

How Active Directory Integration Eases PerfectDisk Management

Many organizations are pleased to hear that Raxco Software's PerfectDisk® is fully integrated with the Active Directory® (AD) directory service from Microsoft®. However, the benefits of using Active Directory to manage defragmentation are not always easily understood. This paper discusses the power of using Active Directory to administer enterprise defragmentation and how it can save a company both time and money.



PerfectDisk®, from Raxco Software, is fully integrated with the Active Directory® (AD) directory service from Microsoft®.

Active Directory is Microsoft's enterprise administration platform. In a world of distributed servers and workstations encompassing diverse geographic locations, the time and expense associated with deploying, configuring, and administering dozens or hundreds of applications, all with their own interfaces, are enormous. Through Active Directory-Group Policy-Administrative Templates, Microsoft has provided a highly scalable and powerful mechanism that allows third-party applications to be managed through the common AD interface. When applications avail themselves of the inheritance features provided by Group Policy, a great deal of system administration time making sure applications are installed, configured and running when they are supposed to is eliminated. PerfectDisk is one of only a few third-party applications that have done the work necessary to work seamlessly with Active Directory.

PerfectDisk, as a Microsoft Certified application, uses Windows® Installer. The PerfectDisk installation package (MSI) file can be imported into Active Directory at the Group Policy level and be easily deployed to the targeted machines. Updates to PerfectDisk can also be accomplished in this way. This simplifies the installation process and eliminates the need for familiarization with third-party deployment software. The PerfectDisk installation package can also be modified prior to installation to automatically configure PerfectDisk to end-user requirements.

PerfectDisk system configuration options such as StandAlone/Network enabled, Boot File Optimization,

Defragmentation Thresholds, Log File configuration options, and Defragmentation Schedules have also been implemented as Group Policy Administrative Templates. All these configuration settings can be found under Administrative Templates within the Computer Configuration section of the Group Policy.

User actions available from within the PerfectDisk GUI interface such as Analyze, Offline Defragmentation, Online Defragmentation, Stop Defragmentation, Schedule Creation/Deletion/Modification, Running of Schedules, limit GUI access, and Modification of Drive settings have also been implemented as Group Policy Administrative Templates within the User Configuration section of the Group Policy.

With these Administrative Templates, an administrator can quickly and easily install, configure, schedule, and manage PerfectDisk across the entire enterprise from the Active Directory interface.

There are a number of benefits to managing enterprise defragmentation with Active Directory and PerfectDisk.

Benefits

There are a number of benefits to managing enterprise defragmentation with Active Directory and PerfectDisk.

Leverage Active Directory Configuration

By integrating with Active Directory, PerfectDisk ensures that installations and updates will be easy and fast and use minimal network resources. This also takes advantage of existing knowledge and expertise.

Common Management Interface

With Active Directory being the single management console for the enterprise, there is no need to have additional defragmentation consoles that need to be deployed and installed on named machines to manage network-wide defragmentation.

Group Inheritance

The group inheritance properties of Active Directory Group Policy greatly reduce the amount of system administrator time consumed staying abreast of changes in the user community. For example: When a new user joins a company and is assigned to a group, Active Directory instantly recognizes that this user is present and will ensure that all members of the group have PerfectDisk installed and configured according to the policy for that group. Active

Directory will also automatically configure PerfectDisk to set schedules to match the defined group policy schedule. There is no need for the administrator to “push” PerfectDisk out to the user’s machine and then attach to the machine and manually set schedules.

Summary

Active Directory Group Policy/Administrative Templates and PerfectDisk offer the enterprise system administrator a quick, easy, and reliable approach to managing disk defragmentation across hundreds or thousands of machines for many. The Active Directory management console provides a familiar single point of control and reduces the learning curve.

Active Directory Group Policy/ Administrative Templates and PerfectDisk offer the enterprise system administrator the quickest, easiest, and most reliable approach to managing disk defragmentation across hundreds or thousands of machines.

PerfectDisk is certified by Microsoft. In a single pass, PerfectDisk will defragment and optimize partitions in excess of several terabytes, with as little as 1% free space. PerfectDisk’s patented file placement strategy ensures that future defragmentation passes run more quickly and consume less system resources. PerfectDisk is the only defragmentation solution that does all of this while at the same time consolidating the free space on the disk to slow new fragmentation. PerfectDisk is designed to perform industrial strength defragmentation on the worst disk in the organization.

PerfectDisk is a registered trademark of Raxco Software, Inc. Microsoft, Windows, Windows Server and Active Directory are trademarks or registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation. All other trademarks or trade names are the property of their respective owners.