and current values) since specified date | No | No |
| Integrated change auditing with reporting | Yes , via Active Directory Change Reporter module | Very limited, using EventViewer | Very limited, using EventViewer |
| Risk of exposure of previously deleted confidential data | Controlled risk , because backups are kept separately and can be protected with access permissions | Limited, because attributes of a deleted object are cleared | Yes, because all attributes are kept in Active Directory even after object is deleted. |
| Separate storage of AD backup data | Yes , highly-compressed filebased storage | No, stored in Active Directory and can be lost | No, stored in Active Directory and can be lost |
| Granular attribute-level restoration | Yes . You can restore specific attributes of an AD object. For example, you can restore the user description or phone number without restoring any | No, does not keep track of attribute modification history. Can only restore everything at once and this requires a domain controller reboot | No, does not keep track of attribute modification history. Can only restore everything at once and this requires a domain controller reboot |

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