

Re: Advice sought on Running XP Home SP2 as Admin or Limited User

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- *From:* "Bill" <stanton@xxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Thu, 23 Nov 2006 02:28:59 GMT
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GSD

From the sound of things you describe, it would seem that not all the concepts of Windows multiple users has become clear to you yet.

First, don't give up!!!

Just to be clear, each user has their own desktop. So, any time you have a multiple user machine, each user would set up their desktops to suit themselves. You might find it easier to become accustomed to XP if you switch your desktop to "Windows Classic", (right-click the background portion of your desktop and choose the "Desktop" tab.... you'll see what I mean there.).

Accounts (that's what users are called) with administrator authority and those without have equal access to programs and data. However, there are programs that require administrator authority to be executed. For example, Windows Installer requires administrator authority. You should not have any trouble running application programs, such as Word, Outlook Express or Internet Explorer. If you're having difficulties there, it's not due to the authority level of the user account.

Your administrator account should have a password, but there's no reason the general user, being yourself, would require one. You must remember that any tasks that you run as "Scheduled Tasks" would necessarily run under the authority of the administrator account, as such tasks MUST include the authoritative password, for example: Tasks like automatic LiveUpdate for Norton Antivirus, backup jobs and the like.

I'll stop at this point and await a reply, lest I go on and on when what I've already offered gave rise to more questions than I already might have answered.

Bill
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"GSD" <nospam@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:ug4wK8oDHHA.992@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

I am a late convert to XP after using Win 98 for the last 7 years and am trying to come to terms with the User Account side of things particularly from the security aspect .My new PC was set up by my supplier with myself as the one Admin User .

However, as I have read more I have seen advice to the effect that even as a stand alone ,single user I should use a Limited User Account for everyday use , particularly Internet which I do use a lot.

To try this out I have now set up a new Limited User Account but I find it very impractical for a retired person like myself who spends quite a bit of time using the computer for a variety of things .

As I should have expected I guess ,there are a number of programs that do not seem to work or even do not appear on the Desktop when I switch to the Limited User . The Microsoft Works Suite and Word keep ask me Register the Software which I already have when installed , the Quicken finance program tells me I have a corrupted Licence so I have to switch back to use that . I now realize too that My CA Antivirus cannot Update from the Limited User Account .

If I were to operate from this account most of the time I also need to set up OE again for mail and newsgroups .

To stop rambling further my Question is mainly –what is the difference between me just using the Admin account which allows me to do everything at the same time and the way I successfully operated as a single user on Win 98 for 7 years appears . Is XP more insecure , I would have thought the reverse . I may have been fortunate but during my use of Win 98 I never had any Virus Infections nor have I encountered Spyware for which I regularly check using a number of the well know Tools . Not to say that it cannot happen I realize that but I try to be pretty careful .

I am tempted to go back to using just the Admin account but perhaps there is something I have missed in all this that could help make the Limited User Account more usable .

I would appreciate any advice from experienced XP users .

GSD