

Re: Allow user to run application as a power user

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Scripting/microsoft.public.scripting.vbscript/2005-05/msg01007.html>

- *From:* Ed Murphy <EdMurphy@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Thu, 26 May 2005 09:30:03 -0700
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Thanks for the reply. I didn't realize that the user had to log out and then back in. I have seen a script that used the net localgroup /add command but it requires that the admin and the user enter username and passwords because it uses the runas command.

Since I am using SMS I can set the programs running the scripts to log out after running, but I think that would be a little annoying to the users. The application in question is a configurator, which sets up the users environment for other applications to run. The vendor has provided a script which the non-privileged user can run each time they want to run the application, but it seems like a very cumbersome approach.

Thanks again,

Ed

"Björn Holmgren" wrote:

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> "Ed Murphy" <EdMurphy@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
> news:2139A0D4-CB28-45F1-BC9C-249F2B36D74A@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
>> Hello,
>>
>> I have an application that I am distributing with SMS. The problem that I
>> am having is that the application, now on the target machine, requires
>> power
>> user or admin privileges to run. I can run the application via sms in the
>> system context, but that will not help, since the app configures the
>> user's
>> environment.
>>
>> So unless someone knows of an easier solution, I need to run a script, in
>> the system context that makes the current logged on user a member of the
>> local power users group, if they are not already a member of that group or
>> the admins group and then run the application under the user's context.
>> Finally, after the application is complete, the script, under the system
>> context again, would then revert the user back to his former permission
>> level, i.e., return user to former group memberships.
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>>
>> I don't think that this can be done with one script, because of the
> context
>> issues. But, since I am using SMS, I can use three different scripts and
>> chain them together.
>>
>> 1. Promote the current logged in user to a member of the local power
> users
> group, if needed.
>> 2. Run the application under the user's context.
>> 3. Demote the current logged in user back to his original group
> memberships.
>>
>> Since we don't normally allow membership in the power users group, I guess
>> it would be ok to specifically remove the user from the power users, but
> if,
>> in the future, we did allow permanent power users, this approach could
> cause
>> problems.
>>
>> Another concern is security. I realize that during the period between the
>> first and third scripts that the user could exploit the elevated
> priviledges.
>> Worse yet, they could kill the process before the third script can run,
> which
>> would leave them in the elevated state.
>>
>> Unfortunately, I am really just learning to script, so the details are
>> currently beyond me. I am not sure if these scripts should be in VB or
> not.
>> If anyone could offer suggestions or point me in the right direction, I
> would
>> be grateful.
>>
>> Thanks,
>>
>> Ed
>
> Hi Ed,
>
> My main concern with your proposed solution is that in order for the system
> to recognize the user as a power user (ie member of the power users group),
> the user would have to logoff/logon before starting the application (but
> after joining the power users group).
>
> The best solution IMO – if at all possible – would be to find out exactly
> what makes the application require poweruser/admin privileges, and then
> tweak the installation package to give normal users the rights needed, for
> instance via secedit. If security changes are extensive, it's probably
> better to just grant the user power user privileges permanently (or for as
> long as he/she is using the application).

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