

## Tech Note 999

# Wonderware Application Server Security Troubleshooting Essentials Part 2: Security Classification & Operational Permissions

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## Introduction

This Essentials Guide is the 2nd in a projected series.

This *Tech Note* discusses the relationship between the Security Groups and Attribute Security Classification. In addition, we introduce a utility which unifies the security group information covered in this *Tech Note* into a single page and provides Galaxy search functionality as well.

## Application Versions

- Wonderware Application Server 2012 and later

## Application Server Security Model Review

The attributes on an ArchestrA Automation Object (AA Object) have a configurable security classification setting. This provides the ability to define who can control the attributes of an AA Object.

In a real world Galaxy, there are typically a large amount of AA Objects. **Roles** and **Security Groups** functionality provides the ability to efficiently assign/modify users and their associated security classification on the attributes of AA Objects.

- **Roles**: Generalize users' functional groups, such as Operator, System Engineer, Application Engineer, etc. One Role can be granted permissions to multiple Security Groups.
- **Security Group**: Groups AA Objects together with those that have same set of Operational Permissions.

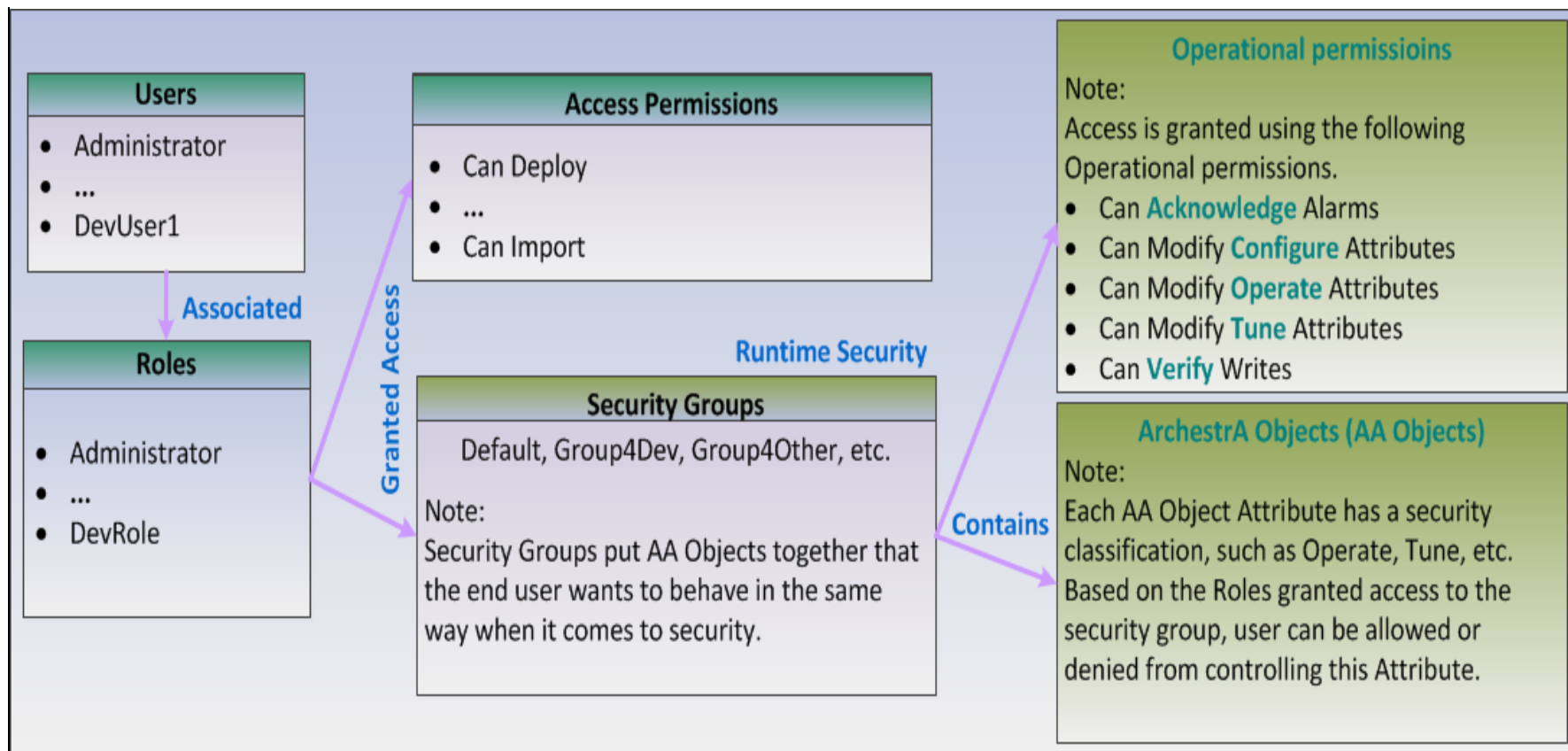


FIGURE 1: APPLICATION SERVER SECURITY MODEL

The following table shows the AA Object Attributes' **Security classification** specifications and their corresponding Security Groups' **Operational permissions**.

Security Classification	Perspective	Operational Permission
FreeAccess	No privileges are required. Any user can write to an attribute that has this setting	
Operate	Allows user to change the value of an attribute during On-Scan or Off-Scan mode Note: Deployment needs the Operate Operational Permission	Operate
Secured Write	Requires the logon user to retype password in order to make the changed value go through.	Operate
Verified Write	Besides the above Secured Write, you must provide the second user's authentication. <b>Note:</b> Two users must have <b>Operate</b> and <b>Verify</b> Operational permissions.	Operate, Verify

Tune	Allows user to write a value to the attribute at the On-Scan or Off-Scan mode.	Tune
Configure	Allows user to write a value to the attribute only at the Off-Scan mode.	Configure
Read Only	Regardless of user's permission, the attribute value cannot be changed at Runtime.	

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The following graphic shows **Security classifications** in the center red frame, and the **Operational permissions** at the right.

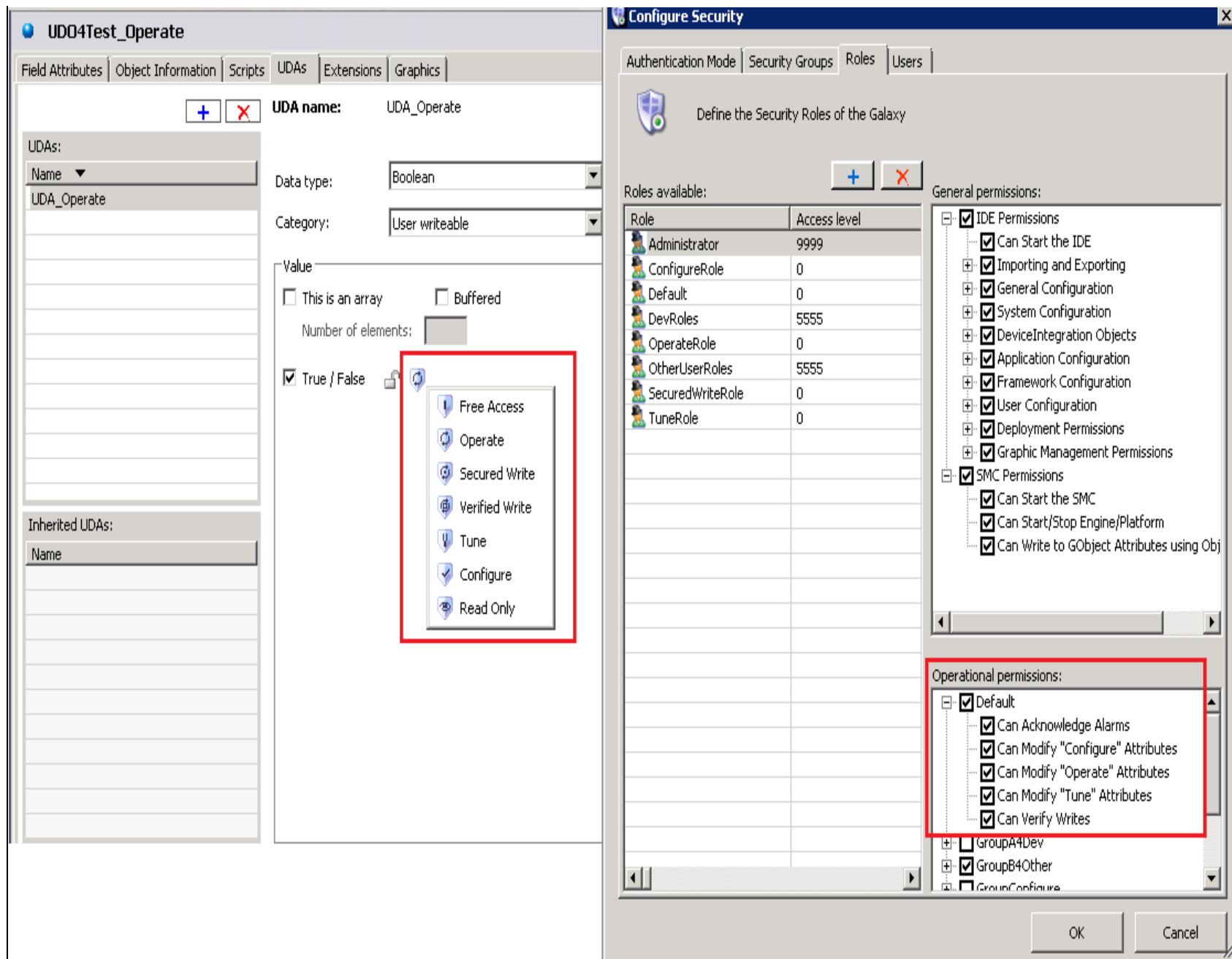


FIGURE 2: SECURITY CLASSIFICATION AND OPERATIONAL PERMISSIONS

The following section demonstrates usage of **Operate**, **Secured Write** and **Configure** specifications in detail.

## Operate

Allows user to change the value of an attribute during On-Scan or Off-Scan mode.

## Environment

UDA	UDA_Operate and with Operate type of Security Classification.
-----	---

UDO	UDO4Test_Operate (AA Object) contains UDA_Operate.
-----	--

Security Group	GroupOperator contains UDO4Test_Operate (AA Object).
----------------	--

Role	OperateRole
------	-------------

User	OperA
------	-------

## Setup

1. Only OperateRole is granted the access to GroupOperator.
2. Only **OperA** is associated to OperateRole.
3. In GroupOperator, uncheck all options except **Can Modify "Operate" Attribute**.

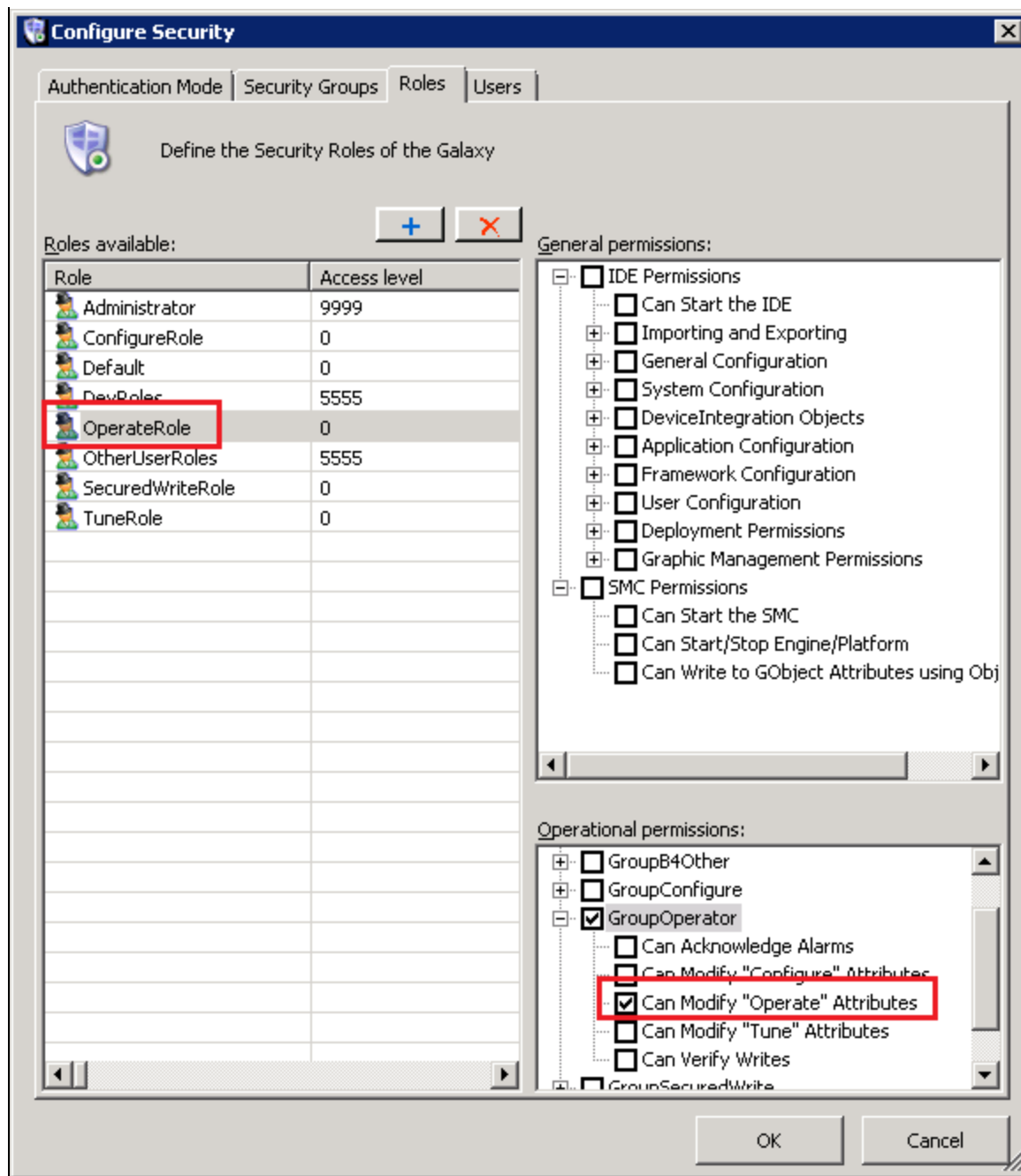
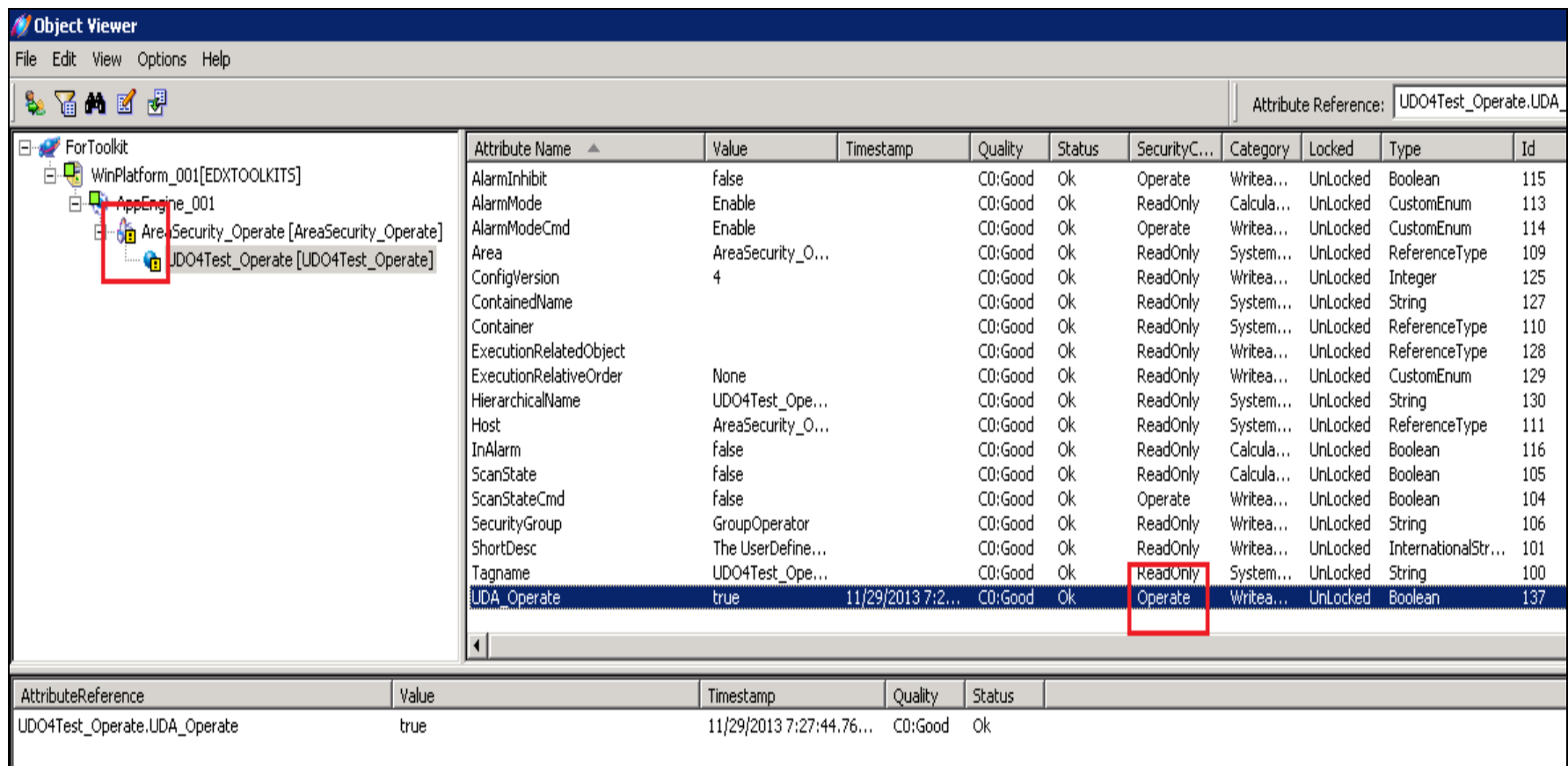


FIGURE 3: SELECT CAN MODIFY "OPERATE" ATTRIBUTES OPTION

## Verify

1. Deploy **UDO4Test\_Operate** with Off-Scan and open it with the Object Viewer. The object icon in this example indicates the



The screenshot shows the Object Viewer interface with a tree view on the left and a table of attributes on the right. The tree view shows a hierarchy: ForToolkit > WinPlatform\_001[EDXTOOLKITS] > AppEngine\_001 > AreaSecurity\_Operate [AreaSecurity\_Operate] > UDO4Test\_Operate [UDO4Test\_Operate]. The table below lists various attributes for UDO4Test\_Operate, including their values, timestamps, quality, status, security classification, category, locked status, type, and ID. The 'UDA\_Operate' attribute is highlighted with a red box, showing a security classification of 'Operate'.

Attribute Name	Value	Timestamp	Quality	Status	SecurityC...	Category	Locked	Type	Id
AlarmInhibit	false		C0:Good	Ok	Operate	Writea...	UnLocked	Boolean	115
AlarmMode	Enable		C0:Good	Ok	ReadOnly	Calcula...	UnLocked	CustomEnum	113
AlarmModeCmd	Enable		C0:Good	Ok	Operate	Writea...	UnLocked	CustomEnum	114
Area	AreaSecurity_O...		C0:Good	Ok	ReadOnly	System...	UnLocked	ReferenceType	109
ConfigVersion	4		C0:Good	Ok	ReadOnly	Writea...	UnLocked	Integer	125
ContainedName			C0:Good	Ok	ReadOnly	System...	UnLocked	String	127
Container			C0:Good	Ok	ReadOnly	System...	UnLocked	ReferenceType	110
ExecutionRelatedObject			C0:Good	Ok	ReadOnly	Writea...	UnLocked	ReferenceType	128
ExecutionRelativeOrder	None		C0:Good	Ok	ReadOnly	Writea...	UnLocked	CustomEnum	129
HierarchicalName	UDO4Test_Ope...		C0:Good	Ok	ReadOnly	System...	UnLocked	String	130
Host	AreaSecurity_O...		C0:Good	Ok	ReadOnly	System...	UnLocked	ReferenceType	111
InAlarm	false		C0:Good	Ok	ReadOnly	Calcula...	UnLocked	Boolean	116
ScanState	false		C0:Good	Ok	ReadOnly	Calcula...	UnLocked	Boolean	105
ScanStateCmd	false		C0:Good	Ok	Operate	Writea...	UnLocked	Boolean	104
SecurityGroup	GroupOperator		C0:Good	Ok	ReadOnly	Writea...	UnLocked	String	106
ShortDesc	The UserDefine...		C0:Good	Ok	ReadOnly	Writea...	UnLocked	InternationalStr...	101
Tagname	UDO4Test_Ope...		C0:Good	Ok	ReadOnly	System...	UnLocked	String	100
UDA_Operate	true	11/29/2013 7:2...	C0:Good	Ok	Operate	Writea...	UnLocked	Boolean	137

AttributeReference	Value	Timestamp	Quality	Status
UDO4Test_Operate.UDA_Operate	true	11/29/2013 7:27:44.76...	C0:Good	Ok

**FIGURE 4: OBJECT VIEWER SHOWS EACH ATTRIBUTE'S SECURITY CLASSIFICATION**

2. Change the User to **OperA** and set the value on **UDA\_Operate** to **False** (Figure 5 below).

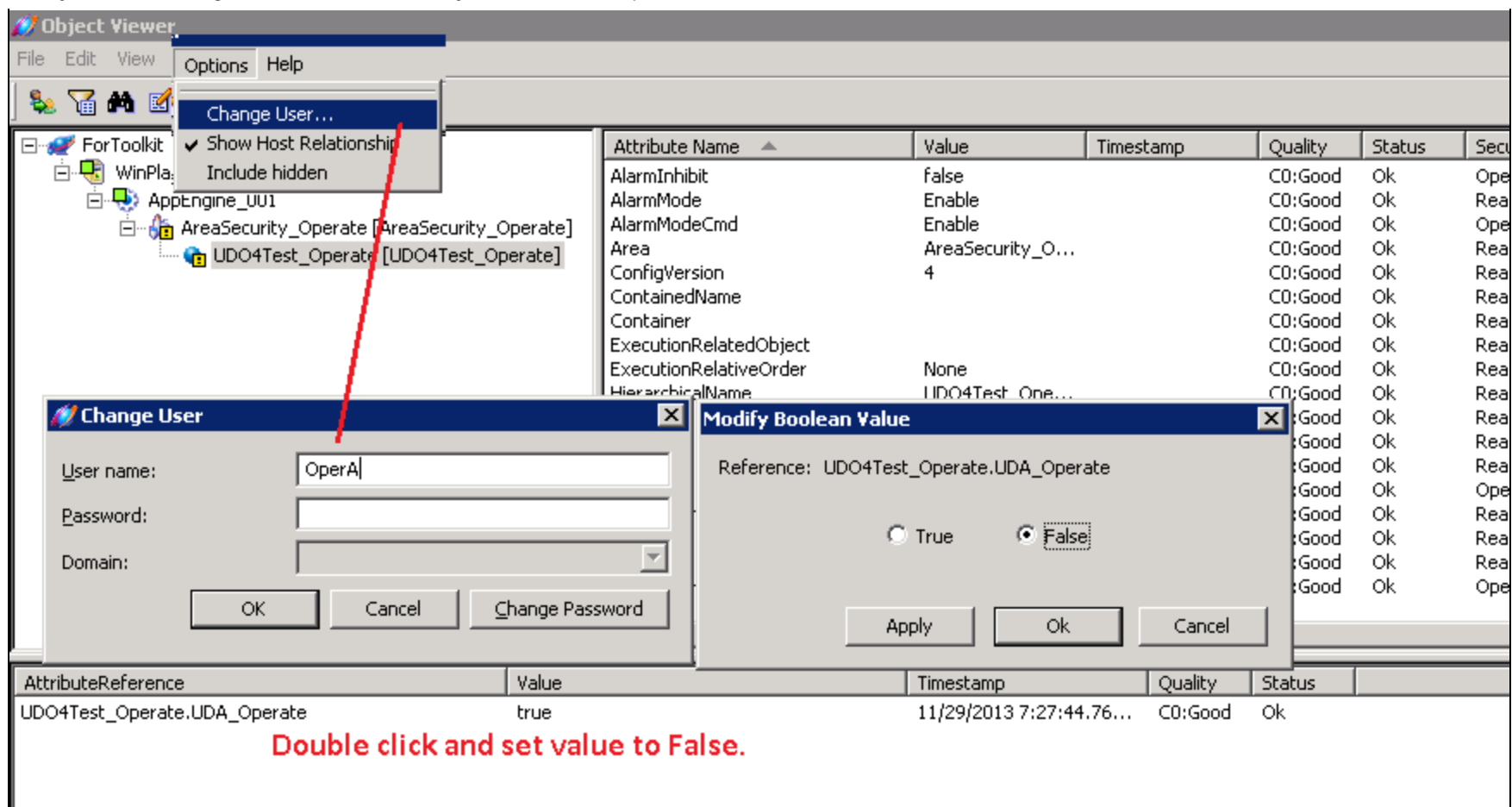


FIGURE 5: USER OPERA CAN SET THE VALUE

3. Change the User to **Administrator**.



The screenshot displays the Object Viewer interface for the object 'UDO4Test\_Operate'. A table lists various attributes and their values. The 'Value' column for the attribute 'UDO4Test\_Operate.UDA\_Operate' is highlighted with a red box and contains the value 'false'. A red arrow points to this cell with the text 'Double click and change value to False'. Two dialog boxes are overlaid on the table: 'Change User' (with 'Administrator' in the user name field) and 'Modify Boolean Value' (with 'True' selected). Below the table, a 'SetAttribute FAILURE' dialog box displays the following error details:

AttributeReference	Value	Timestamp	Quality	Status
UDO4Test_Operate.UDA_Operate	false	11/29/2013 8:22:14.08...	C0:Good	Ok

**SetAttribute FAILURE: UDO4Test\_Operate.UDA\_Operate**

- MxStatusCategory: MxCategorySecurityError
- MxStatusSource: MxSourceRespondingAutomationObject
- Status Detail: 1008
- Status Description: Security error: Write access denied

FIGURE 6: ADMINISTRATOR CANNOT SET THE UDA\_OPERATE VALUE: ADMINISTRATOR IS NOT IN OPERATEROLE

4. (Optional) Repeat this procedure in **On-Scan** Deployment state.

## Summary

**Operate** Security Classification can set attribute value in both On-Scan and Off-Scan deployments if the user is in the correct Role.

## Secured Write

Requires the logon user to type the password in order to make the changed value goes through. The Operate Permission is required.

## Environment

UDA	UDA_SecuredWrite and with Secured Write type of Security Classification.
-----	--

UDO	UDO4Test_SecuredWrite (AA Object) contains UDA_SecuredWrite.
-----	--

Security Group	GroupSecuredWrite contains UDO4Test_SecuredWrite (AA Object).
----------------	---

Role	SecuredWriteRole.
------	-------------------

User	OperB_Sec
------	-----------

## Setup 1

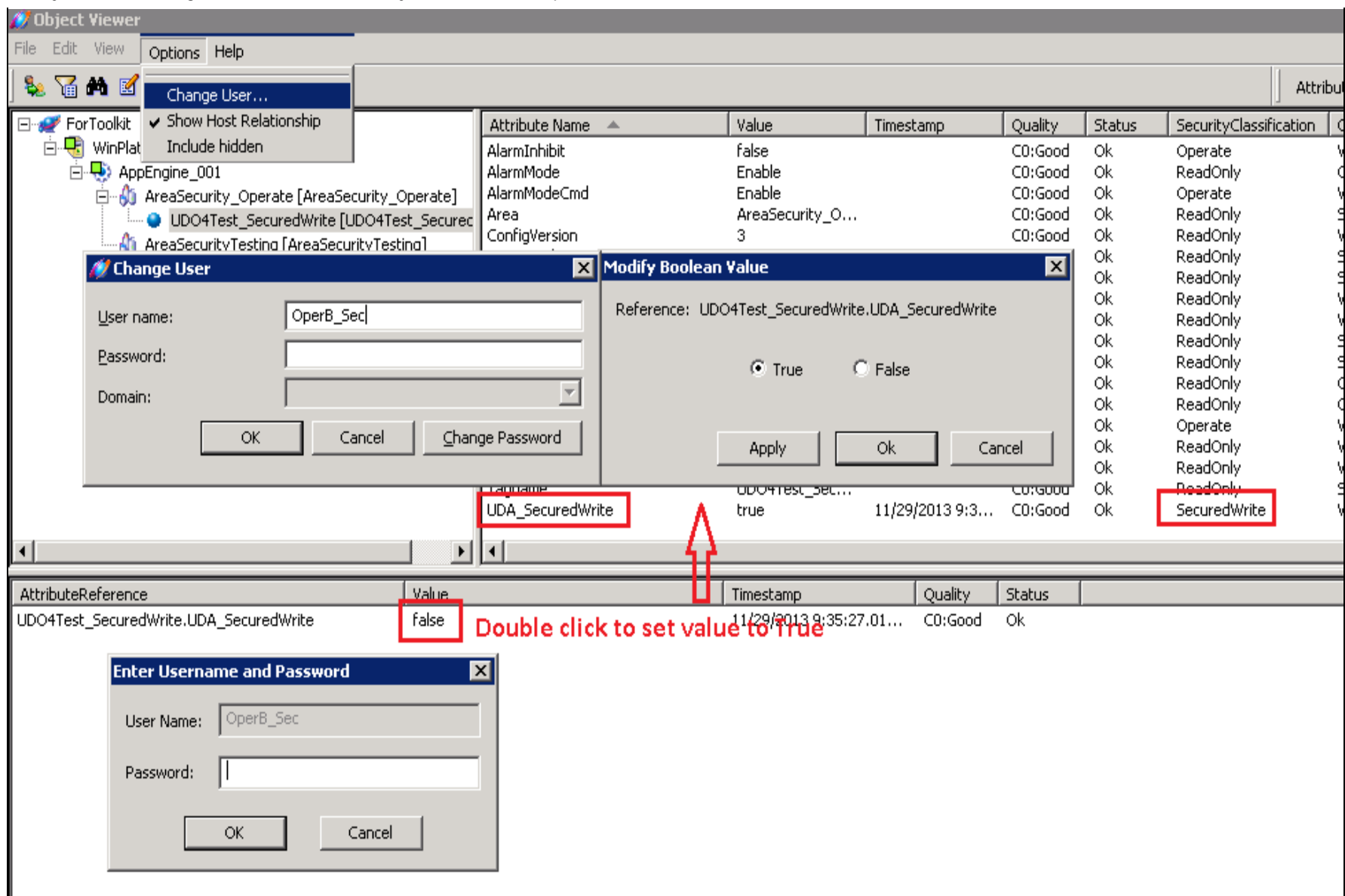
1. Only SecuredWriteRole is granted the access to GroupSecuredWrite.
2. Only OperB\_Sec is associated to SecuredWriteRole.

## Setup 2

- Same as the Setup 1 but uncheck **Operate** Operational permission from GroupSecuredWrite.

## Verify 1

1. Deploy UDA4Test\_SecuredWrite (AA Object) and open it with Object Viewer.
2. Change the User to **OperB\_Sec** and set the value on UDA\_SecuredWrite.



**FIGURE 7: AFTER CLICKING THE OK BUTTON IN THE "ENTER USERNAME AND PASSWORD" DIALOG, THE VALUE OF UDA\_SECUREDWRITE SETS TO TRUE SUCCESSFULLY**

3. Change the User to Administrator and set the value on UDA\_SecuredWrite.

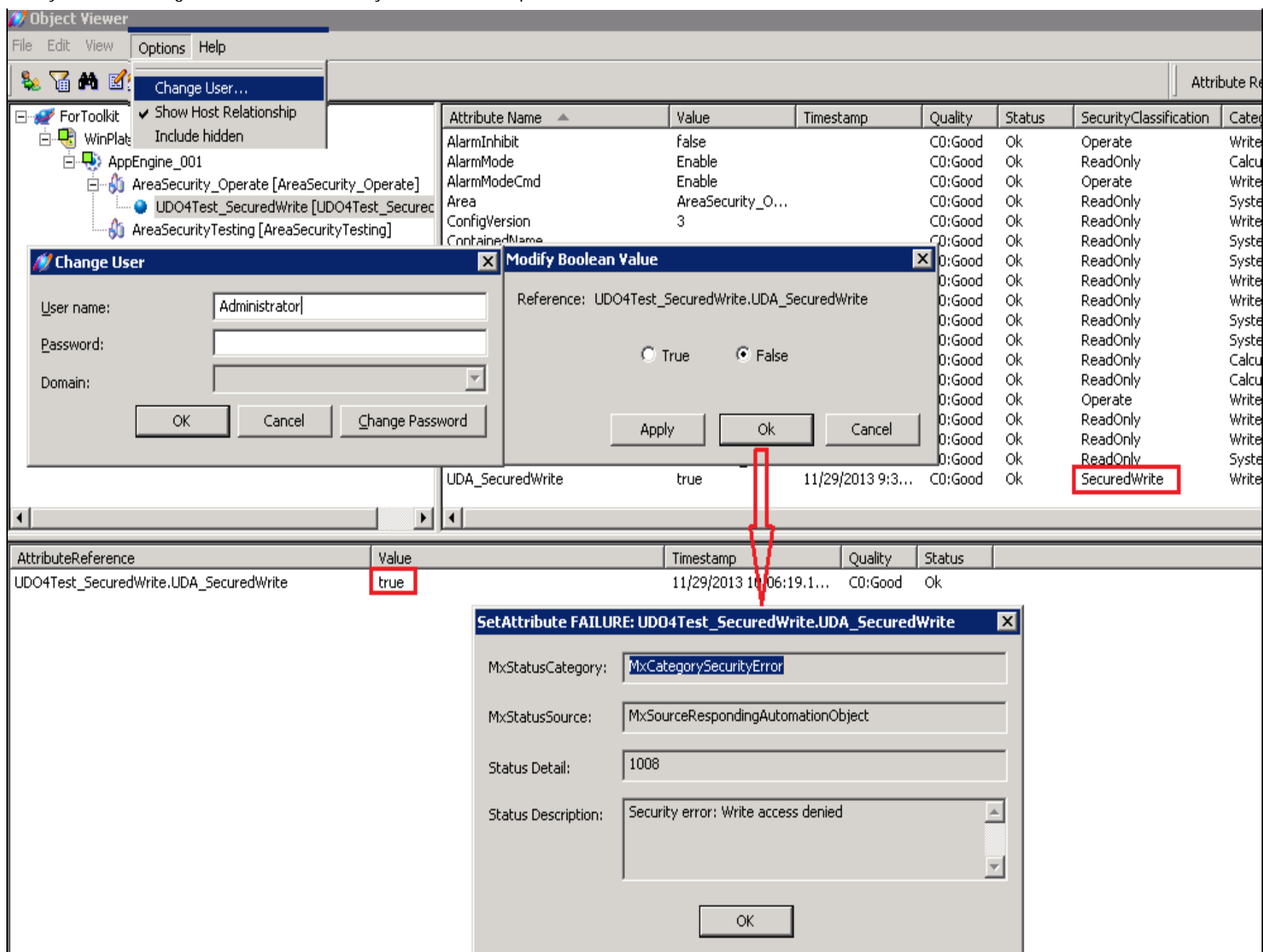


FIGURE 8: THE SECURED WRITE SECURITY CLASSIFICATION DENIES THE WRITE REQUEST: USER ADMINISTRATOR IS NOT IN SECUREDWRITEROLE

Verify 2

The Operate Operational Permission is required.

1. Remove the **Operate** Operational permission from GroupSecuredWrite (Security Group).

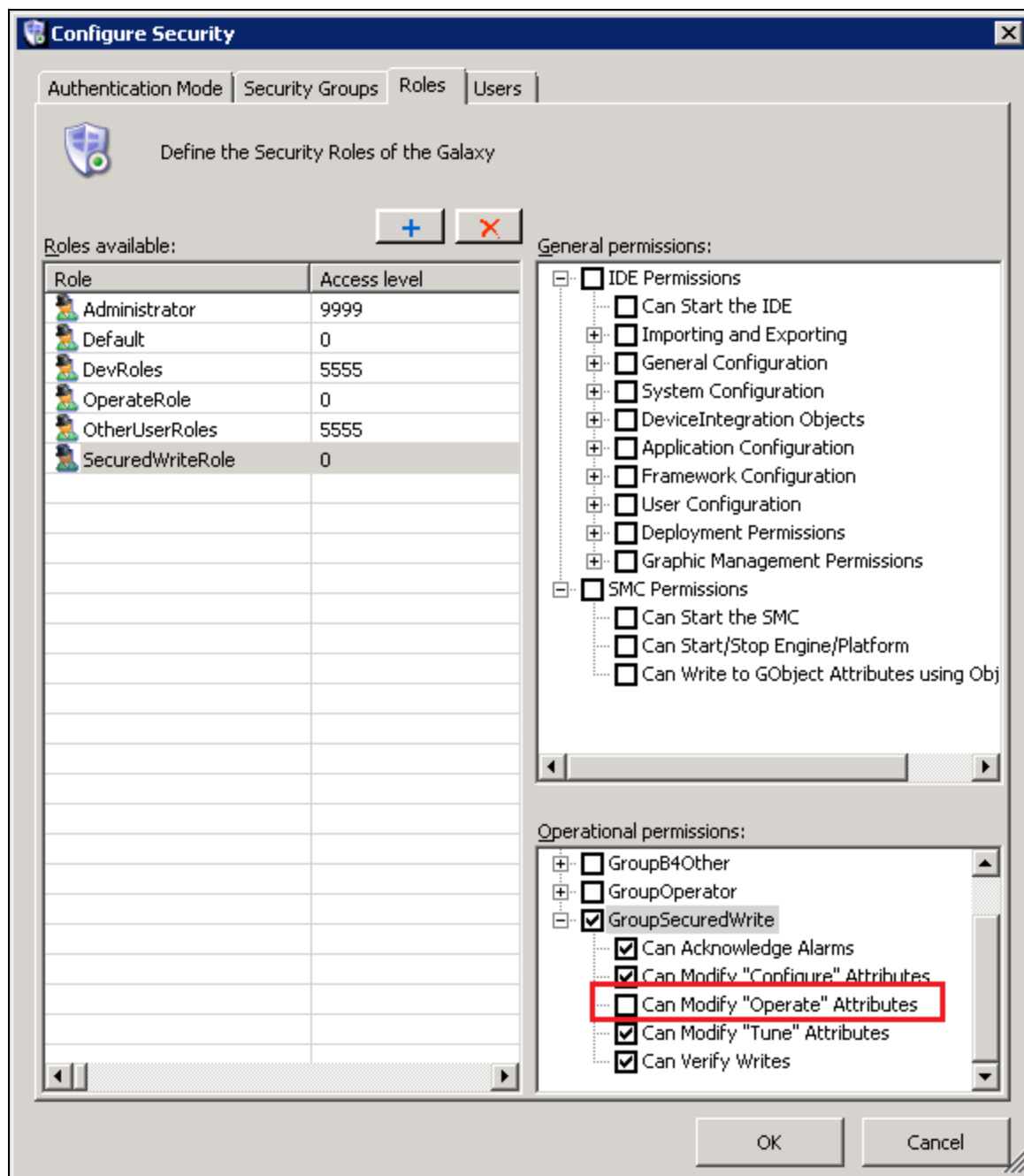


FIGURE 9: UNCHECK CAN MODIFY "OPERATE" ATTRIBUTES

- Repeat the verification shown in Figure 5 (above). You will see the **Write Access Denied** Error (Figure 10 below).

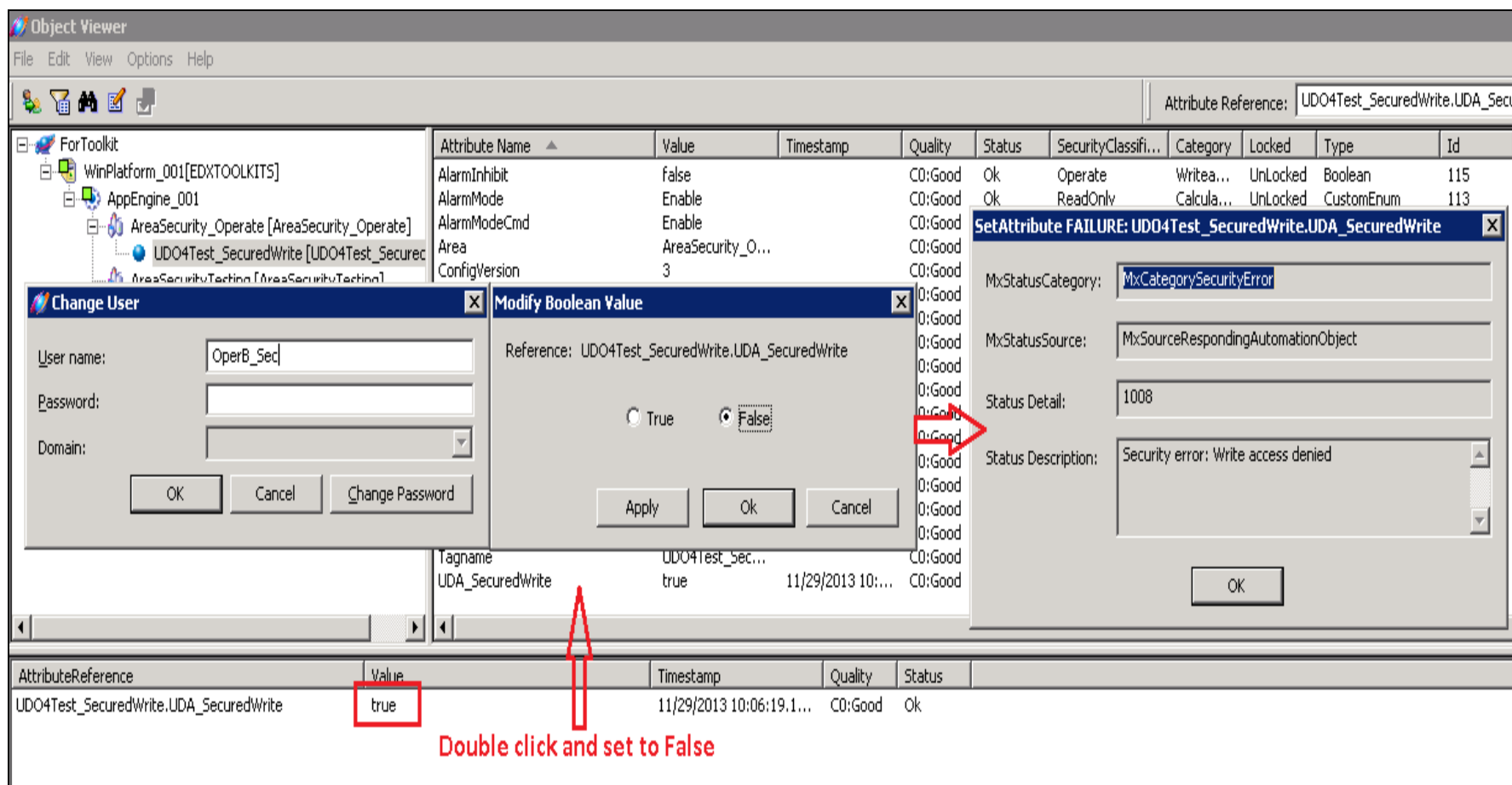


FIGURE 10: WRITE ACCESS DENIED

## Summary

Secured Write Security Classification needs the Operate Operational permission even if the user is in the correct Role.

## Configure

Allows the user to write a value to the attribute only at the **Off-Scan** mode.

## Environment

UDA UDAConfigure and with **Configure** type of Security Classification.

UDO            UDO4Test\_Configure (AA Object) contains UDA\_Configure.

Security Group GroupConfigure contains UDO4Test\_Configure (AA Object).

Role            ConfigureRole.

User            ConfigUser

## Setup

1. ConfigureRole is granted the access to GroupConfigure.
2. ConfigUser is associated to ConfigureRole.
3. Deploy UDO4Test\_Configure (AA Object) with **On-Scan** mode
4. In GroupConfigure, uncheck all options except **Can Modify Configure Attribute**.

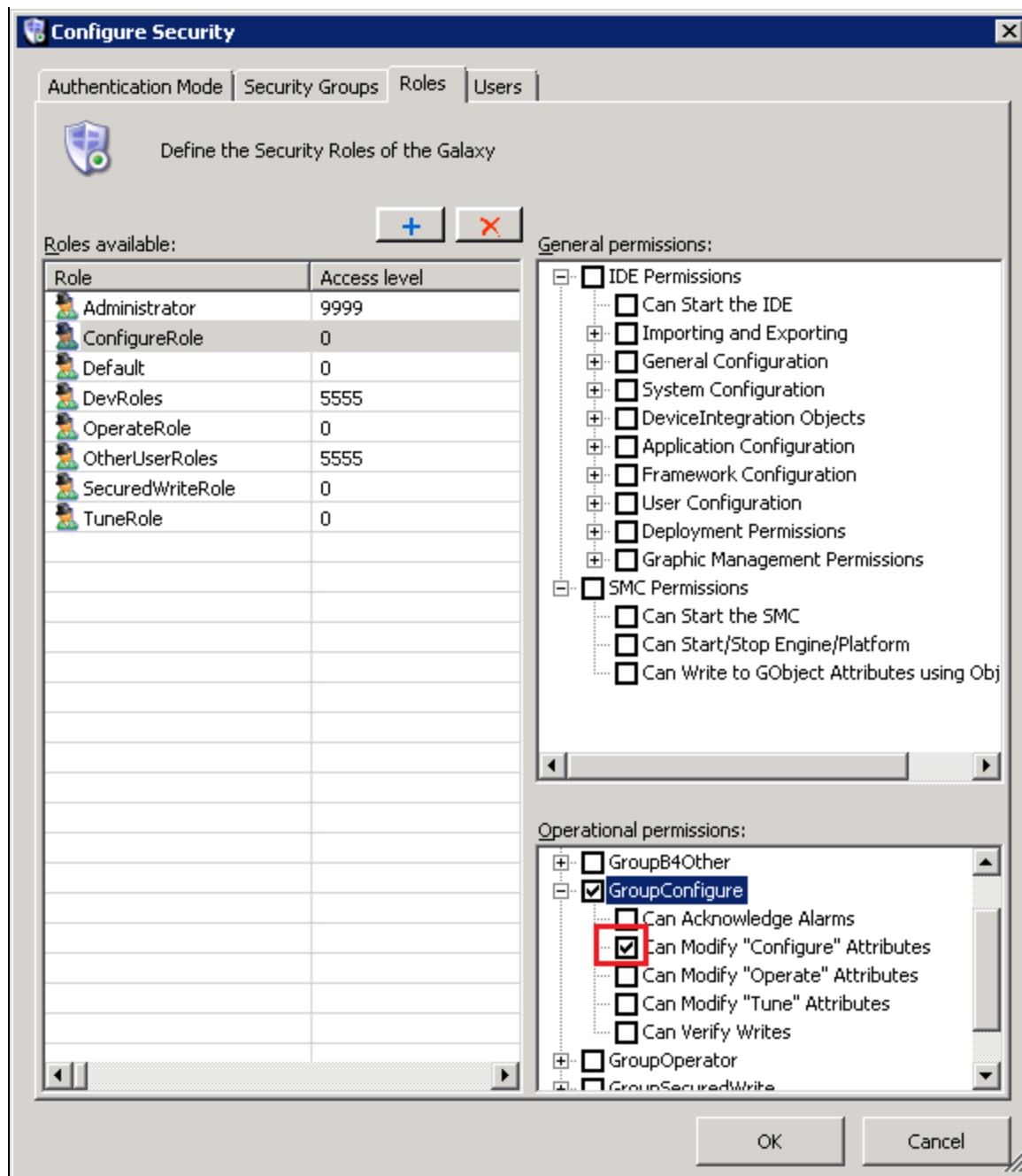


FIGURE 11: LEAVE CAN MODIFY "CONFIGURE" ATTRIBUTES OPTION CHECKED

## Verify

1. Open UDO4Test\_Configure (AA Object) in the Object Viewer.



2. Change value of UDAConfigure. The **Security Error 8017** Error will be returned.

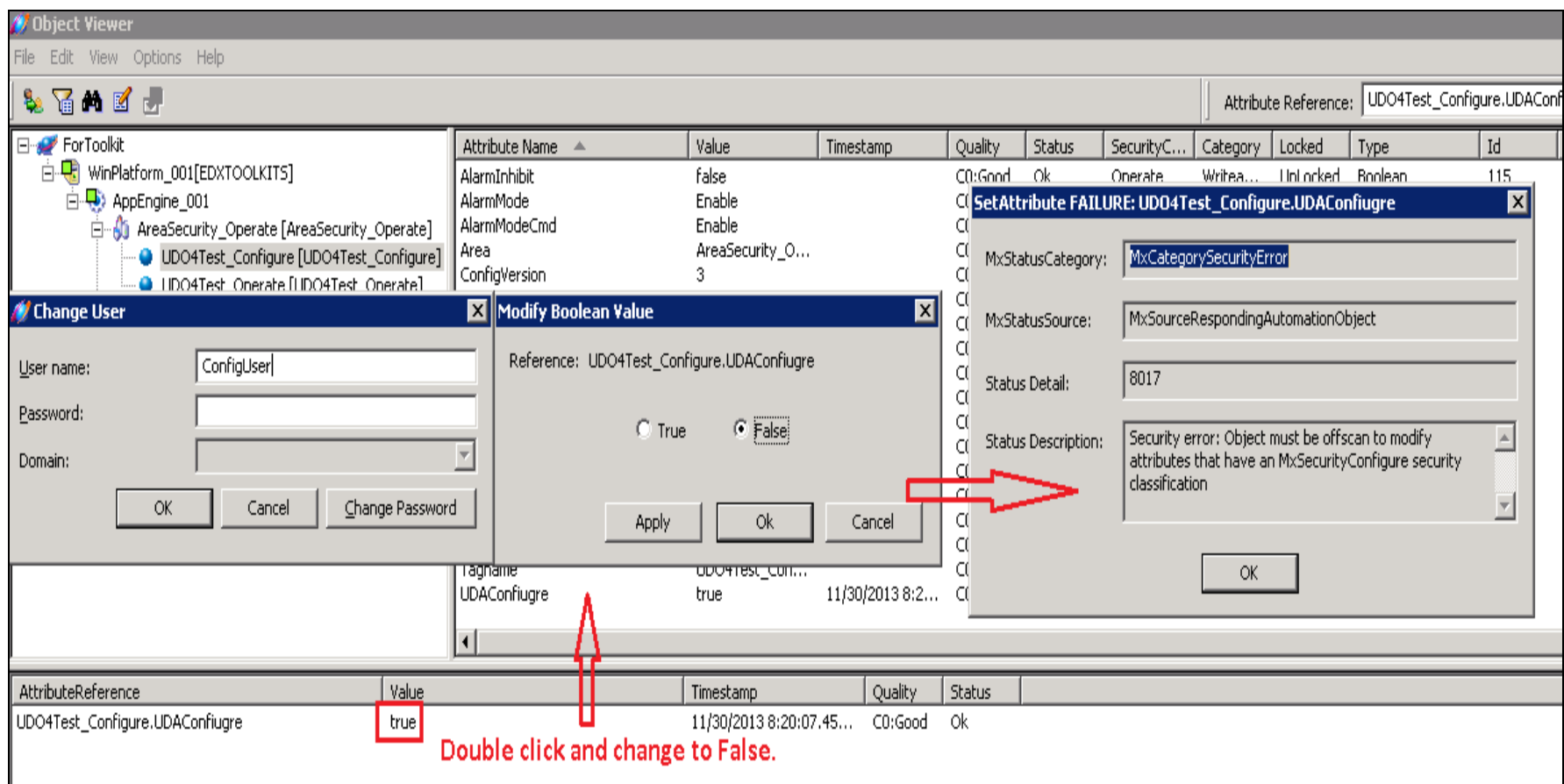


FIGURE 12: SETATTRIBUTE FAILURE

## Summary

**Configure** Security Classification only works while in **Off-Scan** Deployment state.

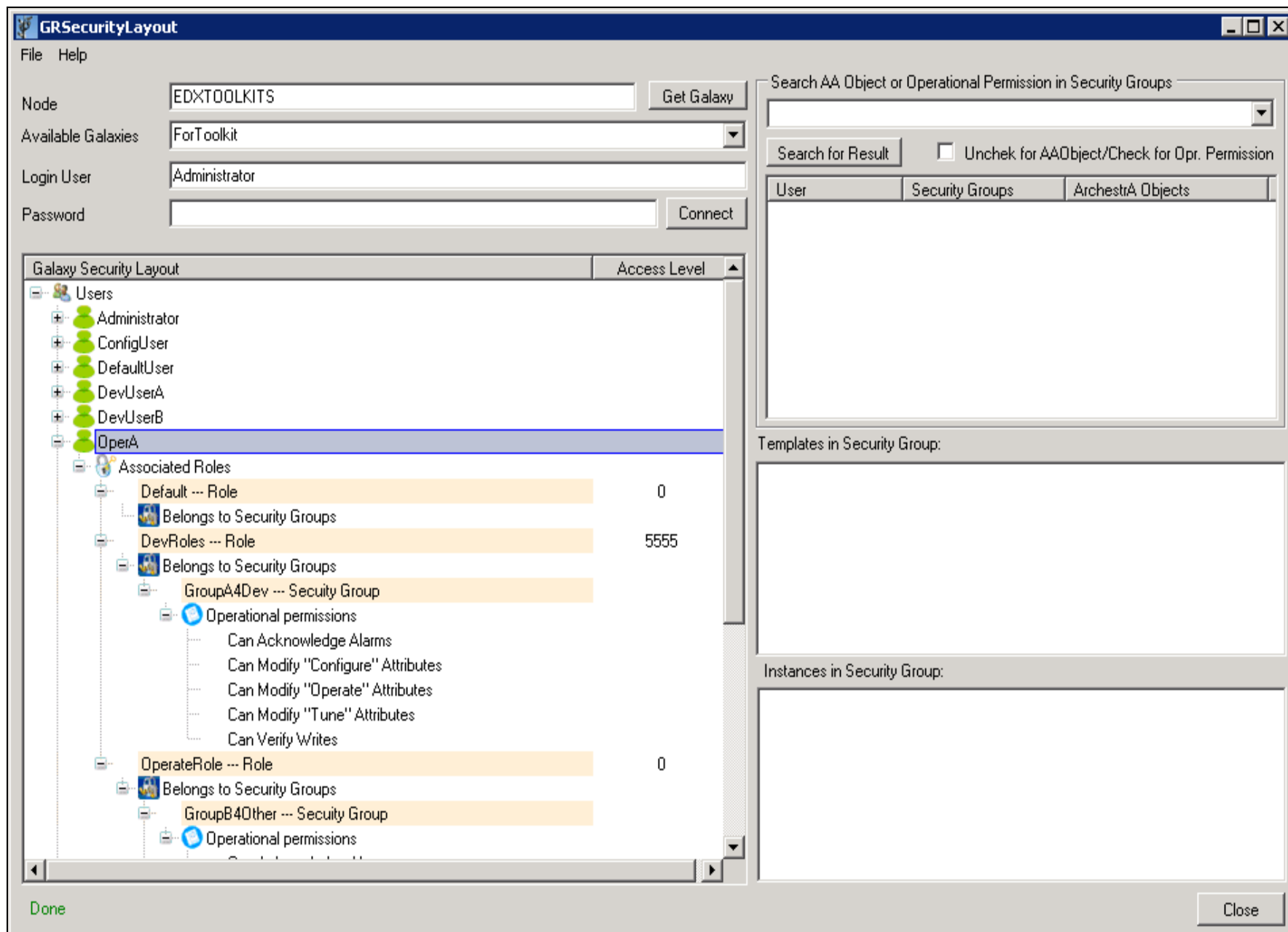
## GRSecurityLayout Utility

This Read-Only Utility provides a quick way to view and search the Galaxy Security Settings on Security Groups with AA Objects and Operational permissions, Roles and Users, within a single page.

### Download the GRSecurityLayout Utility

**Note:** This Utility is developed with Wonderware Galaxy Repository Access (GRAccess) Toolkit. Therefore, like the IDE, running this Utility will consume one Dev\_Session\_Count License Feature count which is listed in ArcestrA.lic. The Utility's main functions are as follows:

- **Galaxy User Oriented Tree-View:** Shows each Galaxy user's Runtime Security Relationships.



**FIGURE 13: USER-BASED SECURITY VIEW**

- **Wildcard Search AA Objects and their belonging Security Groups:** In a real world Galaxy, there are usually a large number of AA Objects. Quickly finding any AA Object's associated Security Groups is very important during the Security Design and

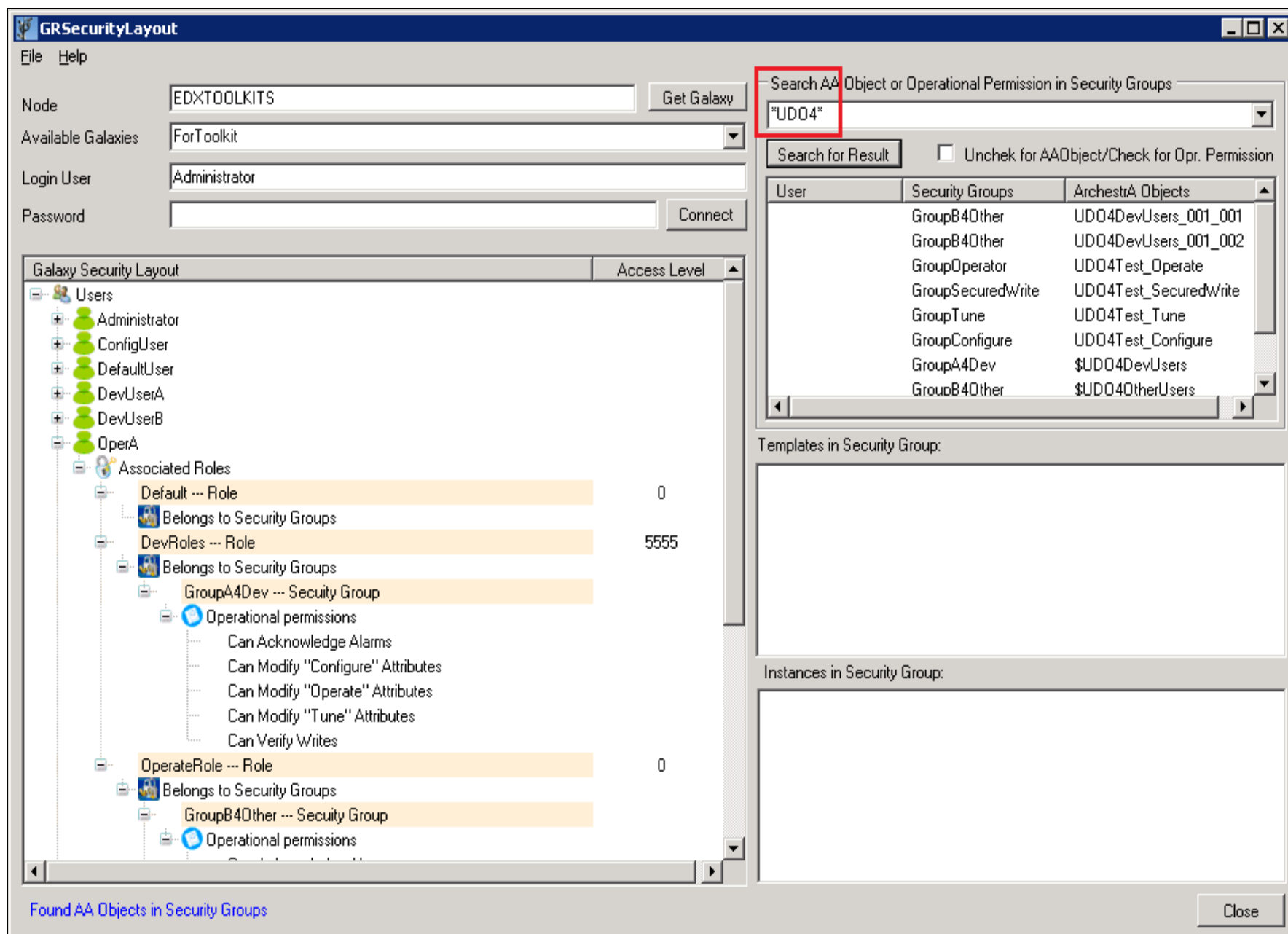
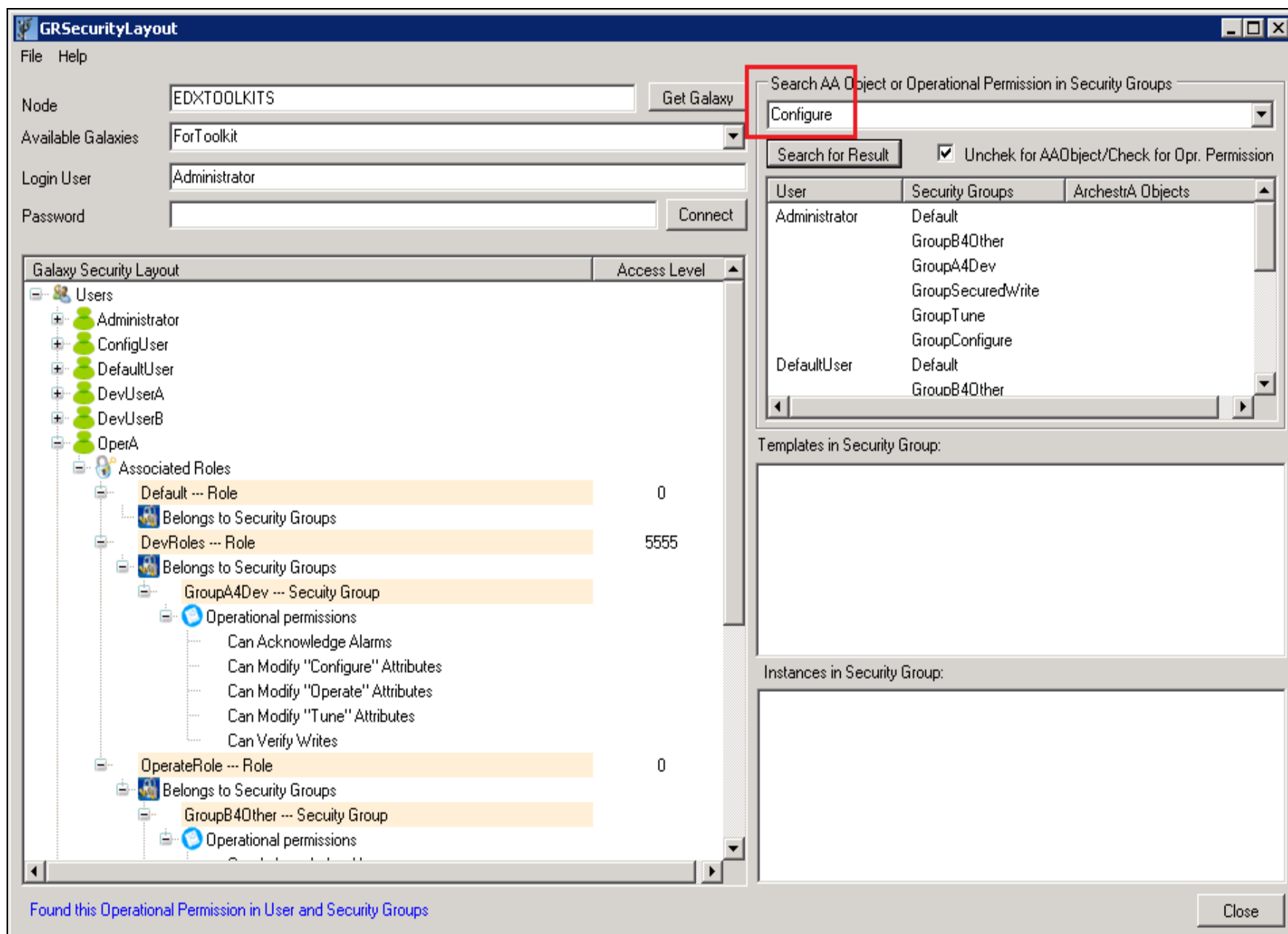


FIGURE 14: WILDCARD SEARCH RETURNS SECURITY GROUP LIST THAT CONTAINS ALL AA OBJECTS CONTAINING THE VALUE

- Search the Users and Security Groups Alarms that have the given Operational permission.

In Figure 15 (below), we search all the Security Groups that contain the **Configure** Operational permission and the users in these

## Security Groups.

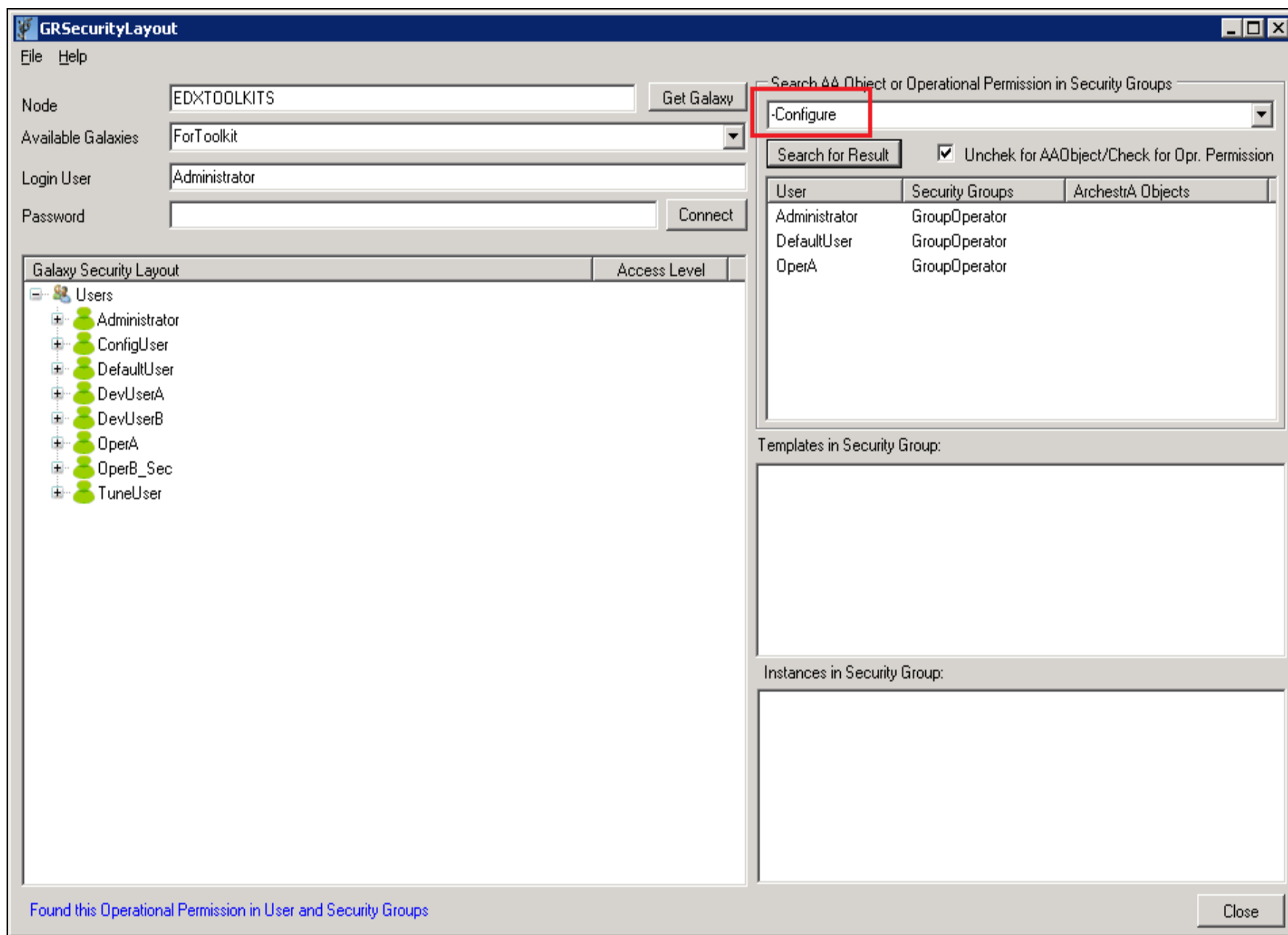


**FIGURE 15: SEARCH BY SECURITY GROUP**

- Search the Users and Security Groups that *do not* have the given Operational permission.

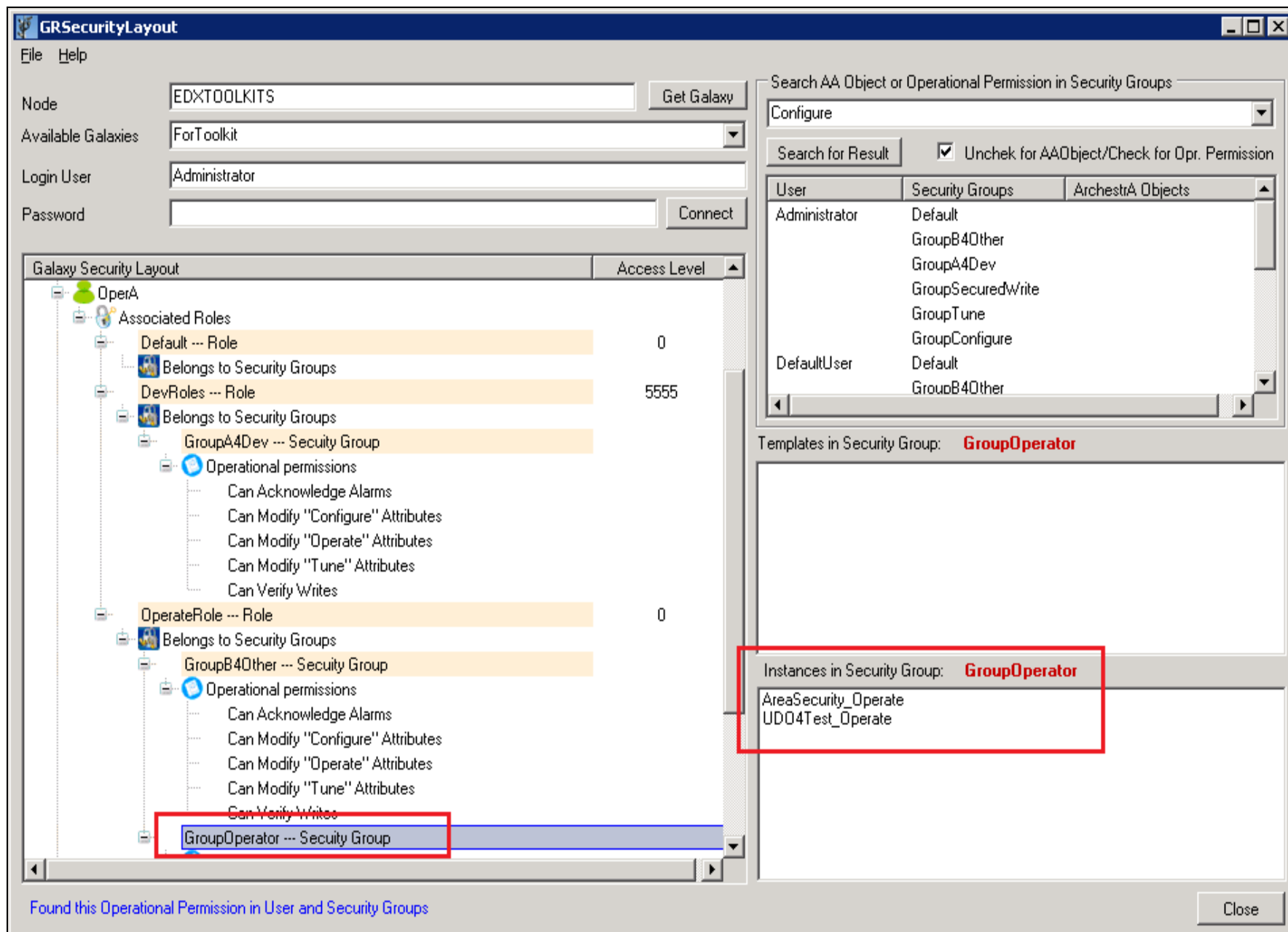
In Figure 16 (below), we search all the Security Groups that do not contain the **Configure** Operational permission and the users in

The "-" (dash character) in the search criteria means **Not Contain**.



**FIGURE 16: FILTER USING THE DASH CHARACTER**

- Quick retrieve AA Objects, Templates and Instances, within any selected Security Group.



**FIGURE 17: HIGHLIGHT ANY SECURITY GROUP LEVEL IN THE TREE VIEW TO SEE THE CONTAINED AA OBJECTS (TEMPLATE OR INSTANCE)**

- Quick retrieve AA Objects' attribute names and their corresponding Security Classification (Figure 18 below).

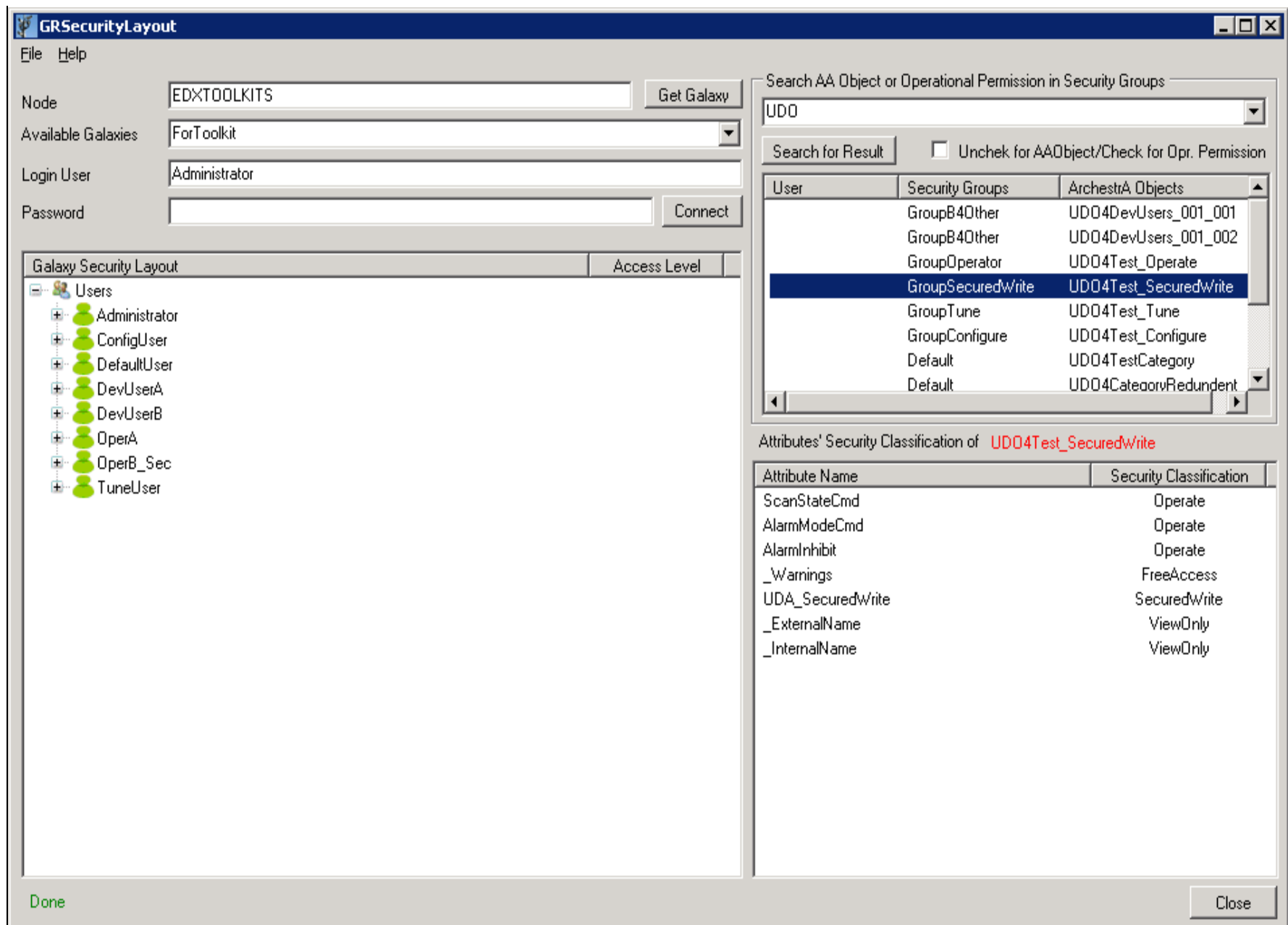


FIGURE 18: AA OBJECT, UDO4TEST\_SECUREDWRITE'S ATTRIBUTE NAMES, AND CORRESPONDING SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

## References

- Wonderware Application Server 2012 R2 – IDE.PDF

A. Rantos, E. Xu

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