

Re: user accounts

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.basics/2005-12/msg00349.html>

- *From:* "Nepatsfan" <nepatsfan@xxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Wed, 7 Dec 2005 16:19:43 -0500
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KB wrote:

> KB wrote:

>> Bruce Chambers wrote:

>>

>>> KB wrote:

>>>

>>>> Hi,

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>>>> I am the only one who uses my computer so I am not as
>>>> savvy as some about users. I wanted to know, if you have
>>>> different users, are they still able to see your folders.
>>>> If so, how can you have different users, but keep your
>>>> folders (or files) private. Thanks,

>>>>

>>>> KB

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>>> [HOW TO Create and Configure User Accounts in Windows XP](http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb:en-us:279783)
>>> <http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb:en-us:279783>

>>>

>>> [HOW TO Set, View, Change, or Remove File and Folder](http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb:en-us:q308418)
>>> Permissions

>>> <http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb:en-us:q308418>

>>>

>>>

>> So the answer is YES, they do have access? From the links,
>> I was able to gather that each user gets his own documents
>> folder, plus settings etc. I take it from your second link
>> you are saying that other users could gain access to your
>> folders unless you protect them.

> Ok, I have read the info, but guess I need it broken down to
> me. Here is my real-life scenario. A friend has a computer
> that she lets her kids use (probably not good idea). They
> all have their own usernames and login with passwords, BUT
> they have gotten all her folders and files messed up (don't
> have the computer yet, so not sure what that means). She

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- > wants to be able to keep their paws off her folders. Should
- > she basically password protect any folders she doesn't want
- > their paws on, including subfolders? If she is administrator
- > and logs in, can she still see and access their folders (for
- > checking up)?

Here are some ideas you can pass on to your friend:

System Security

1. Set up a screen saver to come on after a short period of time. The screen saver should be password protected. Control Panel → Display → Screen Saver page → Check "On resume, show the Welcome Screen".
2. If the computer is set up to go into standby after a certain amount of time, this should be password protected as well. Control Panel → Power Options → Advanced page → Check "Prompt for password when computer resumes from standby".
3. The kids should have limited accounts. Only adults should be computer administrators.
4. If she's using Outlook Express for email, she should create separate identities for each email user. The identities should have their own passwords. Other email programs offer similar security options.

File and Folder Security

Odds are that your friend's computer will be running the Home Edition of Windows XP. That will limit the options she has available when trying to protect her files. As long as she keeps her important files in her My Documents folder, the kids won't be able to gain access.

One potential problem would be if the kids figured out how to enable the "Make this folder private" option for their My Documents file. If they did this, even the administrators group would not have access. In order to access this folder she'd need to give her account or the administrators group full control permissions. In XP Home Edition, this can only be done when the computer is running in Safe Mode. If you want more info on this subject go to Start → Help and Support and enter "Make your folders private" in the Search box. Take a look at the items listed under "Full-text Search Matches".

Here's a Microsoft article that you might want to take a look at:

How to configure file sharing in Windows XP

<http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb:en-us:304040>

Good luck

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Nepatsfan

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