

## Re: security wizard cannot be run

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Access/microsoft.public.access.security/2006-03/msg00285.html>

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- *From:* "Joan Wild" <[jwild@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:jwild@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Mon, 27 Mar 2006 07:45:52 -0500
- 

You need to open your database using your secured mdw (i.e. the desktop shortcut) – you said earlier that you were able to get in using this so I assume you have a username/password.

Once in, grant full permissions to the Users Group for all objects, including the database object. Then, just to be sure, go to Tools, Security Workgroup Administrator and join system.mdw. Exit Access.

Open Access (not via the shortcut). You shouldn't need a password since you are using system.mdw. If you are asked for a password, quit Access. Go to Start, Search and find system.mdw and rename it to system1.mdw.

Open Access (not via the shortcut). You should not get a password prompt. Create a new mdb and import everything from your 'secure' mdb. Now you are looking at a totally unsecured database.

Make sure that you can open every object. If you can, then you are safe to delete your secure mdw, your secure mdb, and system1.mdw.

Now start at step 1 and secure your mdb. It is important that you follow every step, in order, leaving nothing out.

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Joan Wild  
Microsoft Access MVP

Desperate!! wrote:

Bad news.

Using the secure mdw a password is requested.

Using the system mdw a password is requested, but by leaving the password blank the database can be opened.

Is there any hope of repairing this?

Re: security wizard cannot be run

"Joan Wild" wrote:

That was just to get you back in. You should not be able to even open the secure mdb while joined to system.mdw. If you can, then you need to start over. Post back, if this is the case and I'll give you detailed step by step.

Get the security right first. Then you can split it, however do not use the database splitter wizard as that will leave you with a secure FE but an unsecure BE. Split it manually – details on my website.

As for each user, they'll have a copy of the frontend on their workstation. If you install the frontend to the same folder on everyone's computer, and if they all have a typical installation of Access, you can just copy the shortcut and it will work. You'll put the mdw and backend on a folder on the server.

--

Joan Wild  
Microsoft Access MVP

"Desperate!!" wrote:

Thanks – I'm back into the database and it's requesting passwords.

Unfortunately I have 2 questions...

What's to stop people changing the shortcut (it still doesn't seem that the database is very secure)

Secondly – my plan was to split the database and copy a front end to every user. How does the shortcut work in that circumstance? Do I have to set up a different shortcut to each users copy of the FE?

"Desperate!!" wrote:

I was fine with that until 'use your desktop shortcut'. From reading numerous posts I think that is where I have to set up a shortcut that specifies the file, the mdw and the path to

Re: security wizard cannot be run

access.exe..... I'll just set one up and be back in 5 minutes!

Thanks for your continued patience – so far you've saved me a broken window and some smashed computer hardware !!

"Joan Wild" wrote:

Don't panic.

Open Access (no mdb). Go to Tools, Security, Workgroup Administrator and click on Join. Join your secure mdw file.

Quit Access, and restart it. Go to Tools, Security, User Accounts and click on Password tab. Set a password for the Admin user.

Go back to Tools, security, workgroup administrator and click on join. Rejoin your standard system.mdw file. Quit Access and use your desktop shortcut to login as your user that has full permissions.

--

Joan Wild  
Microsoft Access MVP

"Desperate!!" wrote:

OK – this goes from bad to worse...

From what

Re: security wizard cannot be run

you said I understood that I need to assign the Admin user a password. I tried to log on as Admin but couldn't get in to the database, so I looged in as the user with full permissions and cleared the Admin users password with the intention of going back into the database and setting a new Admin users password. As a result Access won't let me even open the database. What do I do now? Panic is starting to set in!

"Joan Wild"  
wrote:

"Desperate!!"  
wrote:

Re: security wizard cannot be run

Re: security wizard cannot be run

Thanks  
Joan,  
but  
the  
more  
I  
practise  
the  
more  
confused  
I  
get.  
I've  
tried  
linking  
to  
a  
system.mdw  
and  
it  
won't  
let  
me  
reopen  
the  
database.

That's  
actually  
a  
good  
sign.  
You  
shouldn't  
be  
able  
to  
open  
a  
secure  
database  
while  
joined  
to  
the  
system.mdw.

Re: security wizard cannot be run

Using  
the  
secure.mdw  
I've  
been  
able  
to  
work  
out  
how  
to  
reactivate  
users  
passwords,  
and  
all  
seemed  
to  
be  
going  
swimmingly  
until  
I  
tried  
to  
open  
the  
database  
(which  
sits  
in  
a  
shared  
area  
on  
a  
network)  
from  
another  
user  
account  
on  
the  
same  
PC  
and  
there  
was  
no  
request  
for

Re: security wizard cannot be run

passwords!!!

The  
login  
dialog  
will  
pop  
up  
only  
if  
you  
set  
a  
password  
for  
the  
Admin  
user.

That  
makes  
access  
security  
the  
brightest  
thing  
since  
george  
W.  
Bush,  
so  
I'm  
sure  
I'm  
doing  
something  
fundamentally  
wrong.  
Why  
does  
the  
security  
only  
seem  
to  
apply  
to  
a  
particular

Re: security wizard cannot be run

users  
software  
rather  
than  
the  
database  
itself?

Security  
permissions  
are  
stored  
in  
the  
mdb  
file.  
Usernames/groups/passwords  
are  
stored  
in  
the  
secure  
mdw  
file.  
As  
long  
as  
the  
Admin  
user  
in  
that  
mdw  
file  
has  
a  
password  
set,  
then  
you'll  
get  
a  
login  
prompt.  
Then  
the  
user  
must  
log  
in

Re: security wizard cannot be run

using  
a  
valid  
username/password.  
Once  
the  
database  
opens,  
the  
permissions  
on  
the  
objects  
in  
the  
mdb  
determine  
whether  
this  
user  
can  
open/edit/etc.  
that  
object.

So  
create  
a  
desktop  
shortcut  
to  
open  
your  
mdb.  
The  
target  
will  
have  
the  
following  
in  
it.  
"path  
to  
msaccess.exe"  
"path  
to  
mdb"  
/wrkgrp  
"path  
to

Re: security wizard cannot be run

secure  
mdw"  
substituting  
the  
correct  
paths  
of  
course.

Use  
that  
shortcut  
to  
open  
the  
mdb  
as  
a  
user  
that  
has  
full  
permissions  
to  
everything  
(this  
would  
be  
the  
user  
you  
put  
into  
the  
Admins  
Group).  
This  
user  
should  
have  
all  
permissions,  
and  
they  
are  
able  
to  
assign  
permissions  
to  
other

Re: security wizard cannot be run

users,  
etc.

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Joan  
Wild  
Microsoft  
Access  
MVP