

# Re: Secure Logon and Windows Help Instructions

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.basics/2009-06/msg00493.html>

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- *From:* "Richard" <[richard@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:richard@xxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Tue, 23 Jun 2009 08:52:23 -0400
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"Tom461" <[Tom461@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:Tom461@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>  
wrote in message  
[news:03B163BB-09E2-4F10-882C-BD5F7B5C6C46@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:03B163BB-09E2-4F10-882C-BD5F7B5C6C46@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)  
Windows XP HELP indicates that Secure Logon can be  
turned on and off by  
using  
the ADVANCED tab in User Accounts. But User Accounts  
has no such tab,  
nor  
any  
tabs at all that I can locate. Either Microsoft is very clumsy  
on  
updating  
Help files, or I am missing something obvious here.  
Someone please  
advise  
how  
to turn on and off the requirement for secure logon. I am the  
administrator  
on a home computer.

"Nepatsfan" wrote:

To access the User Account applet that's cited in the help file click on  
Start -> Run and enter control userpasswords2 in the Open box. Hit the OK  
button. Click on the Advanced tab and you should find the option to  
require  
users to press Ctrl + Alt + Delete at the bottom of the page.

Keep in mind that for this to work you need to disable the Welcome screen  
and the computer can't be configured to log on an account automatically.

Note: If you have Windows XP installed on your computer you can use the  
Group Policy Editor to require that users press CAD to logon. It's listed  
under Computer Configuration/Windows Settings/Security Settings/Local

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Policies. Look for Interactive logon: Do not require CTRL + ALT + DEL and set it to Disabled.

Good luck

Nepatsfan

"Tom461" <Tom461@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message [news:D5F30B6D-1278-45BE-B0E9-68F2D6DE4044@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:D5F30B6D-1278-45BE-B0E9-68F2D6DE4044@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)  
Thanks. I think I am where I want to be: In starting up the computer, I must  
Ctl-Alt-Del and enter my personal password, which is for intrusion protection  
when I am not at home. I did not need to alter the Windows Welcome screen  
or  
the Group Policy Editor. I notice that I have an "Administrator" account  
and  
a "Tommy" account in the "Administrators" group column. I can't tell if  
that  
is standard or problematic.

Hi Tom,

You are right that the Help file is incorrect with its Secure Logon help, by sending you to User Accounts in Control Panel, instead of the dialog box with tabs provided by "Nepatsfan" with Start> Run> control userpasswords2

If you are thinking about setting a password for the Administrator account, use caution – if you forget or lose the password you may find yourself locked out with no remedy. There is usually no need to use the Administrator account unless your other account gets messed up. Instead of password protecting the Administrator account, you can change your logon from Welcome screen to the other option where it is necessary to type your user name as well as a password, so no one would be able to enter the Administrator account unless they knew they had to type the word "Administrator", and hit "Enter" key without typing a password. You can change the logon method from the regular "User Accounts" window in Control Panel by clicking "Change the way users log on or off", and un-check "Use the Welcome Screen."

Another thing from Windows Help that you should consider:

[begin quote:]

Why you should not run your computer as an administrator  
Running Windows 2000 or Windows XP as an administrator makes the system vulnerable to Trojan horses and other security risks. The simple act of visiting an Internet site can be extremely damaging to the system. An unfamiliar Internet site may have Trojan horse code that can be downloaded

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to the system and executed. If you are logged on with administrator privileges, a Trojan horse could do things like reformat your hard drive, delete all your files, create a new user account with administrative access, and so on.

You should add yourself to the Users or Power Users group. When you log on as a member of the Users group, you can perform routine tasks, including running programs and visiting Internet sites, without exposing your computer to unnecessary risk. As a member of the Power Users group, you can perform routine tasks and you can also install programs, add printers, and use most Control Panel items. If you need to perform administrative tasks, such as upgrading the operating system or configuring system parameters, then log off and log back on as an administrator.

[ :end quote]

You should keep your "Tommy" account in the administrator's group, and create a separate user account with lower access privileges, using the Control Panel "User Accounts" window, for use in ordinary day to day computing and internet surfing.

FWIW. --Richard

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