

## product review

# 8MAN: FROM PROTECTED-NETWORKS.COM

A fundamental requirement for meeting compliance regulations is Active Directory (AD) auditing, but many businesses still do not have the tools in place to achieve this effectively. Insiders pose the biggest threat to data security, so it's essential that administrators know in real time who has access to what resource and can demonstrate this to auditors.

8MAN simplifies these processes immensely. Its single, unified view provides complete transparency into all AD user and group access rights, along with file access permissions to any CIFS resource. Additionally, 8MATE modules snap seamlessly into the main administrative interface, and extend these functions to Exchange Server, SharePoint farms and VMware vSphere.

Along with a continual update process driven by customer feedback, 8MAN offers additional components designed to reduce the management burden further. Grant Me Access (GrantMA) provides a self-service portal where users log in and request access rights to specific resources. The portal allows users to choose from folders or AD group membership and places their request into a shopping cart. The cart is reviewed by an administrator from the main 8MAN console and, if they approve the request, it automatically implements the requested changes.

The 8MATE AD Logga utility adds essential compliance auditing by logging all AD activity, highlighting changes in a logbook and creating custom reports. FS Logga does the same for file access

permissions and the latest version adds support for Windows Server 2012 R2 resources.

We found the 8MAN console easy to use, as it eschews traditional menu and tab structures in favour of a simple system of icons for swift feature access. It's also easier to get instant information on details such as AD users and groups by entering the search criteria in the console's search bar. 8MAN's AD scans can be set up to run automatically at regular intervals. With the additional 8MATE modules installed, scans can also be set up for Exchange, SharePoint and VMware systems.

The 8MATE Dashboard provides an extensive range of predefined reports, although it's easy enough to create custom reports for selected resources. Reports can also be exported to XPS format, so that users can readily prove to auditors these are tamper-free.

You can use 8MAN to delegate tasks; reports can be emailed to department heads, clearly showing their teams' access rights. These include details, such as users with excessive privileges or inactive accounts, and you can permit them to use the 8MAN console to access their section of the AD tree to clear up any problems.

Support for drag and drop makes it even easier to modify access rights from the 8MAN console. It adheres to Microsoft best practices, because it runs a policy check on each action and adds the user to an existing group with appropriate permissions or by creating a new group.



Templates make light work of creating new users, as they determine group membership and privileges. It's not a problem if an employee moves to a different department, as assigning a new template changes all their access rights in one fell swoop. Without this control, they are all too often just augmented: a step towards disaster. Also, it is easy to see why a user has access to a specific AD resource, as the 8MAN console lists all their access paths and offers a slick flowcharting service. The flowcharts can also be used to peer into groups and see all member objects, which 8MAN colour-codes for easy identification.

Active Directory can become a real liability, if it isn't properly managed. 8MAN provides complete visibility into all granted access rights and permissions, and this allows businesses to tighten up security and, at the same time, become much more productive.

**Product:** 8MAN  
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