

# Synchronize External Directory Groups in a Site

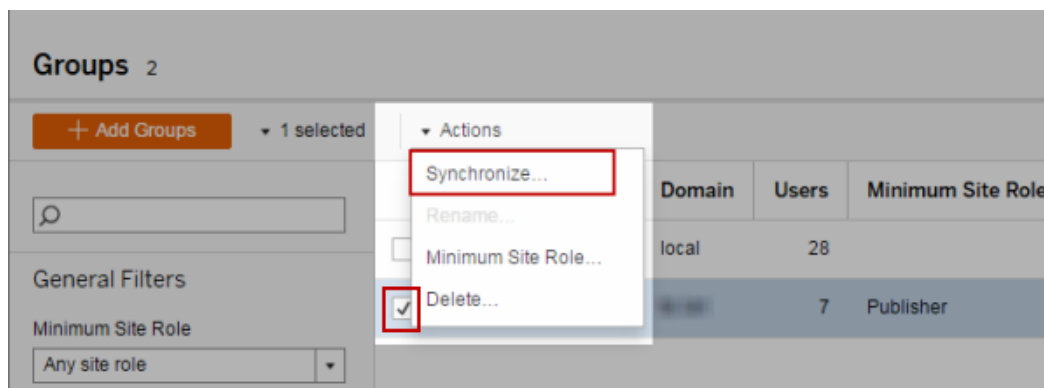
At any time, you can synchronize an external directory (such as Active Directory) group with [Tableau Server] to ensure new users in the external directory are also added in [Tableau Server]. You can synchronize individual groups or multiple groups at once.

**Note:** In the context of user and group synchronization, Tableau Server configured with LDAP identity store is equivalent to Active Directory. Active Directory synchronization features in Tableau Server function seamlessly with properly configured LDAP directory solutions.

1. In a site, click [Groups].

On the Groups page, select one or more groups.

2. Click [Actions] > [Synchronize].



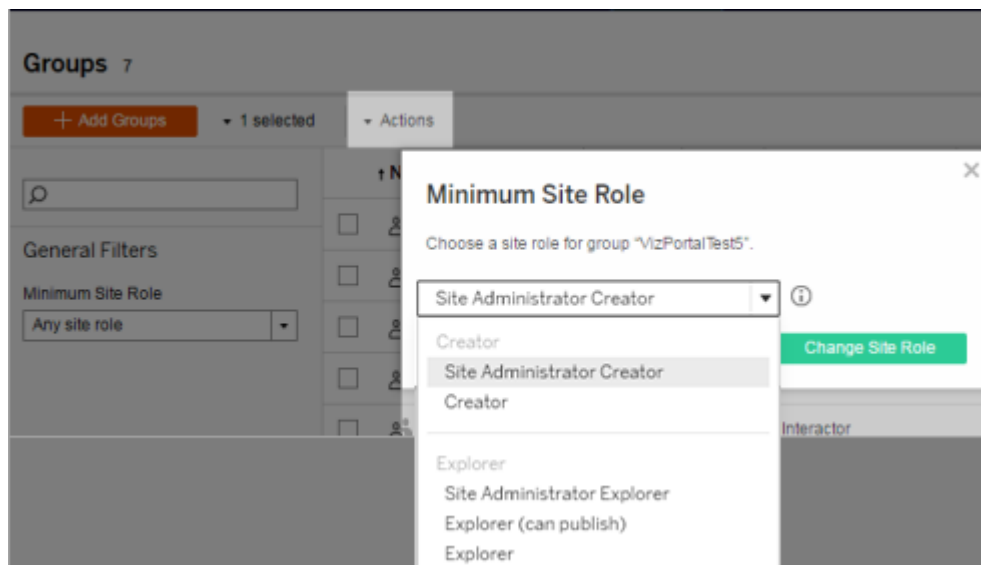
## Set the minimum site role for users in an external directory group

In the [ Groups - Details] page, administrators can set the minimum site role for group users to apply during synchronization.

This setting does not run synchronization; it sets the minimum site role to applied to the group every time synchronization runs. When you synchronize external directory groups, new users are added to the site with the minimum site role. If a user already exists, the minimum site role will be applied if it gives the user more access in a site. If you don't set a minimum site role, new users are added as [Unlicensed] by default.

**Note:** A user's site role can be promoted but never demoted based on the minimum site role setting. If a user already has the ability to publish, that ability will always be maintained. For more information on minimum site role, see [Site roles and Active Directory import and synchronization](#).

1. In a site, click [Groups].
2. On the Groups page, select a group, and then select [Actions] > [Minimum Site Role].
3. Select the minimum site role, and then click **Change Site Role**.



What happens when users are removed in the source external directory?

Users cannot be automatically removed from the Tableau Server through an external directory sync operation. Users that are disabled, deleted, or removed from groups in the external directory remain on Tableau Server so that administrators can audit and reassign the user's content before removing the user's account completely. For more information, see [Sync behavior when removing users from Active Directory](#).

#### What happens when a user name changes in the source external directory

By default, Tableau Server will not synchronize changes to the user display name or email address after the initial synchronization when the corresponding account is created in Tableau Server. For example, if the user name jsmith is used for the display name John Smith, changing the display name in external directory to Joe Smith will not synchronize to the corresponding jsmith user in Tableau Server. Similarly, if the user's email changes in the external directory, Tableau Server will not synchronize changes.

You can configure Tableau Server to update the name and email properties when they change in the source external directory by setting `vizportal.adsync.update_system_user` to `true`.

To change this behavior run the following tsm commands:

```
tsm configuration set -k vizportal.adsync.update_system_user -v true
```

```
tsm pending-changes apply
```

If the pending changes require a server restart, the `pending-changes apply` command will display a prompt to let you know a restart will occur. This prompt displays even if the server is stopped, but in that case there is no restart. You can suppress the prompt using the `--ignore-prompt` option, but this does not change the restart behavior. If the changes do not require a restart, the changes are applied without a prompt. For more information, see [tsm pending-changes apply](#).

#### What happens when an external directory group is removed from Tableau Server?

Many Tableau administrators use external directory groups to import and create users. After the users are imported into Tableau Server, administrators will then delete the group in Tableau Server. Deleting a group does not delete the users in it.