

Re: XP SP2 – new way to stop USB key drives

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From: Kevin Weilbacher [SBS-MVP] (kweilbacMVP_at_gte.net)

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Interesting subject. I spoke at an IT Managers conference in Kansas City last month. I had my powerpoint presentation on a USB disk key, and gave it to the person in charge of the conference, he quickly said: "Sorry, we are no longer allowed to plug in USB disk keys to our computers."

Well, I make it a point to follow whatever rules and security restrictions a company has in place, and will always commend them for taking whatever actions they have implemented. But personally, I think that's a step or two too far in the wrong direction. If you have updated virus software installed, and restrict local admin access, and don't run any executables, there should not be any risk. I'd suspect they were recently infected, and that's why they took the steps they did.

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Kevin Weilbacher [SBS-MVP]
"The days pass by so quickly now, the nights are seldom long"
"Dave Stoecker" <david_stoecker@hotmail.com> wrote in message
news:e98onAbmEHA.3988@tk2msftngp13.phx.gbl...
> Interesting!
> I recall seeing a blog or discussion board post with code to create policy
> templates for disabling usb sticks, as well as floppy, and cd-roms. I'll
> post a link if I can find it again...
>
> DS
>
> "jann" <jann@dial.pipex.com> wrote in message
> news:enKff9VmEHA.3336@TK2MSFTNGP10.phx.gbl...
>> Hi - not tried this, but looked handy
>> -----
> --
>> -----
>> Controlling block storage devices on USB buses
>>
>> What does controlling block storage devices on USB buses do?
>>
>> This feature provides the ability to set a registry key that will prevent
>> write operations to USB block storage devices, such as memory sticks.
>> When
>> this registry key is enabled, the devices function only as read-only
>> devices. You can implement this setting as part of a security strategy to
>> prevent users from transporting data using these devices.
>>
>> Who does this feature apply to?
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>>
>> . Users who do not want data to be written from their computer to a USB
>> storage device.
>>
>>
>> . IT professionals who want to implement organization controls over the
> use
>> of USB block storage devices
>>
>>
>> What settings are added or changed in Windows XP Service Pack 2
>>
>> Setting name Location Default value Possible values
>>
>> WriteProtect
>>
>> HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\System\CurrentControlSet\Control
>> \StorageDevicePolicies
>>
>> DWORD=0
>>
>> 0 - Disabled
>>
>> 1 - Enabled
>>
>>
>
>
```