

# Re: Windows logon failure

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.general/2006-04/msg09649.html>

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- *From:* "Pegasus \ (MVP)" <I.can@xxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* Wed, 26 Apr 2006 09:43:22 +1000
- 

It seems that you have tried the usual recipes to resolve your looping logon problem and that none of them had any effect. I now wonder if your machine had some hard disk problem all along and that some files or the registry suffered some damage that manifests itself in this loop phenomenon.

If this was my machine then I would take some drastic action:

- Back up all important data files.
- Boot the machine with my WinXP CD, then perform a Repair installation over the top of the existing installation.
- If this fails to resolve the problem, format the disk and start afresh.

"ribs" <ribs@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message <news:32FEF449-22A3-46F1-9DB8-25AB4C70ABE7@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

I haven't done steps 1-17 again since it seemed like all I was doing was renaming the drive o C:, but it is named C: already at this point. I

tried

the command you gave and that made some noise but doesn't appear to have fixed the initial problem still. I don't suppose there's anyway I could

send

you the appropriate directory, you could make the adjustments from there

and

send it back and I could just replace what I have? I don't know if that's feasible or not, but its just that everything i've tried seems to not work

or

not work right.

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"Pegasus (MVP)" wrote:

Run this command from a Command Prompt:

```
cacls X:\windows\system32\userinit.exe /p everyone:F
```

where X: is the drive letter for your problem disk.

"ribs" <ribs@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message  
news:57327B6D-8E6C-4E18-AE7E-4E1B5180668A@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Alright, at this point the situation has changed somewhat.  
We decided

that

my friend's PC isn't a good choice to be using at this point  
due to

the

fact

that during the same session that he was able to read my disk,  
a

number of

hours later it reported that my disk had no file system.

On the recommendation of a different friend, i downloaded  
miniPE, an  
operating system running from a boot disk and used it to  
save my

important

files. It also comes with a registry editor. Right now I've

basically

"forgotten" the second disk altogether and am running off of  
just one,

named

C:. My initial problem still exists. I'm planning on repeating  
steps

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1-17

now but could you explain what I need to do regarding the permission

settings

on userinit.exe? Sorry for being such a hassle and thanks in advance

"Pegasus (MVP)" wrote:

This is correct. When you have a disk with multiple partitions then the system may be looking for userinit.exe on the wrong partition. Creating multiple copies overcomes this problem temporarily until you can apply a permanent fix. Since you have only one partition, this issue is irrelevant.

I note that you did not report on the permission setting for c:\windows\system32\userinit.exe. Furthermore – does this file have the same size and date stamp as the one on your friend's PC?

"ribs"

<ribs@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

wrote in message

[news:BF017542-6292-46BA-B96F-64953A79BBD2@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:BF017542-6292-46BA-B96F-64953A79BBD2@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

I only have one partition on the problem hard drive, so there's

only 1

drive

letter assigned to it. Isn't this solution for partitioned drives

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with

multiple drive letters?

"Pegasus (MVP)" wrote:

Assuming  
you have  
drives Q:,  
R: and S: on  
your  
problem  
disk while it  
is installed  
in your  
friend's PC  
(corresponding  
to drives C:,  
D: and E:  
while it is  
installed in  
your own  
PC),  
you must  
ensure that  
userinit.exe  
exists in  
these  
folders:

Q:\Windows\system32  
R:\Windows\system32  
S:\Windows\system32

Create the  
folders if  
they do not  
already  
exist.

You must  
also set  
your ntfs  
permissions  
so that all  
copies  
of  
userinit.exe  
are readable  
by

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"everyone".

If  
successful,  
you will  
need to  
make some  
changes to  
the  
registry  
when  
logging in  
the first  
time.

Have a look  
at this link  
too:

<http://www.smilecomputers.nl/helpdesk/unablelogonaware.htm>

"ribs"

<ribs@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

wrote in  
message

<news:20BB9CCB-F873-4DE6-98D8-0D7023D594EA@xxxxxxxxxx>

Alright  
I  
used  
Acronis  
TrueImage  
to  
succesfully  
clone  
my  
drive

(I

ended up

having  
to  
buy  
the  
full  
version  
but  
if  
I

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can  
save  
my  
computer

it's

a

small

price  
to  
pay).  
As  
predicted  
it  
didn't  
solve  
the  
original

problem.

But my

friend's  
PC  
can  
now  
read  
my  
drive.  
Anyways,  
we  
tried  
1-17  
to

see

if

it

would

work  
and  
it  
didn't.

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We  
were  
ready  
to  
try  
18  
but  
we  
don't

really

understand

exactly  
what  
you  
mean.:

18.  
To  
add  
braces  
to  
your  
belt,  
copy

X:\windows\system32\userinit.exe

to  
\windows\system32  
on  
\*\*\*every\*\*\*  
other  
drive  
on  
the  
problem

disk.

Make  
new  
folders  
if  
necessary.

We  
found  
the

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userinit.exe  
but  
we  
are  
unsure  
as  
to  
where  
we

should

copy

it

to.  
What  
do  
you  
exactly  
mean  
by  
every  
other  
drive  
on  
the

problem

disk?

I'd

appreciate  
it  
if  
you  
rewrote  
that  
step  
a  
bit  
more  
clearly.

"Pegasus  
(MVP)"  
wrote:

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I  
see.  
Things  
are  
getting  
a  
little  
murky  
here.  
If  
this  
was

my

machine

then  
I  
would  
move  
immediately  
into  
"salvage"  
mode.  
The

easiest

way  
to  
do  
this  
is  
by  
installing  
the  
disk  
as  
a  
slave  
disk  
in

some

other

PC  
but  
since

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that  
"other"  
PC  
won't  
recognise  
the  
disk,  
you

cannot

use  
this  
option.  
Here  
are  
your  
remaining  
options:  
a)  
Repartition  
&  
reformat  
the  
disk.  
Install  
WinXP  
and  
all

applications.

You  
will,  
of  
course,  
lose  
all  
data.  
b)  
Hand  
the  
disk  
to  
a  
recovery  
service.  
They  
can  
probably

fix it

at  
a  
price.  
c)  
Create  
a  
clone  
of  
your  
disk  
while  
on  
your  
own  
PC.

Option  
c)  
can  
be  
achieved  
in  
several  
ways.  
Here  
are  
two  
of

them:

1.  
Get  
a  
copy  
of  
Acronis  
TrueImage,  
install  
it  
on  
your

friend's

PC

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and  
use  
it  
to  
burn  
a  
boot  
CD.  
Boot  
your  
own  
PC  
with  
this

CD

and  
create  
a  
clone  
of  
your  
problem  
disk  
on  
some  
spare

disk.

It  
may  
even  
be  
possible  
to  
do  
this  
with  
a  
demo  
version

of

TrueImage  
–  
you'll  
have  
to

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find  
out  
for  
yourself.

2.  
Burn  
a  
Bart  
PE  
boot  
CD  
on  
your  
friend's  
PC  
(<http://www.nu2.nu/pebuilder/#download>),  
then  
boot  
your  
own  
machine  
with  
this  
CD.  
Now  
use  
this  
command  
to  
create  
a  
clone  
of  
your  
disk  
on  
some  
spare  
disk:  
xcopy  
/s  
/e  
/c  
/h  
/d  
/k  
/o  
/y  
d:\\*.\*  
e:\\*.\*

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where  
D:  
is  
the  
problem  
disk  
and  
E:  
is  
the  
spare  
disk,

which

must  
have  
been  
formatted  
under  
WinXP.

Option  
c)  
involves  
spending  
money  
or  
spending  
two  
or  
three  
hours  
to  
create  
a  
Bart  
PE  
CD.  
Since  
it  
is  
unlikely  
to

resolve

your

original  
problem,

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you  
might  
want  
to  
go  
for  
options  
a)  
or  
b).

"ribs"  
<ribs@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>  
wrote  
in  
message  
[news:A93FD5E8-48F4-4942-8FDB-D7AF465022](mailto:news:A93FD5E8-48F4-4942-8FDB-D7AF465022)

Sorry.  
I'm  
on  
a  
friend's  
PC,  
attempting  
to  
implement  
your

solution.

Once

we

got  
on,  
it  
claimed  
that  
my  
drive  
(the  
one  
i  
just  
installed

on

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his

PC)

was

not

formatted.  
We  
tried  
to  
continue  
with  
the  
solution  
anyway,

getting

as

far

as

step  
8.  
but  
on  
step  
9.  
regedit  
claimed  
that

X:\windows\system32\config\system

did  
not  
exst.  
We  
then  
used  
the  
Computer  
Management  
tool

to

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exam

the

drive

and  
found  
that  
it  
supposedly  
had  
about  
500  
GB  
of

unallocated

space

in

addition  
to  
the  
70-something  
GB  
normal  
partition,  
and  
that

my

disk

didn't

appear  
to  
be  
formatted.  
We  
assumed  
that  
my  
index  
was  
corrupt  
and

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were  
considering

finding

a

data

recovery  
specialist.

I  
put  
the  
disk  
back  
on  
my  
machine

and it

still

booted

up  
as  
far  
as  
the  
login  
screen,  
meaning  
my  
index  
is  
NOT

corrupt

(or

else it

wouldn't  
have  
recognized  
that  
I  
have

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windows  
at  
all,

right?).

Any  
suggestions?

"Pegasus  
(MVP)"  
wrote:

I'm  
afraid  
your  
post  
makes  
no  
sense.  
Your  
initial

problem

was

a  
looping  
logon  
screen.  
This  
is  
in  
most  
cases  
caused  
by

an

incorrect  
system  
drive  
assignment.

In  
your  
most  
recent

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note  
you  
speak  
about  
Computer

Management

tools,  
implying  
that  
you  
could  
finally  
log  
on,  
and  
raw

disks,

which

implies  
that  
you  
have  
destroyed  
your  
Windows

installation.

This

is

contradictory.

I  
suggest  
you  
state  
clearly  
what  
you  
did  
and  
what  
you



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Anyway

I'm

almost  
about  
to  
kill  
myself  
because  
according  
to  
my

friend's

PC,

My

disk's

file  
system  
is  
raw.  
I'm  
assuming  
I  
need  
to  
sell  
my

soul

to a

data

recovery

specialist  
now?  
or  
something  
like  
that?  
The  
Computer

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Management

tool

claims

that  
my  
80  
GB  
HD  
has  
1  
74.something  
GB  
partition  
and  
1

500-something

GB

partition  
unallocated.  
Please  
tell  
me  
there's

something I

can

do?

I

need

the  
computer  
for  
just  
two  
more  
weeks  
before  
it  
can  
be

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as

broke

as

it

wants

to

be.  
;( I'm  
close  
to  
hysteria...

"Pegasus  
(MVP)"  
wrote:

Yes.  
And  
report  
to  
the  
trauma  
ward  
at  
your  
hospital

when

finished.

"ribs"  
<ribs@xxxxxxxxxxxxx  
wrote  
in

message

[news:ED473471-1228-4694-A4B5-932FABE8BD1C@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:ED473471-1228-4694-A4B5-932FABE8BD1C@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

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Ok,  
so  
just  
so  
I'm  
clear,  
I  
should  
be  
taking  
the

drive

that

has

windows

installed  
on  
it  
out  
of  
my  
computer  
and  
installing

it

on

some

other

pc.

After

that  
I  
find  
out  
what  
letter  
its  
been  
assigned

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(x)

and

use

that

letter

to

do

X:>  
mountvol  
in  
cmd?  
and  
then  
do  
the  
rest  
of  
the

stuff?