

# Active Directory Migration Solutions Comparison: Quest® vs. Native Tools

This document compares Quest's Active Directory migration solutions to the Microsoft Active Directory Migration Tool (ADMT) version 3.2. Quest's portfolio offers many advantages when performing complex AD migration projects, including a number of important differentiators.

This document reflects comparison research performed in September 2022.

## Key benefits of using Quest migration products for Active Directory:

- **Supports all migration scenarios** — Execute more complex migration scenarios because Quest supports trustless migrations, performs migrations to Azure-only environments, and integrates seamlessly with other Quest products for enhanced functionality.
- **Offers full project management functionality** — Take advantage of more project management capabilities with SaaS options and web-based consoles. Key differentiators are full rollback, multi-agent architecture, task-based delegation and distributed resource processing (permissions updating).
- **Provides full directory migration** — Migrate all types of objects, including users, groups, computers, volumes, printers, contacts, organizational units (OUs), network topology (sites, subnet, site links), and directory permissions.
- **Delivers extensive resource processing** — Process a much wider spectrum of resources common for enterprise configurations — SQL, Systems Management Server (SMS)/System Center Configuration Manager, Exchange and SharePoint — including a complete resource update of workstations, laptops and servers.
- **Offers efficient cleanup** — Clean up all evidence that a migration was ever performed by removing source permissions on resources post migration, including security identifier (SID) history.
- **Ensures true coexistence** — Minimize the impact to end users and administrators during migration with continuous directory synchronization.
- **Supports remote workstation end-to-end migration** — Fully process and migrate a remotely connected workstation without impacting your remote workforce.
- **Provides BitLocker support** — Successfully migrate a BitLocker-encrypted workstation seamlessly, without the need to decrypt and encrypt.

## Supported migration types

| Capability             | QUEST | ADMT | Details                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|------------------------|-------|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Inter-forest           | ●     | ●    | <b>QUEST</b> non-destructively clones objects and allows you to migrate in open sets.                                                                                                                      |
| Intra-forest           | ●     | ●    | <b>ADMT</b> destructively moves objects and requires you to migrate in closed sets. SID history is required.                                                                                               |
| Trustless inter-forest | ●     | ○    | <b>QUEST</b> can migrate without the need to create a trust.<br><b>ADMT</b> requires a trust to function.                                                                                                  |
| Azure Active Directory | ●     | ○    | <b>QUEST</b> supports Azure AD as a source and target for directory synchronization and can migrate devices to Azure AD target environments<br><b>ADMT</b> does not support Azure AD as a source or target |

## Project management

| Capability                      | QUEST | ADMT | Details                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|---------------------------------|-------|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Centralized control             | ●     | ●    | <b>QUEST</b> allows multiple servers to support the migration while maintaining centralized control.<br><b>ADMT</b> requires a single instance to maintain centralized control.                                                                                |
| Scalable architecture           | ●     | ○    | <b>QUEST</b> allows for multiple servers to support the migration process to meet any technical requirements.<br><b>ADMT</b> requires a single instance to maintain centralized control; scaling the architecture requires deployment of additional instances. |
| Software as a Service (SaaS)    | ●     | ○    | <b>QUEST</b> has both SaaS and on-premises options.<br><b>ADMT</b> does not have a SaaS option.                                                                                                                                                                |
| Project-oriented user interface | ●     | ○    | <b>QUEST</b> presents a project-based user interface with web-based consoles.<br><b>ADMT</b> is a task-based user interface.                                                                                                                                   |
| Delegation of tasks             | ●     | ○    | <b>QUEST</b> allows for task-based delegation within the product.<br><b>ADMT</b> requires native permissions delegation in AD to delegate the migration.                                                                                                       |
| Statistics                      | ●     | ○    | <b>QUEST</b> provides statistics portal display details about the migration process.<br><b>ADMT</b> does not have this feature.                                                                                                                                |

## Support and product updates

| Capability           | QUEST | ADMT | Details                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|----------------------|-------|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 24x7 product support | ●     | ○    | <b>QUEST</b> comes with 24x7 product support and a web-based community to help with troubleshooting and issues that might arise during the migration.                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Web-based forums     | ●     | ●    | <b>ADMT</b> support is limited to a web-based forum.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Product updates      | ●     | ○    | <b>QUEST</b> products are frequently updated to provide additional functionality and support newer technologies and operating systems.<br><b>ADMT</b> last released an update in 2010. Microsoft states that when performing migrations of newer operating systems that you do so at your own risk and that your experience may vary. |

● Full support
 ● Partial support
 ○ No support

## Active Directory supported environments

| Capability             | QUEST | ADMT           | Details                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|------------------------|-------|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Windows 2000           | ●     | ○ <sup>1</sup> | <p><b>QUEST</b> supports the migration to and from all supported AD environments with a Windows 2000 functional level or higher. Source and target directory functional levels can be different.</p> <p><b>ADMT</b> was updated to remove version checking to support newly released Windows versions. Source and target directory functional levels must be the same.</p> |
| Windows Server 2003    | ●     | ●              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Windows Server 2008    | ●     | ●              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Windows Server 2008 R2 | ●     | ●              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Windows Server 2012    | ●     | ●              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Windows Server 2012 R2 | ●     | ●              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Windows Server 2016    | ●     | ●              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Windows Server 2019    | ●     | ●              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Windows Server 2022    | ●     | ●              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

<sup>1</sup> Requires ADMT version 3.1 to support Windows 2000

## Operating system support for AD migrations and Hybrid Azure AD migrations

| Capability                    | QUEST | ADMT | Details                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-------------------------------|-------|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Server operating systems      |       |      |                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Windows 2008 & 2008 R2        | ●     | ●    | <b>QUEST</b> supports all modern Windows operating systems.<br><b>ADMT</b> states that Windows 2012 and later have not been tested for modern applications and profile migrations. |
| Windows 2012 & 2012 R2        | ●     | ●    |                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Windows 2016                  | ●     | ●    |                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Windows 2019                  | ●     | ●    |                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Windows 2022                  | ●     | ●    |                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Server Core OS                | ●     | ○    |                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Workstation operating systems |       |      |                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Windows 7                     | ●     | ●    | <b>QUEST</b> supports all modern Windows operating systems.<br><b>ADMT</b> states that it has not been updated for Windows 8.1 and newer.                                          |
| Windows 8 and 8.1             | ●     | ●    |                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Windows 10                    | ●     | ●    |                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Windows 11                    | ●     | ●    |                                                                                                                                                                                    |

## Operating system support for Azure AD migrations

| Capability                      | QUEST | ADMT | Details                                                                                                                                                                      |
|---------------------------------|-------|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Server operating systems</b> |       |      |                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Windows 10                      | ●     | ○    | <p><b>QUEST</b> supports workstation migrations from AD and Hybrid Azure AD to Azure AD.</p> <p><b>ADMT</b> does not support workstation migrations to or from Azure AD.</p> |
| Windows 11                      | ●     | ○    |                                                                                                                                                                              |

● Full support
 ● Partial support
 ○ No support

## Directory migration

| Capability         | QUEST | ADMT | Details                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|--------------------|-------|------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| User objects       | ●     | ●    | <b>QUEST</b> allows you to change many attributes during the migration and can also migrate Users and Groups as Contact objects, if required for GAL Sync.<br><b>ADMT</b> limits changes to a few attributes.                                                                                                         |
| Group objects      | ●     | ●    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Computer objects   | ●     | ○    | <b>QUEST</b> can migrate computer objects to maintain group membership, if required.<br><b>ADMT</b> will migrate computer objects when the computer is moved.                                                                                                                                                         |
| Printer objects    | ●     | ○    | <b>QUEST</b> can migrate printer objects.<br><b>ADMT</b> cannot migrate printer objects. This must be done manually.                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Volume objects     | ●     | ○    | <b>QUEST</b> can migrate volume objects.<br><b>ADMT</b> cannot migrate volume objects. This must be done manually.                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Contact objects    | ●     | ○    | <b>QUEST</b> can migrate contact objects.<br><b>ADMT</b> cannot migrate contact objects. This must be done manually.                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| OU objects         | ●     | ○    | <b>QUEST</b> can migrate OU objects and their delegation (permissions).<br><b>ADMT</b> cannot migrate OUs.                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Password migration | ●     | ●    | <b>QUEST</b> will migrate passwords without the need for any additional software. Additionally, all existing passwords will be successfully migrated without the need to mirror password policies.<br><b>ADMT</b> can optionally use Password Export Server version 3.2 and must be installed on a domain controller. |
| Rollback           | ●     | ●    | <b>QUEST</b> allows for session-based undo for all sessions for both inter-forest and intra-forest migrations.<br><b>ADMT</b> only allows undo for inter-forest migrations and only for the last session run. There is no rollback option for intra-forest migrations as it is destructively moves the object.        |

## Coexistence

| Capability                | QUEST | ADMT | Details                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|---------------------------|-------|------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Directory synchronization | ●     | ○    | <b>QUEST</b> includes an attribute-level directory sync to deliver continuous replication of changes throughout the migration, with options for bi-directional attribute and password synchronization.<br><b>ADMT</b> requires multiple sessions to replicate changes during the migration, adding additional steps to the daily migration process. |
| Password sync             | ●     | ○    | <b>QUEST</b> can perform near-real-time password sync independently from migration jobs.<br><b>ADMT</b> only migrates passwords in conjunction with account migration jobs.                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Exchange enablement       | ●     | ○    | <b>QUEST</b> can enable objects (mail or mailbox) in preparation for an Exchange migration.<br><b>ADMT</b> does not support this Exchange enablement.                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Office 365                | ●     | ○    | <b>QUEST</b> can synchronize several Exchange-related attributes to the authentication forest to support a direct migration of mailboxes to Office 365.<br><b>ADMT</b> does not support this function.                                                                                                                                              |

● Full support
 ● Partial support
 ○ No support

## Resource processing details

| Capability                                 | QUEST | ADMT | Details                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|--------------------------------------------|-------|------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| File system                                | ●     | ●    | Both <b>QUEST</b> and <b>ADMT</b> process these types of resources on servers and workstations.                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Local groups                               | ●     | ●    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Printers                                   | ●     | ●    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Registry                                   | ●     | ●    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Shares                                     | ●     | ●    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| User profiles                              | ●     | ●    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| User rights                                | ●     | ●    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Service login account                      | ●     | ●    | <b>QUEST</b> updates service login accounts as part of the resource processing task with its Resource Update Manager.<br><b>ADMT</b> requires a different process to be executed to update only the service login accounts.                                                               |
| Roaming profiles                           | ●     | ●    | <b>QUEST</b> can process roaming profiles where they are stored.<br><b>ADMT</b> processes roaming profiles on the workstation.                                                                                                                                                            |
| Terminal services profiles                 | ●     | ○    | <b>QUEST</b> updates terminal services profiles with its Resource Update Manager.<br><b>ADMT</b> requires you to manually reconfigure the profiles.                                                                                                                                       |
| Scheduled tasks                            | ●     | ○    | <b>QUEST</b> updates the login for all scheduled tasks with its Resource Update Manager.<br><b>ADMT</b> does not support this function.                                                                                                                                                   |
| COM+/DCOM                                  | ●     | ○    | <b>QUEST</b> updates the permissions for all COM+/DCOM objects with its Resource Update Manager.<br><b>ADMT</b> does not support this function.                                                                                                                                           |
| IIS                                        | ●     | ○    | <b>QUEST</b> updates the login for application pools with its Resource Update Manager.<br><b>ADMT</b> does not support this function.                                                                                                                                                     |
| Distributed resource updating              | ●     | ○    | <b>QUEST</b> can be deployed on multiple hosts with its Resource Update Manager.<br><b>ADMT</b> does not support this function.                                                                                                                                                           |
| Remote processing                          | ●     | ○    | <b>QUEST</b> supports agentless (remote) resource processing.<br><b>ADMT</b> does not support this function.                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Reparse point processing                   | ●     | ○    | <b>QUEST</b> can process reparse points including support for OneDrive Files On-Demand.<br><b>ADMT</b> does not support this function.                                                                                                                                                    |
| Delegation                                 | ●     | ○    | <b>QUEST</b> supports an internal delegation model for task-based delegation, allowing you to delegate tasks to other migration engineers on the team.<br><b>ADMT</b> supports a native delegation model. All domain admins can use it, but it does not have task delegation.             |
| Workstations/servers with active firewalls | ●     | ○    | <b>QUEST</b> supports the deployment of the agent through any existing software deployment tool. The agent pulls any resource processing tasks, so there are no firewalls to reconfigure.<br><b>ADMT</b> requires you to push the agent, which requires each firewall to be reconfigured. |
| Delegated task process model               | ●     | ○    | <b>QUEST</b> completes all tasks for the migration as executed in the security context defined by the tools configuration.<br><b>ADMT</b> requires the operator to hold the needed access to execute the task.                                                                            |
| BitLocker-encrypted systems                | ●     | ○    | <b>QUEST</b> completes the migration of a BitLocker-encrypted host without any additional effort needed from the migration operator.<br><b>ADMT</b> does not support this function.                                                                                                       |

## Support platforms for resource processing

| Capability                                  | QUEST | ADMT | Details                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|---------------------------------------------|-------|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Windows server                              | ●     | ●    | See the "Operating system support" section.                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Windows workstation                         | ●     | ●    | See the "Operating system support" section.                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Network-attached storage (NAS)/CIFS servers | ●     | ○    | <b>QUEST</b> supports non-Microsoft operating systems that support Windows-based permissions using the command line utility.<br><b>ADMT</b> does not support NAS/CIFS. This requires a manual process to extract, translate and reapply permissions. |
| Exchange 2000–2019                          | ●     | ○    | <b>QUEST</b> updates all permissions within Exchange resources with an Exchange Processing Wizard.<br><b>ADMT</b> does not support Exchange permissions. This requires a manual process to extract, translate and reapply permissions.               |
| SQL Server                                  | ●     | ○    | <b>QUEST</b> updates all permissions within SQL Servers with a SQL Processing Wizard.<br><b>ADMT</b> does not support SQL permissions. This requires a manual process to extract, translate and reapply permissions.                                 |
| SharePoint server                           | ●     | ○    | <b>QUEST</b> updates all permissions within SharePoint servers with a SharePoint Processing Wizard.<br><b>ADMT</b> does not support SharePoint permissions.                                                                                          |
| SMS/System Center Operations Manager (SCOM) | ●     | ○    | <b>QUEST</b> updates all permissions within SMS or SCOM servers with an SMS Processing Wizard.<br><b>ADMT</b> requires manual processes for this function.                                                                                           |
| Active Directory                            | ●     | ○    | <b>QUEST</b> supports the migration and translation of the security descriptor and group membership in trusting domains.<br><b>ADMT</b> does not migrate security descriptors; all permissions must be granted manually.                             |
| Remote workstations                         | ●     | ○    | <b>QUEST</b> supports the migration of VPN-connected workstations without the need to involve support personnel. Cached accounts used to access the workstation are maintained.<br><b>ADMT</b> does not address this use case.                       |

## Cleanup

| Capability           | QUEST | ADMT | Details                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|----------------------|-------|------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Disable source users | ●     | ●    | <b>QUEST</b> supports disabling source users, cleaning up permissions and selectively cleaning up (per OU) MMAD-applied SID history. To preserve network security, the SID history attribute of objects should be cleaned up after migration. |
| Clean up permissions | ●     | ●    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Clean up SID history | ●     | ○    | <b>ADMT</b> allows you to disable source users and clean up source permissions on resources after migration, but it does not clean up SID history.                                                                                            |

● Full support
 ● Partial support
 ○ No support

## About Quest Software

Quest Software creates technology and solutions that build the foundation for enterprise AI. Focused on data management and governance, cybersecurity and platform modernization, Quest helps organizations address their most pressing challenges and make the promise of AI a reality. Around the globe, more than 45,000 companies including over 90% of the Fortune 500 count on Quest Software. For more information, visit [www.quest.com](http://www.quest.com) or follow Quest Software on [X](#) (formerly Twitter) and [LinkedIn](#).

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