

# Re: administrator problems

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.general/2008-10/msg02470.html>

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- *From:* mjgresham <[mjgresham@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:mjgresham@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Sun, 12 Oct 2008 13:22:01 -0700
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i almost forgot, she doesn't have any of the discs that came with the computer. the person she got it from might have also bought it used, i have no idea

"Bruce Chambers" wrote:

mjgresham wrote:

my friend bought a used computer, which worked fine until her kids got on it and locked her out with a log on password. we got that figured out, she is now able to log on to windows, but now she can't add or remove any programs or even access wireless internet because it says she has to be logged on as administrator and we can't figure out how to change this. we have tried adding a new usse, but this too has to have administrator rights. we don' t know what to do because she doesn't have the money to take it to a repair shop. please, someone help us out here. i need exact directions to be able to do this. HELP, PLEASE!!!!

Simply log in using the built-in Administrator account (which cannot be deleted) and use Start > Run > "control userpasswords2" to modify the desired account(s).

By design, the only way to log into the Administrator account of WinXP Home is to reboot into Safe Mode. For WinXP Pro, pressing CTRL+ALT+DEL twice at the Welcome Screen will produce the standard login dialog box. Unless the owner deliberately set the Administrator's password via the Management Console (\_not\_ the Control Panel), it's probably still blank. WinXP Pro asks the installer to set the Administrator's password during installation, but WinXP Home doesn't.

Be that as it may, with second-hand computers, especially if acquired from strangers but perhaps even if acquired from a family member or friend, your friend's wisest course of action would definitely be to format the hard drive and start fresh. She doesn't want to get in

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trouble because the original owner may have filled the hard drive with kiddie porn, or have problems because the original owner downloaded/installed viruses or other malware.

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Bruce Chambers

Help us help you:

<http://www.catb.org/~esr/faqs/smart-questions.html>

<http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx/kb/555375>

They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety. ~Benjamin Franklin

Many people would rather die than think; in fact, most do. ~Bertrand Russell

The philosopher has never killed any priests, whereas the priest has killed a great many philosophers.

~ Denis Diderot