

dcomperm bug

Source:

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- *From:* Frede <nitsev@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
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I have been using the dcomperm from the Visual Studio 6 samples to set dcom security for my dcom servers from a batch file. I have now found out that the old dcomperm sample is incompatible with the enhanced security model introduced with Windows XP SP2 and Windows Server 2003 SP1. So I downloaded the updated sample from the Windows Server 2003 Platform SDK and compiled it. It is supposed to support both the old (NT, 2000, XP pre SP2, W2k3 pre SP1) and the new (XP SP2 and w2k3 SP1) formats. E.g. it now supports setting machine level security (Edit Limits in dcomcnfg). This version seems to work fine with Windows Server 2003 SP1 and XP SP2 but NOT with Windows 2000. If I set the access or launch permission for a server and then open dcomcnfg and click edit to view that the properties has been set correctly I get the following error message:

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"DCOM Configuration Warning
The Security Descriptor contains an Access Control Entry (ACE)
inappropriate to this context. If you continue it will be rewritten as an
Allow ACE in the appropriate access mask. Do you wish to continue?"
```

If I click OK and continue, all the configured users etc I set using dcomperm are in the list and are configured correctly, but you get a bit worried about the error message. Please observe that although this error occurs I can still launch the server so security seems to be set correctly anyway (somehow). Also if I click OK in dcomcnfg and apply the changes (that dcomcnfg does itself) I can verify that dcomcnfg indeed does write new values to the [HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\AppID\{31803844-3E55-11D2-832C-00104B6F5DA6}] AccessPermission value that is different from what is written by dcomperm. For some reason the app server still launches and I can access it!

I have searched the net for this error message but haven't found any useful info about it.

Have anyone else discovered bugs in the new dcomperm sample and what does the error mean more specifically?

Thanks
Fredrik

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