

Re: How to implement Fast User Switing in a customized shell?

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.embedded/2007-03/msg00369.html>

- *From:* Sascha <Sascha@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Wed, 21 Mar 2007 00:12:00 -0700
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Hello KM,

thank you for your note about customizing a user shell. My application works greatly as a shell, but I don't know how to switch between a service user (administrator account) and the customer (restricted user account). My idea is to use Fast User Switching, so I don't have to close the application the customer is working with, when our service staff is working with the explorer shell.

There must be a way to initiate a user switch... I'd be happy, if someone could tell me, what api-functions I have to call to do this.

Thank you very much!

Sascha

"KM" wrote:

Sascha,

Just to mention. You can have different shells working for different users.

All you have to do is to properly set up the following keys:

```
[HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows  
NT\CurrentVersion\Winlogon], "Shell"
```

```
[HKEY_CURRENT_USER\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows  
NT\CurrentVersion\Winlogon], "Shell"
```

Note that the current user branch is where you specify the different user shell.

Here is an article for you from Sean to get started:

<http://msdn2.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms838576.aspx>

There are some limitations if you run the explorer.exe not as a shell (e.g., via RunAs command). Initially it may not look like the full Desktop shell. Just FYI.

Re: How to implement Fast User Switing in a customized shell?

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Regards,
KM

"Mike Warren" wrote:

Sascha wrote:

Hello community!

I'm currently migrating the software my company is working on to windows XPe. We've decided to replace the explorer shell with our application. Within the application customers should only see the application and no Windows XP, but our service staff should be able to switch to a dedicated service user account whose shell is the explorer shell.

I don't know the answer to your question but we just run explorer.exe for service access using a secret key sequence from within our shell program.

Explorer.exe is not even included in the image. A USB thumb drive or CD containing it is needed.

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-Mike

Hello Mike,

thank you very much for your quick answer! Starting explorer.exe would be a way to realize this task, but the application the customer is working with should run with restricted user rights, while our service staff should have full access (administrator priviledges) to the system.

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If there's no way to trigger Fast User Switching, I will do as you proposed. Fast User Switching seems to be the right way to work with different user accounts.

Hmmm, by the way ... what would happen, if I run the explorer.exe with the "Run as..." function? Will the complete desktop, windows explorer windows and so on run under the specified user's priviledges?

Thank you for your answers :-)