

Re: How does Local System Account bypass file permissions during a backup?

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Win2000/microsoft.public.win2000.general/2004-11/0491.html>

From: Tommy Gilchrist (*tommy_at_delete.gilchristcs.the.com.needful*)

Date: 11/04/04

Date: Thu, 04 Nov 2004 08:55:30 +0000

On Thu, 4 Nov 2004 10:13:19 +1100, "Pegasus \((MVP)\)" <I.can@fly.com> wrote:

>
> *"Tommy Gilchrist" <tommy@delete.gilchristcs.the.com.needful> wrote in
> message news: Iimio0524tuobb6i56b6amrvvlib5ce48p@4ax.com...*
>> *Folks*
>>
>> *I wonder could you shed some light on a problem we're having.*
>>
>> *The nature of the problem is very odd in that I'm arguing with a
>> backup vendor who shall remain nameless over a feature that I need,
>> that any backup software should be able to do, that their software
>> seems to be capable of doing but (and this is the odd bit) they claim
>> their software CAN'T do!*
>>
>> *The backup agent runs under the local system account and the vendor is
>> claiming that this means that all files must have "SYSTEM" granted
>> read access in order to guarantee a successful backup. Given that
>> there are about 100 file servers hosting millions of files in the
>> enviroment and multiple people have access to change permissions this
>> obviously can't be guaranteed.*
>>
>> *However I can create files, give them very restricted permissions,
>> even remove all permissions and the backup program can back them up
>> successfully. I've tested this on Windows NT 4.0, 2000 and 2003.*
>>
>> *What may help move the discussion forward is an understanding of how
>> the local system account accesses files. I understand that members of
>> the Backup Operators group and the Administrators group get the "Back
>> up files and folders" permission which will permit this. However the
>> SYSTEM account isn't a member of either group by default.*
>>
>> *Is the SYSTEM account the same as the Local System Account services
>> run under. Does the Local System Account have these permissions*

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>> *automatically or is this not relevant at all and am I barking up the*

>> *wrong tree?*

>>

>> *thanks*

>>

>> *tommy*

>

>*The SYSTEM account has implicit access permissions to all local*

>*files and folders (but not to networked resources). This is independent*

>*of any NTFS permissions that you might set.*

>

Thanks for this. I suspected it was something of this nature.

Do you know if this is documented anywhere, preferably on one of Microsoft's sites?

tommy