

PERMISSION REPORTER® v4.1

Report Descriptions

NETsec

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1 Introduction

In this document you will find a brief description of the reports you can create using NETsec Permission Reporter.

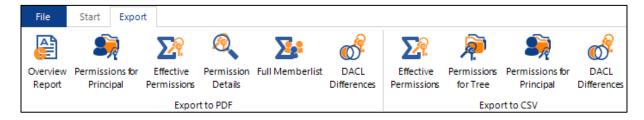
2 Reports

Permission Reporter provides reports to facilitate the communication of permissions granted for security principals¹ on analyzed securable objects² (e.g. files, folders, shares).

A report always refers to gathered data of an analysis, which has already been successfully finished. Building a report using "live-data" from the file system or an analysis which is in any state but "done" is not possible.

Permission Reporter also supports your colleagues, who are working in non-technological departments, understanding the result of its analyses by visually-compelling reports.

This is why Permission Reporter offers two file formats for exporting reports.



All Report Types

2.1 CSV Reports

CSV Reports offer extensive collections of permissions. Since spreadsheet like Microsoft Excel are capable of interpreting files containing CSV data, we recommend using these reports for further processing.

2.2 PDF Reports

PDF Reports are visually more appealing then CSV Reports. Therefor PDF Reports may be more suitable for colleagues in non-technological positions by facilitating the comprehensibility of permissions on securable objects.

On the other hand PDF Reports are not suitable for processing exported data afterwards and result in large file sizes due to images.

¹ https://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/cc780957(v=ws.10).aspx

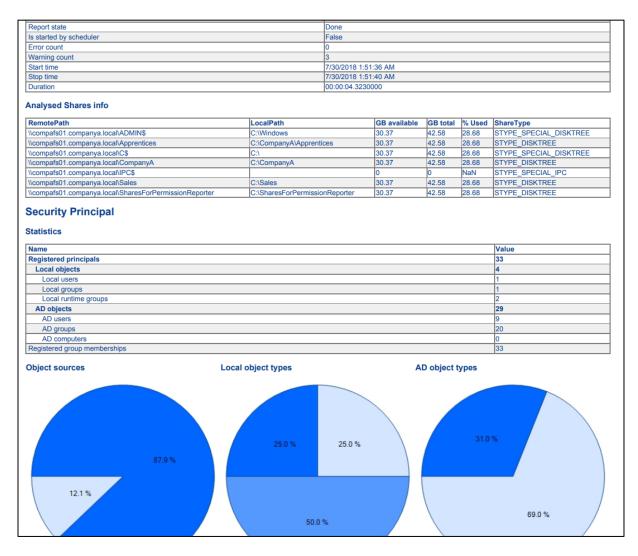
² https://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/windows/desktop/aa379557(v=vs.85).aspx

Permission Reporter 4.1 Report Descriptions

3 Provided Report Types

3.1 Overview (PDF only)

This report contains general statistical data of an analysis. This report can be send as a status information for administrators.

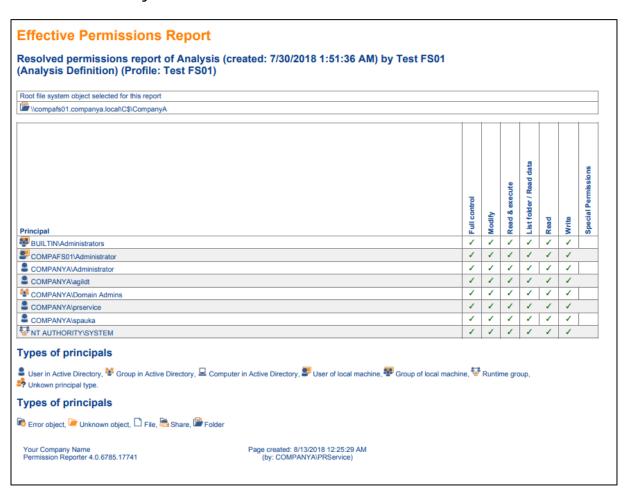


3.2 Effective Permissions (CSV, PDF)

By creating this report, an analyzed DACL (Discretionary Access Control List, see chapter 5.1 DACL) of a securable object gets processed.

All security principals which are addressed by being named in (at least) one ACE (Access Control Entry, see chapter 5.2 ACE) or by being a (nested) member in any security group named in the DACL will be resolved.

These security principals will be listed with their effective permission on the securable object.

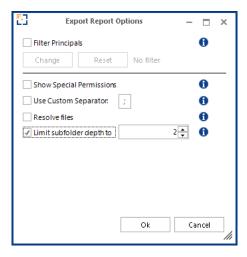


3.3 Permissions for Tree (CSV)

Similar to the "Effective Permissions Report" this report lists all security principals having any permission and their effective permissions on securable objects at the time of the chosen analysis.

But other than in the "Effective Permissions Report" the chosen securable object serves as entry point. Sub-objects of this object will also be included in this report.

In order to avoid excessive memory consumption, this reports may be limited to a maximum level of sub-folder. If this level is reached, no further sub-folder will be included in the report. E.g. C:\ is analyzed and the limit is set to 2, the folder C:\Root\Sub1\ will be included to the report, but C:\Root\Sub1\Sub2\ will not be included.



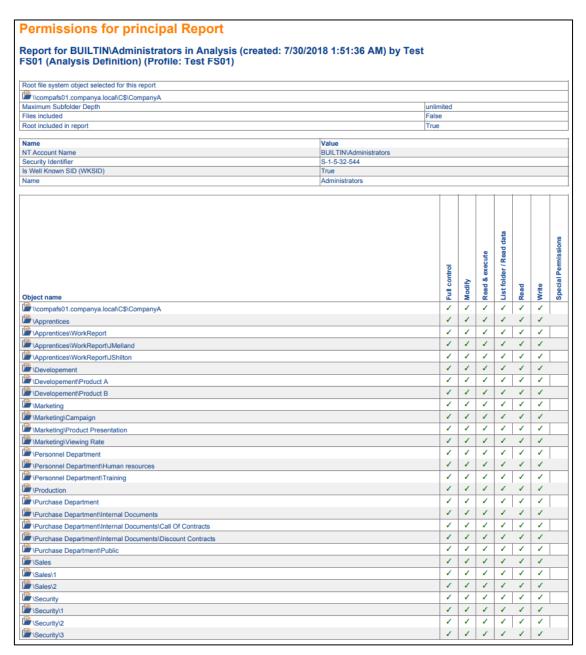
If no limitation is set, the report will include every securable object starting from the selected entry point.

3.4 Permissions for Principal (CSV, PDF)

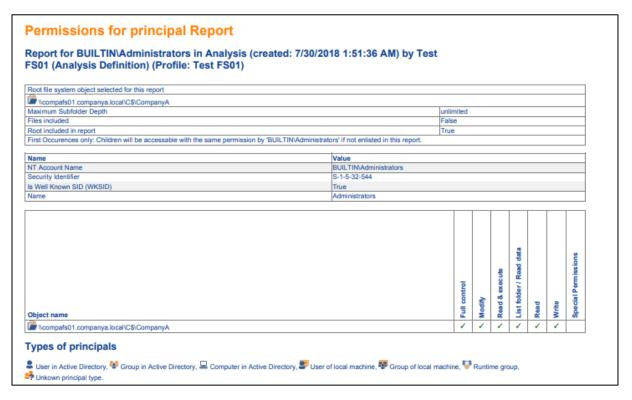
To create a "Permissions for Principal Report" an analyzed security principal as well as a securable object has to be selected.

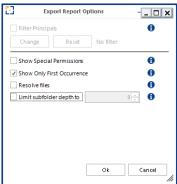
The selected securable object will be used as entry point similar to the selected securable object in a "Permissions for Tree Report".

This report will contain all securable objects and the individual effective permissions the selected principal has on them starting with the entry point.



By setting "Show Only First Occurrence" in export options for *Permissions* for *Principal*, the report will look like following.



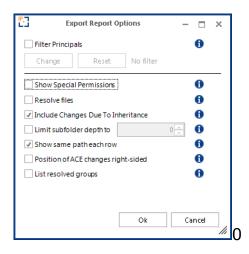


3.5 DACL Differences (CSV, PDF)

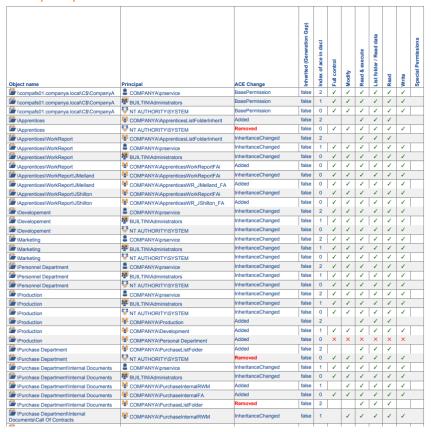
Starting with a chosen securable object as an entry point this report shows all differences between DACLs of sub-objects and their direct parents at the time of the chosen analysis.

Therefore a DACL of a securable object will be compared with the DACL of the object which is the direct parent. All disparities between DACLs will be listed in this report in the form of ACEs, causing disparities, and a phrase characterizing the kind of disparity.

You also can use the Principal Filter (see chapter 0 Filter Principals) to see only principals you want to see.



3.5.1 Kinds of disparity



3.5.1.1 BasePermission

Represents an ACE of the entry point's DACL. This ACE does not necessarily cause a disparity between its DACL and the DACL of the direct parent.

Note: Since the direct parent is not part of this report you will not be able to make an objective statement whether the ACE is responsible for a different DACL or not.

3.5.1.2 Added

An ACE tagged with the "Added"-keyword means in effect that the DACL of the parent object does not contain an ACE which grants the same permissions to the same security principal.

This means that a new permission has been added to the child object's DACL.

3.5.1.3 Removed

ACEs which are listed as "Removed" representing missing ACEs compared to the parent object's DACL.

3.5.1.4 InheritanceChanged

If an ACE is tagged as "InheritanceChanged", no new permission is added or removed from the DACL of the securable object compared to its parent.

The given ACE differs in its properties concerning inheritance rules. So this ACE may be either the first inherited entry after a new ACE is applied to a securable object or this ACE will not be inherited to the same types of objects as the related ACE of the parent object.

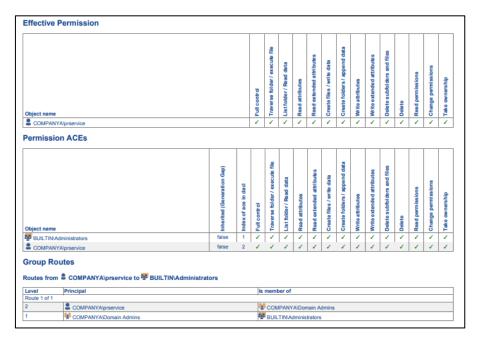
3.6 Permissions Details Report (PDF)

Shows the analyzed effective permission granted for a selected security principal on a securable object.

Furthermore all ACEs of the DACL, which contributed to the effective permission on the selected securable object, are listed in this report.

If listed ACEs are granted permissions over (security) groups, this report will also show the nested memberships of the group, which are leading to the selected security principal.

Example: In the image below the user *prservice* is granted with the permission via the group *BULTIN\Administrators*. prservice is not a direct member of this group. *BULTIN\Administrators* has a member, which is also a group called *COMPANYA\Domain Admins*. prservice is member of the *Domain Admins* group. You can see the resolved membership in this report in the chapter *Group Routes*.



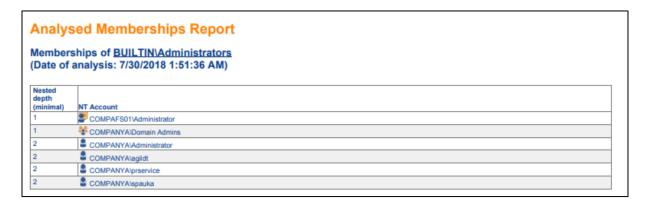
3.7 Full Memberlist Report (PDF)

Shows all analyzed members of a selected group.

This report includes nested memberships and displays the minimal nesting depth.

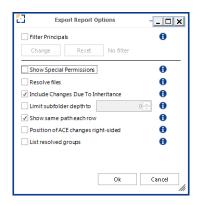
A nested depth of 1 stands for a direct membership. A depth value of 2 means that the listed security principal is member of a group which itself is a direct member of the selected group.

If a security principal is a member of the group via different routes, the shortest route and the minimal nesting depth will be listed.



4 Export Report Options

The provided report types offer options, which allow to filter the amount of results. This allows you to export the information you need keeping the resulting size of the exported file as small as possible.



Export Report Options for DACL Differences

4.1 Show Only First Occurrences

By enabling this option the report will only list securable objects, for whom the effective permission granted to the selected security principal differs from the effective permission granted on the current parent object.

This means effectively that if analyzed sub-objects are not listed in the exported file, these objects grant the same permission to the security principal as the current parent object.

Affected report types:

Permissions for Principal



Show Only First Occurences enabled

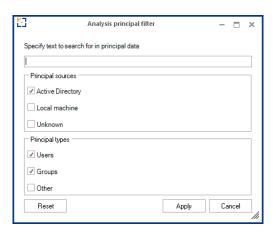


Show Only First Occurences disabled

4.2 Filter Principals

If a filter is applied for security principals the resulting report will only list security principals which match the defined filter conditions. During the creation of the report however a given filter will not prevent security groups to be resolved, even if these groups do not match the given filter conditions.

You can filter by only selecting specific type e.g. *Active Directory users* and groups without the need of filtering by name.



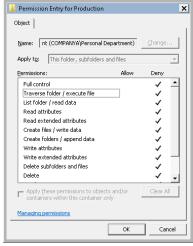
Affected report types:

- Effective Permissions
- Permissions for Tree
- DACL Differences

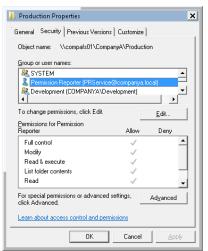
4.3 Show Special Permissions

Enabling this option will cause Permission Reporter to export the access mask of permissions in the form of advanced permissions similar to the advanced permissions listed in the Advanced Permission Dialog of Microsoft's Windows Explorer.

If this option is disabled, Permission Reporter will display the access mask similar to the permissions listed in the "Security"-Tab of the Property-Dialog of Microsoft's Windows Explorer.



Special permissions



Permissions



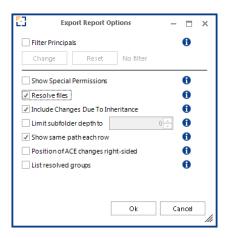
Special Permissions in report

4.4 Resolve Files

Enable the option *Resolve Files* if you to include files in the report. Please note that including files will likely lead to a significant increase of the amount of results in the report.

Consequently the time needed for the export to be generated will also increase.

Note: This option can only be applied if the analysis has "include Files" enabled.

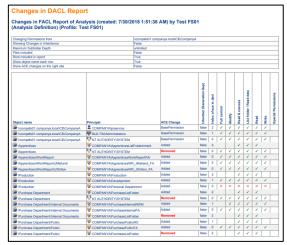


Affected report types:

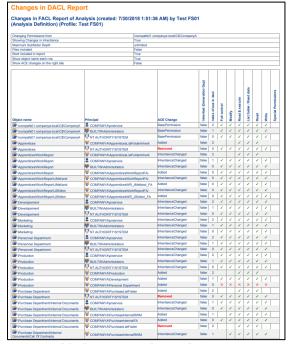
- Permissions for Principal
- Permissions for Tree
- DACL Differences

4.5 Include Changes Due To Inheritance

Disabling the option *Include Changes Due To Inheritance* will cause Permission Reporter not to list ACEs which are going to be flagged with the "InheritanceChanged" disparity.



disabled option with resulting report



enabled option with resulting report

Affected report types:

DACL Differences

4.6 Limit Subfolder Depth To ...

In order to avoid excessive memory consumption, a report may be limited to a maximum level of sub-folder. If this level is reached, no further sub-folder will be included in the report.

If no limitation is set, the report will include every securable object starting from the selected entry point (e.g. folder or share).

E.g. C:\ is analyzed and the limit is set to 2, the folder C:\Root\Sub1\ will be included to the report, but C:\Root\Sub1\Sub2\ will not be included.

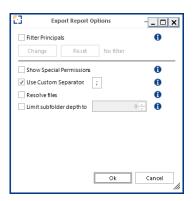
Affected report types:

- Permissions for Tree
- Permissions for Principal
- DACL Differences

4.7 Use Custom Separator (CSV only)

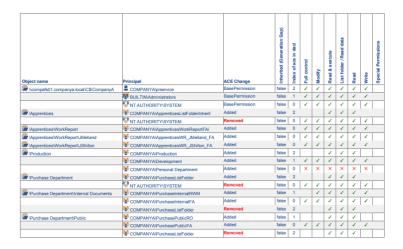
Normally there is no need to change the separator for a CSV Report.

But if you want Permission Reporter to use a separator other than the default separator (";") to divide cells inside a CSV Report, you can use this option to select a separator.



4.8 Show same path each row

On huge reports it will be confusing to see the folder-name displayed for each permission. By de-selecting this option you will see the folder only once.

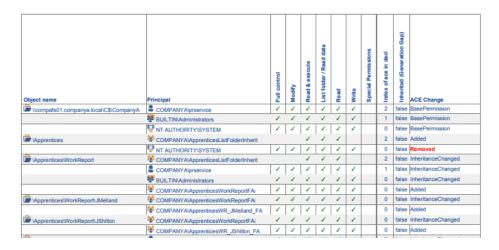


Affected report types:

• DACL Differences (PDF only)

4.9 Position of ACE changed right-sided

Here you can set the ACE change information to be positioned right sided instead of the middle. This makes the reading of reports easier for non-technicians.

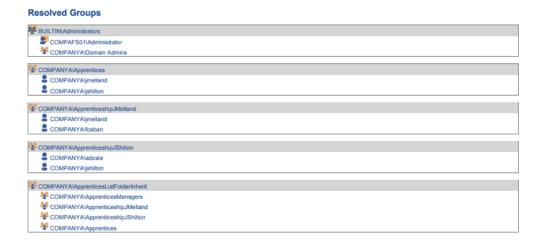


Affected report types:

• DACL Differences (PDF only)

4.10 List resolved groups (PDF only)

You can show all groups affected in this report with their membership resolved.



5 Explanation of Terms

5.1 DACL (Discretionary Access Control List)

The DACL is part of the security descriptor of a securable object like a file, a folder of the file system or even a shared folder.

As a part of the security descriptor of a securable object, a DACL is the list which describes the permissions granted for security principals (like users or security groups) on the securable object.

5.2 ACE (Access Control Entry)

An ACE is an entry inside an ACL (Access Control List). In the case of the DACL an ACE defines the permission granted for a security principal (like a user or a security group) on a securable object, to whose security descriptor the DACL belongs.