



## SOLUTION BRIEF

# SPHEREboard for Users and Groups: Active Directory

Enhance visibility, streamline management, and mitigate risks within your Active Directory environment.

## REDUCE ACTIVE DIRECTORY RISK WITH SPHERE AND SPHEREBOARD

**SPHERE** is where cybersecurity meets innovation. As a leader and risk-reduction innovator, we're on a mission to fortify your security, safeguard your data, and elevate your Identity Hygiene. We protect organizations against a spectrum of risks related to users and groups, often including threats associated with Active Directory.

**SPHEREboard** leverages intelligent discovery to remediate user and group issues, while organizing and securing Active Directory for immediate and sustained risk reduction.

## THE CHALLENGE WITH ACTIVE DIRECTORY GOVERNANCE

Even the most capable administrators with the highest level of vigilance will admit that consistently updating and organizing Active Directory is no easy feat. Keeping pace with the dynamic nature of a rapidly evolving organization, including promotions, lateral moves, and onboarding/offboarding processes, proves to be a formidable challenge.

As users and groups expand, nest, or grow stale, access granted via Active Directory can go out of date quickly. These unpredictable and consistent changes increase the risk of security issues, including misuse of assets, unauthorized access to sensitive data, and shutdowns of core systems.

## THE RISKS OF A MISMANAGED ACTIVE DIRECTORY

Facing challenges always involves an element of risk, and when it comes to Active Directory, things get even more serious.

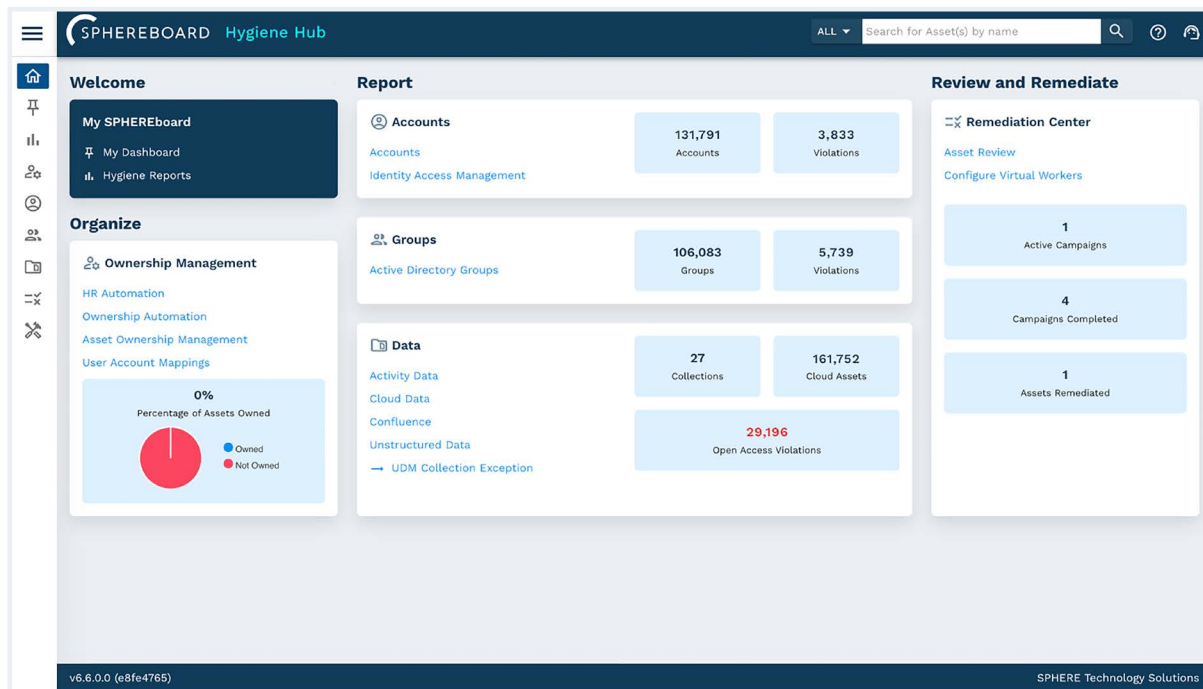
### What kind of problems can a disorganized and unsecure Active Directory cause for a company?

- **Employees end up with access to things they don't really need**, including accounts, applications, and data
- **The risk of lingering privileged access** around that could be used to exploit the company's most critical assets
- **Nested groups** that make it hard to tell who has access to what

All these issues turn Active Directory into a cluttered and, more importantly, a risky storage space – like a neglected closet desperately in need of a good clean-up. How do you reclaim control of your Active Directory with limited resources and an unpredictable and potentially messy environment?

## THE SOLUTION – MEET SPHEREBOARD FOR USERS AND GROUPS

SPHEREboard for Users and Groups is the end-to-end solution that enhances discovery, analysis, and automation in your Active Directory.



### What types of Active Directory issues does SPHEREboard for Users and Groups solve?

#### › Users who have changed roles

SPHEREboard reduces the risk of misuse by identifying users who should no longer be a member of groups, removing them, and ensuring that they have only have access to the resources they need now.

#### › Users who belong to too many groups (token bloat)

SPHEREboard prevents users from having too much access by identifying over-permissioned accounts and providing them the right level of access to the right applications and data- no more, no less.

#### › Overly Nested Groups

SPHEREboard enforces best practices to flatten heavily nested (or circularly nested) groups, simplifying even the most complex group structures and keeping them focused on a clear purpose.

#### › Stale or Empty Groups

SPHEREboard identifies and retires legacy groups that are no longer required, reducing complexity and risk.

These are just a few examples of the Active Directory issues that SPHEREboard resolves, for a comprehensive evaluation of how SPHEREboard can help your organization, [contact us](#) to connect with an expert.

## HOW DOES SPHEREBOARD ADDRESS ACTIVE DIRECTORY ISSUES?



### Step 1: Intelligent Discovery and Analysis

SPHEREboard leverages an extensive set of connectors to quickly and completely extract data from various sources. Regardless of the scale or complexity of your environment, it meticulously aggregates and analyzes your data, delivering a comprehensive inventory of all Active Directory accounts, including users, services, and groups.

Our intelligent discovery capabilities provide ongoing insight into user-group relationships, automatically spotting issues like excessive privileged access or users in multiple groups. Following anomaly detection, SPHEREboard conducts intelligent analysis, automating the identification of account and group owners, and correlating data to determine responsible parties for critical decisions on human and non-human accounts, including group membership.



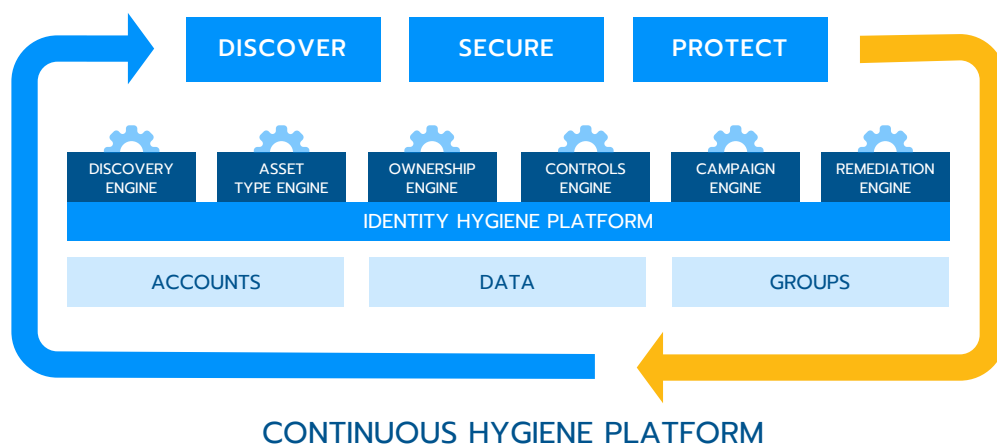
### Step 2: Secure Users and Groups

SPHEREboard's automated processes connect humans to accounts and groups and then takes corrective measures to address problematic groups, minimize access, and promote standardized access controls. By communicating with identified owners and placing users directly into the necessary groups, SPHEREboard streamlines intricate group structures. Simplifying and flattening group hierarchies in this way ensures uninterrupted access for users to the applications and resources they require.



### Step 3: Ongoing Protection

SPHEREboard isn't just made to discover existing issues and secure against future ones. It's specifically designed to protect you from them happening again in the future so that you can report with confidence knowing your Active Directory is secure. It continuously identifies, prioritizes, and remediates control violations. This ensures that your Active Directory environment remains in a perpetual state of order, effective management, and security.



CONTINUOUS HYGIENE PLATFORM

## BENEFITS OF ADDING SPHEREBOARD TO YOUR ACTIVE DIRECTORY SECURITY STRATEGY

Organizations that make SPHEREboard part of their Active Directory risk-reduction strategy gain:



### Comprehensive and continuous risk insights

Change starts with knowledge. SPHEREboard provides a clear picture of your Active Directory environment, account-group relationships, and all associated risks. With this knowledge at your fingertips, you can manage your environment more efficiently and reduce risk.



### Time and cost savings

Effectively discovering, managing, and remediating Active Directory risk usually demands a team of skilled professionals and involves hundreds, if not thousands, of hours of continuous manual effort. SPHEREboard automates these tasks, handling everything from confirming ownership and usage through automated campaigns to implementing membership changes. This not only alleviates the administrative workload but also saves your organization valuable time and resources.



### Actionable intelligence

SPHEREboard's algorithms and machine learning provide intelligence-driven insights into the security posture of your users and groups. By enabling you to identify specific risks in your environment, SPHEREboard empowers you to quickly remediate without ever interrupting the access users need to continue working efficiently.



### Sustainable risk reduction

Once your Active Directory environment is optimized, SPHEREboard's sustainability processes ensure that controls and policies are met on an ongoing basis. Conduct security assessments on-demand, monitor real-time activities of users and groups, identify emerging security risks, and address them proactively before internal or external auditors become involved.

## BRINGING IDENTITY HYGIENE TO ACTIVE DIRECTORY

Our extensive history as boots-on-the-ground practitioners of risk reduction has exposed us first-hand to the challenges and risks created by Active Directory. In crafting SPHEREboard for Users and Groups, we harnessed our extensive expertise and institutional knowledge to deliver a comprehensive solution, streamlining Active Directory management and reducing risk.

## LEARN MORE

Protect your privileged accounts and reduce Active Directory risk by making SPHEREboard for Users and Groups part of your risk-reduction strategy. To learn more about SPHEREboard or other SPHERE solutions, please visit [www.sphereco.com](http://www.sphereco.com)



## ABOUT SPHERE

SPHERE is the global leader in Identity Hygiene. We are dedicated to reshaping modern identity programs by embedding this foundational fabric, enabling organizations to quickly reduce risks. Our expertise lies in leveraging automation to deliver immediate time-to-value, providing an identity lens that protects an organization's accounts, data, and infrastructure.

Driven by our core values of passion, empathy, and transparency, our vision drives us to continually innovate, helping our clients to sleep better knowing their attack surface is drastically reduced, thwarting the plans of bad actors every single day.

We're ready to help you address your identity hygiene and security challenges. To find out more about SPHERE and our solutions, please visit [www.sphereco.com](http://www.sphereco.com).

