netwrix
#1 for change auditing

Summary: Limitations of Native Active Directory Auditing Tools

Netwrix Auditor vs. Built-in Tools

Need	Netwrix Auditor	Native Active Directory Auditing
Reporting of **who, what, when** and **where** information for all Active Directory (and Group Policy) changes	**Yes**	No. Coverage is limited. Frequently, only indication of a change is recorded and detail is cryptic.
Automatically delivered daily e-mail reports showing all changes made in the last day	**Yes**	No. Administrators must manually analyze security logs on each domain controller
Consolidation of audit data	**Yes**	No. Only individual security logs on each domain controller serve as a reference.
Prevention of audit data loss as a result of security log overwrites	**Yes**	No. Logs can be overwritten if not configured properly and typically will only hold only a week to as little as a few hours of information
Reporting on previous and new values such as if OU delegation settings were changed, show who was granted or denied what permissions	**Yes**	No. Manual investigation is required for each event and only tells something changed. Windows Server 2008/2012 is improved but still difficult to use.
Predefined compliance reports	**Yes**	No
Report subscription capabilities	**Yes**	No
Long-term archiving capabilities	**Yes.** Saves required information on events to a compressed file-based storage that can support up to 7 years or more of audit data	No. Requires large amounts of disk space (no compression) to store logs. Logs require maintenance to avoid filling disk space. No retention rules.
Advanced reporting capabilities with filtering for domains, OUs, domain controllers and users	**Yes**	No
Easily understandable and detailed information in a single record related to each change	**Yes**	No. Multiple event logs must be analyzed in detail on each domain controller to see what happened and is subject to human error.
Detailed change information across all user account attributes	**Yes**	No. Only changes to the basic user information tabs in Active Directory are provided.

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Change information and report output that is human-readable and detailed	**Yes**	No. Logs contain excessive noise and are difficult to understand.
Group Policy auditing to show valuable information. For example changes to the minimum password length will show the GPO by name, who made the change where and when with both new and old settings	**Yes**	No. GPO auditing is not useful because you see no usable information on modified settings. GPO names are listed as long, unusable GUID strings and must be cross-referenced.
Group Policy link and priority changes that are easily identifiable by name with before and after details	**Yes**	No. Windows Server 2003 provides only notification that a change occurred. 2008/2012 provides this data though not easy to use.
Changes to permission delegations within Active Directory that are easily readable	**Yes**	No. Lengthy SDDLs (Security Descriptors) and ACLs are your only reference and must be cross-referenced.
Reporting on changes to the Active Directory Schema	**Yes**	No
Reporting details that show what object in Active Directory changed by name and how it changed (Added, Deleted, Modified, etc.).	**Yes**	No. Multiple numeric event IDs tell you what changed which needs to be looked up. Different IDs exist for each type of action
Reporting that shows all detailed properties of Active Directory objects that change	**Yes**	No. Event logs show only the core Active Directory properties that change.
Real-time alerting of changes to critical AD objects and attributes	**Yes**	No
Auditing of changes to AD configuration and DNS	**Yes**	No. Support for these changes is very limited.

Netwrix Corporation, 20 Pacifica, Suite 625, Irvine, California 92618, US

netwrix.com

Regional offices: New York, Atlanta, Columbus, London

Phones: Toll-free: (888) 638-9749
Int'l: +1 (949) 407-5125
EMEA: +44 (0) 203-318-0261

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