

PowerMAN New Features Guide v5.5

Release 5.5.3.6084 October 2020

Overview

PowerMAN v5.5 introduces some significant new product features.

Firstly, PowerMAN now provides more granular control over power management policy exceptions. Protected objects can now be configured to only apply during specific working hours, on specific days or when a user is actually logged on. This change allows policies to be better tuned to the operating environment and has the potential to greatly reduce the occasions when power management is unnecessarily disabled and consequently further reduce energy waste. In addition, to simplify configuration, PowerMAN now also provides a specific “fallback” policy to define what should happen when no other power policy is applicable. A more detailed description of these changes is contained in the PowerMAN Administration Guide.

Secondly, this release also extends PowerMAN by permitted scheduled policies to optionally repeat multiple times per day. This has the potential to simplify complex configurations, which would have previously required multiple scheduled policies.

Thirdly, to support the increased use of remote working, this release adds an optional prompt to remind the user that the system is idle and will soon enter a power saving mode. This is intended to assist scenarios where the user is present but has not interacted with the computer for a prolonged period due to a remote meeting, VoIP call or similar.

Finally, this release also introduces a variety of other features to extend the anonymous data collected by the PowerMAN and allow it to be better used for PC utilization monitoring. PowerMAN now supports weekly reporting to complement the traditional daily and monthly reports and provides a convenient method to locate workstations by name with wildcard support. In addition, this release includes a number of bug fixes and removes support for some legacy operating systems: Windows XP, Windows Server 2003 and Windows Vista.

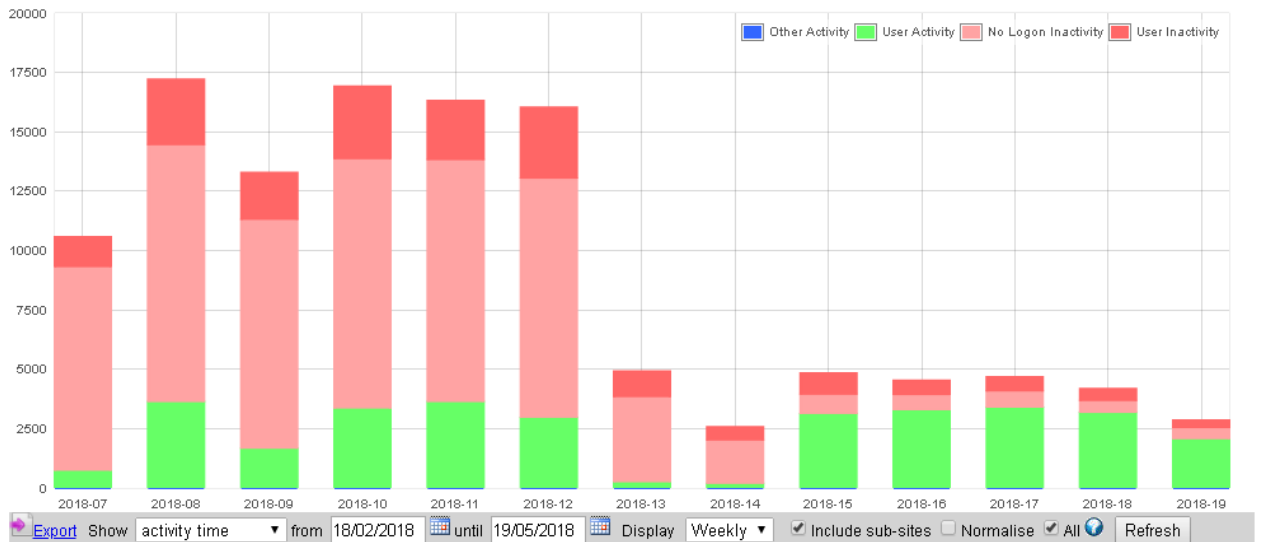
This document provides a brief explanation of recent new features and is intended for System Administrators already familiar with PowerMAN. This document describes release v5.5.2.

The majority of the new features present have followed feedback supplied by our customers. We remain very grateful to those sites for all the testing and feedback they have provided and hope they will find this release the most functional and reliable yet. In some cases, previews of these features may have been present in recent beta builds of PowerMAN. This release represents the formal public introduction of these features.

New features in PowerMAN v5.5

1. PowerMAN now provides a **monthly reporting** option to complement the existing daily and weekly reports. Some of the charts have been redesigned to improve readability and are now displayed in a new bar chart format:

Weekly Activity / Hours



2. The PowerMAN Devices tab now provides a convenient search feature to locate workstations by name. This supports * and ? wildcard characters:

Summary | Live | **Devices**

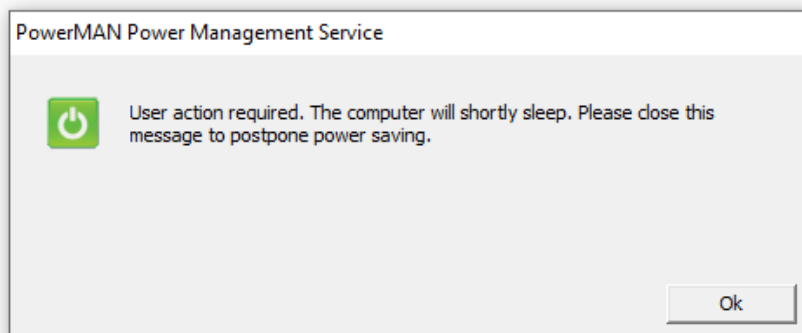
Client Version	All	Computer Name	Workstation00? <small>(Use * and ? for wildcards)</small>
OS Version	All	CPU	All
Battery	All	Logical Cores	All
Vendor	All	RAM	All to All GB
Product/Code	All	Hard Disks	All
BIOS	All	Optical Drives	All
BIOS Version	All	Free System Drive	All GB

[Export](#) Show Computers Include sub-sites Refresh Showing 329 of 329 Records





3. PowerMAN now provides a **distinct “fallback” policy** for each of the Default, No User and Specific User power policy features. The “fallback” policy, if present, will apply when no other policy is applicable in that category. The fallback policy does not have time/day restrictions.
4. PowerMAN now provides optional **email summary reports**. These can be sent daily, weekly or monthly to notify stakeholders of recent energy saving performance. This feature requires the hosted (cloud) reporting platform or PMES v5.5 or later.

	Week commencing 18/10/2020
Unique computers	512
User active hours	2,877 (7 %)
Other active hours (Defined by system administrator)	0 (0 %)
User inactive hours	35,672 (93 %) 29,362 due no user logon (76 %) 6,310 due to inactivity whilst user logged on (16 %)
Total hours	38,549 (100 %)
Inactive cost (estimated)	£ 455.99
Suggestion	PowerMAN "No User Policy" may reduce inactivity when no user is logged on. This will have no effect when a user is logged on.

- PowerMAN now provides an optional **power saving pending prompt**. This may be used to remind an inactive user, who is in a long presentation, online meeting, VoIP call or similar that power saving will commence shortly. Closing the dialog will postpone power management for another cycle. This feature is intended to increase power management savings in scenarios where a cautious system administrator may disable power management or configure an unusually long timeout to avoid disrupting inactive users.



- PowerMAN reports now distinguish between computers that have reported recently (last 30 days) and all other computers:

Site	Recent/Total Computers	Last Status	Inactive Hours	Active Hours	
General	44/68	22/09/2019	460.50	908.25	
Science	63/85	22/09/2019	145.50	485.50	
Maths	46/78	20/09/2019	67.75	473.50	
PE	16/29	20/09/2019	61.75	106.00	

[Export](#) Show **worst** 10 sub-sites from 15/09/2019 until 22/09/2019

- To improve privacy, PowerMAN Enterprise Server now permits workstation names to be optionally hidden in the reporting interface. Previously this required client-side configuration.
- PowerMAN protected programs and computer names now support optional environment variables and wildcards (* and ?). These may be used to reduce configuration complexity by allowing a wildcard to be used instead of multiple separate protected objects. This feature was already available for protected files.

9. Individual protected programs, files and computers can now conditionally apply only when CPU load% is above a threshold or during certain working hours. This allows these policies to be more finely targeted at specific circumstances.
10. PowerMAN now permits classes of protected objects (protected programs, files or computers) to be disabled outside of specific hours, days, dates of the month or when nobody is logged on. This allows these policies to be disabled outside of working hours or at the weekends and consequently reduce the occasions when power management is unnecessarily inhibited.

The supported combinations of protected object features and class restrictions are shown in the table below:

Protected object class:	Per protected object features				Optional class restrictions			
	Environment variables	Wildcards	Min CPU%	Specific times only	Dates of month	Days of week	Specific times only	Logged on only
Computer (all)	No	No	No	No	Yes*	Yes*	Yes*	Yes*
Computer (by name)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes				
File exists	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Program running	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

* The Protected Computer (All) and Protected Computer (by name) features share common restriction settings

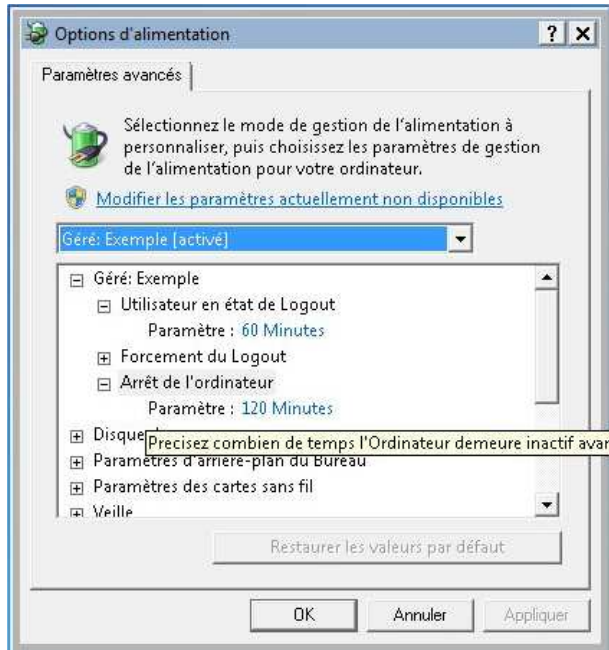
11. Similarly, the protected user feature can now optionally apply only on certain days, such as weekdays, or during certain hours. These changes ensure that power management need only be inhibited for specific users when strictly necessary.
12. The protected server service feature can now optionally apply only on certain days, such as weekdays, or during certain hours. In addition, the policy may now be more finely tuned to apply only when specific classes of file or printer share, including hidden shares, are present. These changes ensure that power management need only be inhibited when strictly necessary.
13. PowerMAN scheduled wake-up and scheduled sleep, hibernate, restart and shutdown policies may now optionally repeat multiple times per day until either a specific time or midnight. This allows potentially complex configurations, which would have previously required multiple scheduled actions, to be simplified.
14. PowerMAN now supports optional network configuration reporting. It can report network interface adapter name, MAC address, IP addresses and, if appropriate, subnet mask. This feature supports both IP v4 and IP v6. The information collected may be viewed using the new NETWORKINFO command. This feature is also available in the PowerMON SKU (requires reporting platform / PMES v5.5 or later).

Network Information

Description	Physical/MAC	Active	Hardware	Addresses
 Realtek PCIe GBE Family Controller	5CE0C52AB190			192.168.200.190/24, FE80:0000:0000:0000:ABCD:1234:0190/64
 Intel(R) Dual Band Wireless-AC 7265 WIFI	C860008C1190			192.168.202.190/24

15. The PowerMAN command-line interface has been updated and each command now includes a brief description. These changes are intended to assist system administrators in troubleshooting, scripting and other similar scenarios. The revised commands include:
 - a. INHIBIT - Inhibit power management for a period of time or until a certain date (maximum of 7 days) whilst system maintenance tasks are undertaken. This command requires administrator privileges.
 - b. ISPROTECTED - Determine if a protected object is currently applicable. The result is also available as a result code which can be used in scripts / batch files.

- c. ISSCHEDULED - Determine if a scheduled action is currently pending. The result is also available as a result code which can be used in scripts / batch files.
 - d. NETWORKINFO – Report network configuration and connection status
 - e. INFO – Reports hardware / OS power management information. This command has been updated to report if Fast Start-up (HiberBoot) and Hybrid Sleep are available.
 - f. HIBERCHECK and SLEEPCHECK – Enter the hibernate / sleep state and then resume some time later. These commands have been updated to support resume on a specific wake-up date/time. This can be used to verify hardware support or integrated into a maintenance script or similar.
16. PowerMAN now supports an optional grace period after a protected object is no longer applicable. This can be used to extend the period that power management is inhibited when protected activities, like rendering or system updates, are executed sequentially.
 17. PowerMAN now supports 10 of each protected time (maintenance window), scheduled sleep/hibernate/shutdown and wake-up policies.
 18. SSL/TSL (encrypted) reporting is now enabled by default. The default cloud/hosted reporting platform is located at “secure.pmstats.org”. This feature has been available since PowerMAN v5.3 but was rarely enabled. It is now enabled by default and will be made mandatory in a future release.
 19. PowerMAN is now distributed with a simplified ADM/ADMX policy template for the PowerMON edition. This product provides only power monitoring / utilization reporting and does not permit power policies to be applied. It can be used as part of an initial power management audit or alongside another power management tool PowerMON now includes the PowerMAN GUI to provide quick access to personal workstation statistics.
 20. PowerMAN now supports alternative weekend definitions used in some worldwide cultures out-of-the-box. It provides built-in support for the following combinations: Sat/Sun, Fri/Sat and Thurs/Fri. Other combinations can be created by amending the PowerMAN ADM/ADMX policy template.
 21. PowerMAN now directly supports the Windows Fast Start-up or “HiberBoot” mode. When enabled, the system enters the hibernate state instead of the shutdown state. This may be advantageous because most systems can resume from hibernate much faster than a full start-up.
 22. PowerMAN now has a revised Italian and Spanish PowerMAN UI and new support for a French UI:



About Data Synergy



Data Synergy is a British company based in Sheffield. We have over fifteen years' experience developing and supporting software solutions for enterprise PC deployment and management. We do not resell other vendors' products and do all of our development, sales and support from our UK base.

Our products have evolved through listening to customer ideas and applying our unrivalled knowledge of PC internals. If you have a suggestion for a new product or feature we would love to talk to you.

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