Guide to enhance the protection for
ADManager Plus installation

Introduction

ADManager Plus, a leading Identity Governance and Administration (IGA) solution, empowers organizations with user onboarding, offboarding, auditing, risk assessments, delegation, workflows, integrations, automations, and access certifications. However, emerging cyber threats due to unauthorized access necessitate securing your ADManager Plus installation, which holds critical organizational data. In this guide, you will know how to secure your ADManager Plus installation environment.

Securing ADManager Plus installation folder

By default, ADManager Plus will be installed in the C:\ProgramFiles\ManageEngine folder.

From build 7210, the Authenticated Users group does not have access to the installation directory, and only the users in the SYSTEM, Administrators, Domain Admins groups, and the user account linked during installation will have default access.

In the builds prior to 7210, even users without administrative privileges who were part of the Authenticated Users group were given Full Control permission for the files in the installation directory. To remove the Authenticated Users group from the Access Control List (ACL) on ADManager Plus and improve data security, follow the steps provided below.

Solution

There are two ways to tackle this problem. You can either manually modify the permission settings or use the SecureDeployment.exe file, which will automatically modify the settings.

1. Using SecureDeployment.exe file

2. Manually modifying permissions

   - When ADManager Plus is installed in *C:\ManageEngine folder.*

   - When ADManager Plus is installed in *C:\Program Files folder.*

Using SecureDeployment.exe file

Benefits

The SecureDeployment.exe file in the bin directory will automatically:

- Prevent users in Authenticated Users group from accessing the ADManager Plus installation folders.
- Assign Full permissions for the given account.
- Configure log-on as account credentials if ADManager Plus is accessed as a service.

How to execute the SecureDeployment.exe file

Option 1: Update to build 7210 or above and go to the <Installation Directory>/bin folder (by default C:\Program Files\ManageEngine\ADManager Plus\bin) and run the SecureDeployment.exe file as administrator.

Option 2: Download the zip file using this link. Extract the zip and move SecureDeployment.exe file to the <Installation Directory>/bin folder and run the SecureDeployment.exe file as administrator.

This ensures that the ADManager Plus deployment environment is secured.

Manually modifying permissions

Steps to perform if ADManager Plus is installed in C:\ManageEngine folder

- If ADManager Plus is installed on a client OS

- If ADManager Plus is installed on a server OS

By default, the client OS installation folder has Authenticated Users with Modify permission for subfolders. However, installation folder in the server OS does not have Authenticated Users in the ACL.

Case 1:

When ADManager Plus is installed on a client OS

To allow users with less privileges to start or stop ADManager Plus on the client OS, follow the steps:

1. Disable Inheritance for the installation folder available in the default location.
   Example: C:\ManageEngine\ADManager Plus

2. Remove Authenticated Users from the ACL.

3. Remove Authenticated Users permission for these folders from the product's installation folder: bin\licenses, lib\licenses, temp, webapps\adsm\temp.

4. Assign Modify permission to the installation folder for users who have the responsibility of starting the product. If the product is installed as a service with log-on as an account, ensure this account has the modify permission.

Case 2:

When ADManager Plus is installed on a server OS

To allow users with less privileges to start or stop ADManager Plus on the client OS, follow the steps:

1. Remove Authenticated Users permission for these folders from the product's installation folder: *bin\licenses, lib\licenses, temp, webapps\adsm\temp.*

2. Assign Modify permission to the installation folder for users who have the responsibility of starting the product. If the product is installed as a service with a **log-on as** account, ensure this account has the modify permission.

Steps to perform if ADManager Plus is installed in C:\Program Files folder

If the product installation folder is at the default location which is C:\Program Files\ADManager Plus, follow the steps given below. These steps are valid for both client and server OSs.

1. Remove Authenticated Users permission for these folders from the product's installation folder: *bin\licenses, lib\licenses, temp, webapps\adsm\temp.*

2. Assign Modify permission to the *C:\Program Files\ADManager Plus* folder for users who have the responsibility of starting the product. If the product is installed as a service with a **log-on as** account, ensure this account has the modify permission

Note:

- Microsoft recommends that any software should be installed in the **Program Files** directory. Based on your specific needs or organizational policies, you can choose a different location.

- The steps mentioned in this guide are applicable to all ManageEngine products which have *C:\ManageEngine* as the default installation location.

Our Products

AD360 | Log360 | ADAudit Plus | ADSelfService Plus

M365 Manager Plus | RecoveryManager Plus
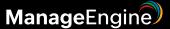
ManageEngine
ADManager Plus

ADManager Plus is an identity governance and administration (IGA) solution that simplifies identity management, ensures security, and improves compliance. With ADManager Plus, manage the user life cycle from provisioning to deprovisioning, run access certification campaigns, orchestrate identity management across enterprise applications, and protect data on your enterprise platforms with regular backups. Use over 200 reports to gain valuable insights into identities and their access rights. Improve the efficiency of your IGA operations with workflows, automations, and role-based access control policies. ADManager Plus' Android and iOS applications help with on-the-go AD and Azure AD management. For more information about ADManager Plus, visit manageengine.com/products/ad-manager/.

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