



Active Directory Validation - User Guide

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1 Introduction

Before accessing the CMS Console, C1 CMS users are required to authenticate by providing their usernames and passwords. In this way, all non-authenticated users will not be able to log in and work in the CMS Console. This is the standard C1 CMS user validation system.

As C1 CMS is flexible and extendible, it allows you to use an external authentication system for user validation if necessary. In some cases, using an external system has its advantages.

For example, some authentication systems additional features that enhanced overall security. On the other hand by using an external system, you can avoid double authentication. You can authenticate within this system and further access to other security-aware systems will be automatic without providing the same credentials over and over again.

This both simplifies authentication and maintains high-level security.

Active Directory has all necessary facilities for network administration and security and handles authentication and authorization of all users and computers in a Windows domain-based network. This makes it a perfect choice to be that external authentication system for C1 CMS.

To implement Active Directory user validation against the CMS Console, you need the Active Directory Validation add-on.

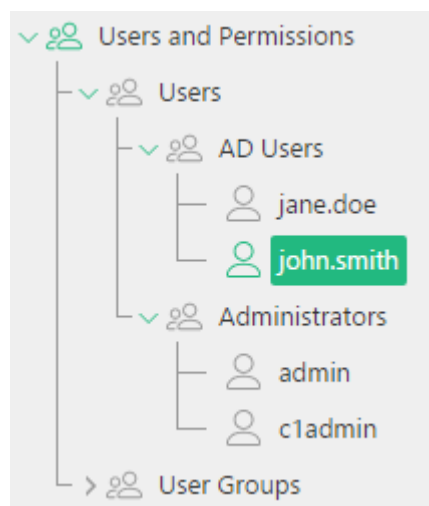


Figure 1: Active Directory users mapped to the CMS Console users

This add-on integrates the Active Directory user validation into the C1 CMS security system and allows Active Directory users to automatically authenticate in the CMS Console.

Integrating the Active Directory validation with C1 CMS takes just a few simple steps, and, as a result, Active Directory users can skip the login screen when accessing the CMS Console without compromising any security.

And being standard CMS Console users, too, they can be assigned various roles to access only those C1 CMS areas and carry out only those activities that their role allows them to.

1.1 Who Should Read This Guide?

This guide is mostly intended for website administrators who want to simplify CMS Console logins by using Windows authentication instead of the standard CMS Console authentication.

As such, you will primarily work within the Users perspective creating users and, if necessary, user groups.

To install the add-on, you will need permissions to install add-ons in the System perspective.

You will also need to edit the website's authentication configuration via IIS Manager.

1.2 Getting Started

To get started with the Active Directory Validation add-on, you are supposed to take a number of steps.

Getting Started		
Step	Activity	Chapter or section
1	Create a CMS Console user with administrative permissions to match an Active Directory user	<i>Creating a CMS Console Admin for an Active Directory user</i>
2	Install the add-on	<i>Installing the add-on</i>
3	Configure Basic Authentication on IIS	<i>Setting Basic Authentication in IIS</i>
4	Log in to the CMS Console	<i>Logging in to the CMS Console with AD credentials</i>
5	Add more CMS Console users to match Active Directory users	<i>Matching Active Directory and CMS Console users</i>

2 Creating a CMS Console Admin for an Active Directory user

For the Active Directory user validation to work instead of the standard CMS Console validation, you should match Active Directory users and CMS Console users.

To match them, you need to have the users with the same usernames in both Active Directory and the CMS Console. You can either create an Active Directory user to represent the existing CMS Console user, or create a CMS Console user to represent an Active Directory user. The former is a less common scenario so this guide will focus on the latter scenario.

After implementing Active Directory user validation for the CMS Console, the standard admin account will most likely stop working (unless you have the AD account with the same user name)

To be able to administrate the CMS Console, you should have at least one CMS Console user with the administrative permissions that has the same username as an existing AD user.

You should make sure that such a user exists in the CMS Console before installing the Active Directory Validation add-on.

1. In the System perspective, make sure that the "Administrator" group exists.

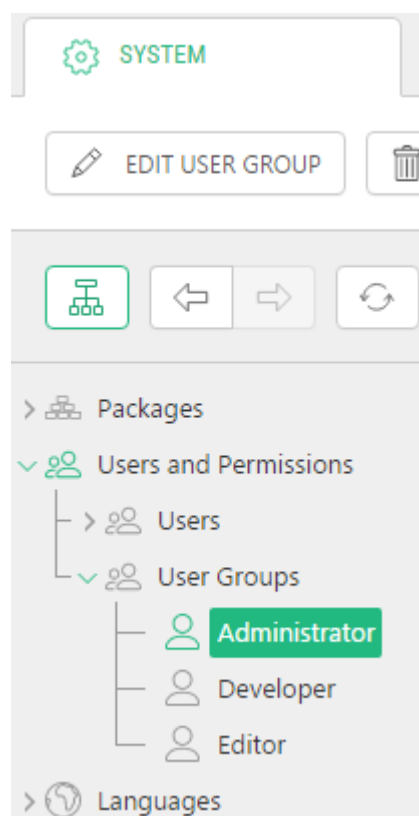


Figure 2: The Administrator group

2. Otherwise, create a user group with at least:
 - the "Administrate" and "Configure" global permissions enabled and
 - access to the "System" perspective

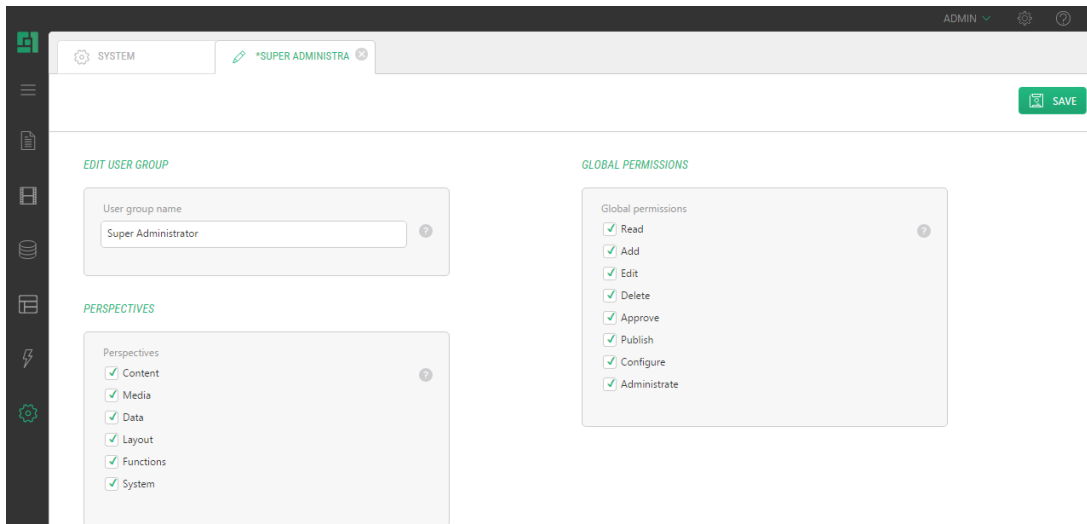


Figure 3: The user group with administrative permissions

3. In the “System” perspective, add a user:
 - **Name:** specify the username of an existing Active Directory user.
 - **Password:** specify *any* password.
4. Fill out other fields as needed and click OK.

ADD NEW USER

User name

c1admin

Password

.....

Name

C1 Admin

Email address

admin@contoso.com

Folder

Administrators

Regional settings

English, US

C1 Console Language

English, US

OK

CANCEL

Figure 4: Creating an administrator in the CMS Console

5. Assign this user the Administrators group on the Permission tab.

The screenshot shows the C1 CMS user management interface. At the top, there is a header bar with a 'SYSTEM' tab (gear icon) and a user selection dropdown showing '*C1ADMIN' with a pencil icon and a close button. Below the header, there are three tabs: 'GENERAL', 'PERMISSIONS' (highlighted in green), and 'PERSPECTIVES'. Under the 'PERMISSIONS' tab, the section 'USER GROUPS' is visible. It contains a list of user groups with checkboxes: 'Administrator' (checked with a green checkmark), 'Developer' (unchecked), and 'Editor' (unchecked). A help icon (?) is located to the right of the list.

Figure 5: Assigning the administrator group to the user

Important: You should specify the AD username without the domain prefix. For example, if the AD user is 'contoso\cms-admin', create a user named 'cms-admin'.

Note: You can specify any password as it will be ignored and not be used with the Windows authentication.

Later you can create other CMS Console users to match other AD users.

3 Installing the add-on

The installation of the add-on is no different from installation of any other C1 CMS add-ons.

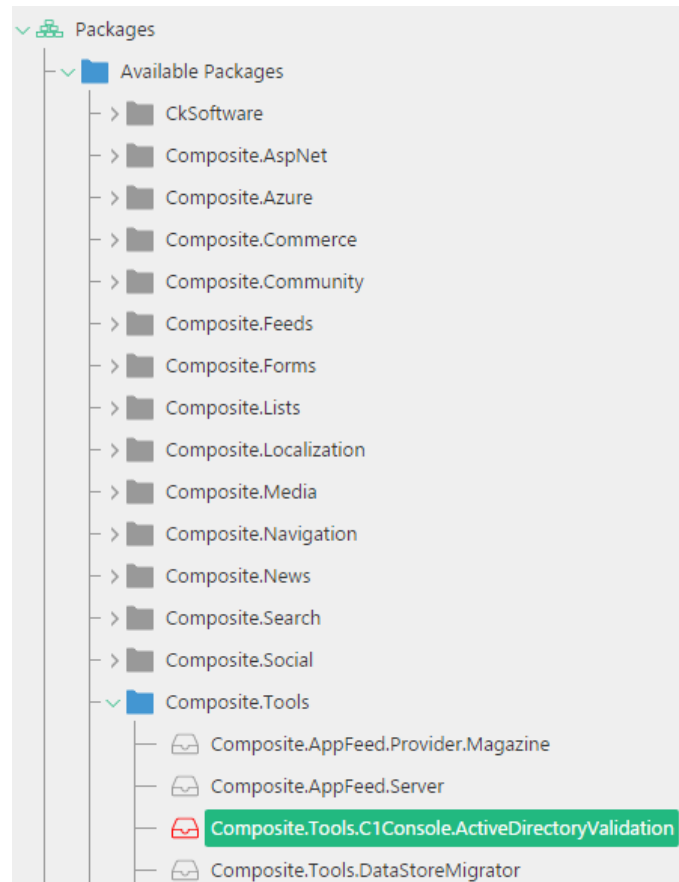


Figure 6: Installing the Active Directory Validation add-on

1. Log into the CMS Console as an administrator.
2. In the "System" perspective, open the folders "Packages" | "Available Packages" | "Composite.Tools".
3. Select "Composite.Tools.C1Console.ActiveDirectoryValidation".
4. Click "Package Info" on the button bar.
5. In the "Package Info" view, click "Install".
6. Complete the wizard.
7. Exit the CMS Console after the installation.

Note: In some cases, the installation can end with a login screen. This is expected: the add-on changes the authentication method in C1 CMS. Simply close the browser tab/window with the CMS Console.

Before you log in to the CMS Console with your AD credentials, you need to configure a proper authentication method for your website.

4 Setting Basic Authentication in IIS

For the Active Directory user validation to work for CMS Console logins, you should set up proper authentication method for your website in IIS:

1. In IIS Manager, expand the website folder structure.
2. Select the subfolder ~/Composite on your website.
3. Open its Authentication configuration.
4. Enable Basic Authentication.
5. Disable all the other authentication methods.

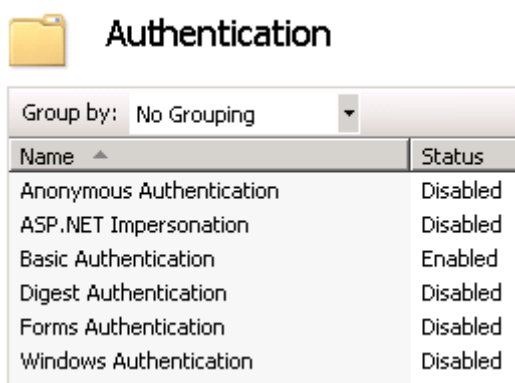


Figure 7: Enabling Basic Authentication

Now you can log in to the CMS Console.

5 Logging in to the CMS Console with AD credentials

After implementing the Active Directory user validation for the CMS Console, you can log in to the CMS Console by opening its administrative page at http://<your_website>/Composite/top.aspx.

When you log in to the CMS Console for the first time, you'll be asked to enter your username and password in a popup window.

Use your Active Directory credentials. Prefix your username with the domain name, e.g. "contoso\johndoe".

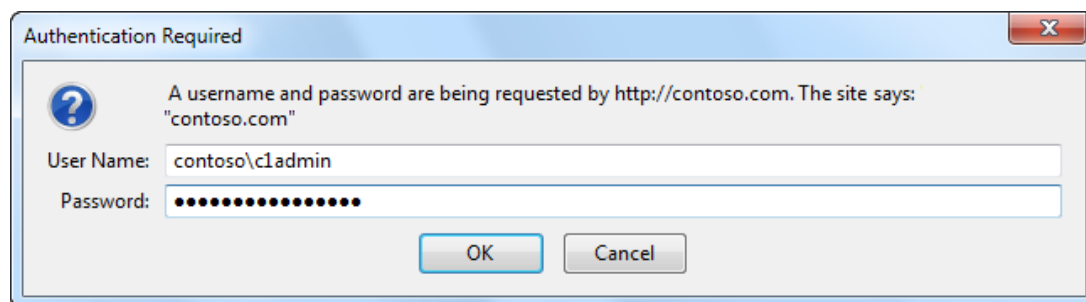


Figure 8: Logging in with the Active Directory credentials for the first time

Next time, you will not need to enter your username/password and will be logged in to the CMS Console automatically.

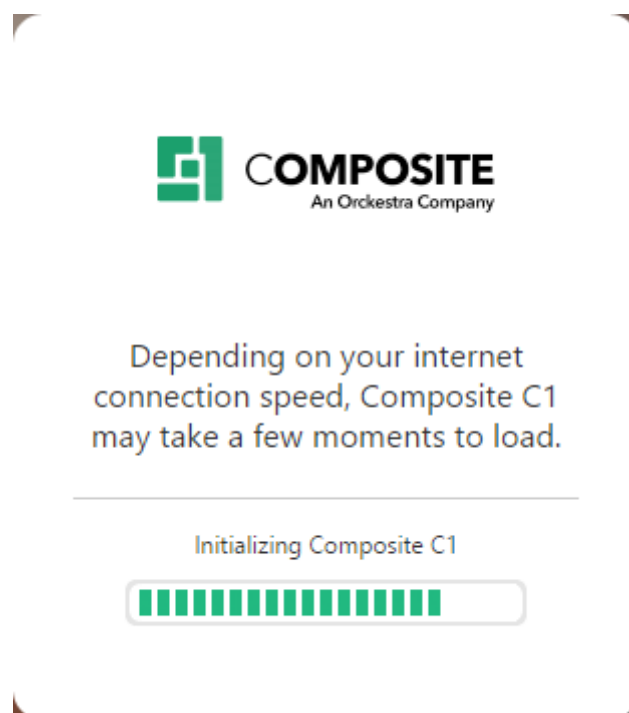


Figure 9: Automatic authentication

6 Matching Active Directory and CMS Console users

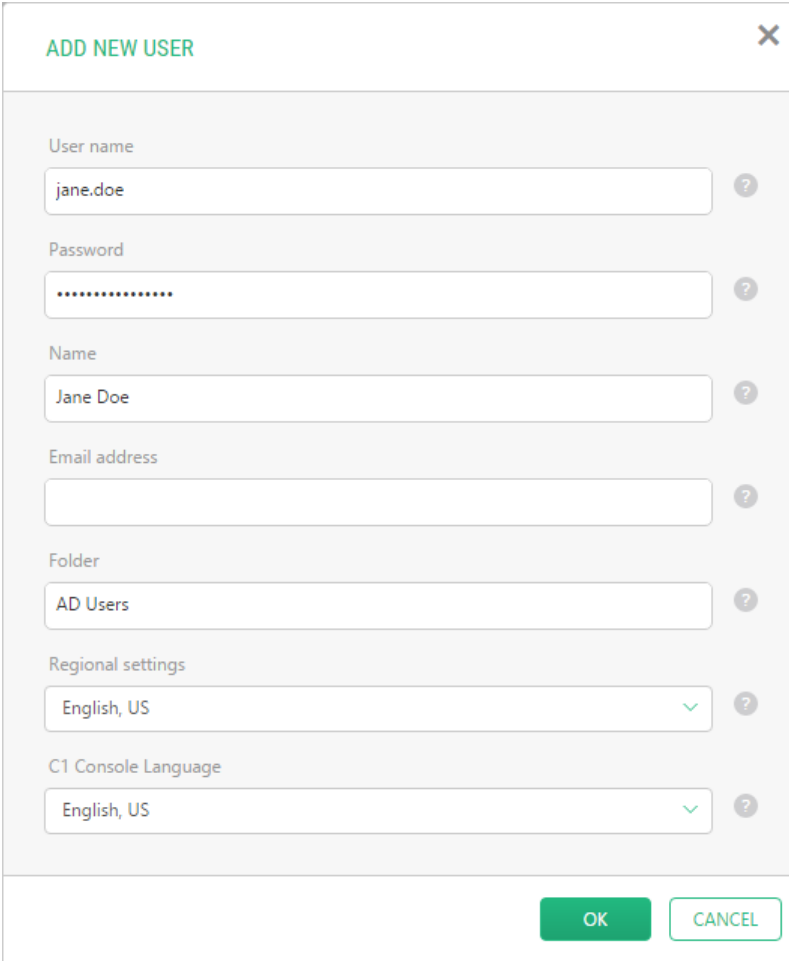
Now that the Active Directory user validation is in place, you can go on to match other Active Directory users to CMS Console users.

As mentioned before, to match them, you need to have the users with the same usernames in both Active Directory and the CMS Console.

As we assume that you have a number of existing Active Directory users that will log in to the CMS Console, you will need to create CMS Console users to represent them.

For each Active Directory user you want to log in to the CMS Console:

1. In the “System” perspective, add a user:
 - **Name:** specify the username of an existing Active Directory user.
 - **Password:** specify *any* password.




The screenshot shows a modal dialog titled "ADD NEW USER" with a close button (X) in the top right corner. The dialog contains the following fields and values:



- User name:** jane.doe
- Password:** (masked with dots)
- Name:** Jane Doe
- Email address:** (empty)
- Folder:** AD Users
- Regional settings:** English, US
- C1 Console Language:** English, US

Each field has a small question mark icon to its right. At the bottom right of the dialog are two buttons: "OK" and "CANCEL".

Figure 10: Creating other users to match those in AD

2. Fill out other fields as needed and click OK.
3. Assign the user a proper role by selecting one or more user groups on the Permission tab.

 SYSTEM

 *JANE.DOE 

GENERAL

PERMISSIONS

PERSPECTIVES

USER GROUPS

☐ Administrator

☐ Developer

☒ Editor




Figure 11: Assigning new users to various users groups

7 Using a Trial Version

If you are using a trial version of the add-on, it will expire in 30 days. After that, the AD users other than the administrator will not be able to log in to the CMS Console and will be redirected to the "shopcart" page.

The AD user who is an administrator in the CMS Console will be able to log in. Every time any user logs into the CMS Console, this message will pop up.

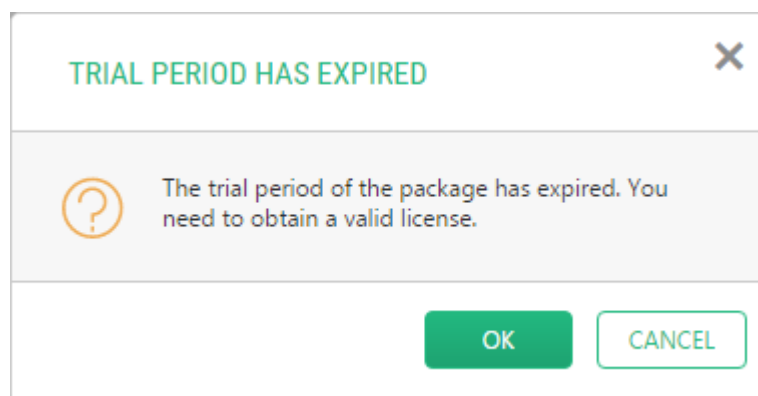


Figure 12: Trial period expiration popup message

After the trial version expires, you should purchase and install the commercial license for this add-on. This will remove the restrictions.