

Re: software permission

Source:

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JT wrote:

- > *I have installed different types of software and find that they can't be*
- > *accessed by my kids that I have set up as limited accounts. How do I make*
- > *this software available to them without giving them Administrator rights?*
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- >

This is quite common if the software was designed for Win9x/Me, or if it was intended for WinNT/2K/XP, but was improperly designed/coded. Quite simply, the installation routine for this application doesn't "know" how to handle individual user profiles, or the application tries to make changes to "off-limits" sections of the registry. Quite often, you can make this software available to other users by copying the Start Menu folder and Desktop folder shortcuts from the user profile from which the software was installed in the corresponding folders in the user profile(s) in which you'd like the software to be accessible. If the application is something that can/should be made available to all current and future users, copying the shortcuts into the corresponding locations of the All Users profile will do the trick.

NOTE: This may not work if the software requires access to parts of the hard drive and/or registry that are not normally accessible to regular users. (This won't occur if the application was properly written.) If this does prove to be the case, however, you're left with two options: Either grant the necessary users appropriate higher access privileges (either as Power Users or local administrators), or replace the application with one that was properly designed specifically for WinNT/2K/XP.

Some Programs Do Not Work If You Log On from Limited Account
<http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb:EN-US;q307091>

For some obscure reason, game and children's software developers in particular seem to not understand WinXP's file security paradigm, and require even limited users to have unnecessarily high privileges to

protected systems folders. For example, saved games are often stored in a sub-folder under the game's folder within C:\Program Files – a place where no inexperienced or limited user should have write permissions.

Additionally, here are a couple of tips suggested, in a reply to a different post, by MS-MVP Kent W. England:

"If your game or application works with admin accounts, but not with limited accounts, you can fix it to allow limited users to access the program files folder with "change" capability rather than "read" which is the default.

```
C:\>cacls "Program Files\appfolder" /e /t /p users:c
```

where "appfolder" is the folder where the application is installed.

If you wish to undo these changes, then run

```
C:\>cacls "Program Files\appfolder" /e /t /p users:r
```

If you still have a problem with running the program or saving settings on limited accounts, you may need to change permissions on the registry keys. Run regedit.exe and go to HKLM\Software\vendor\app, where "vendor\app" is the key that the software vendor used for your specific program. Change the permissions on this key to allow Users full control."

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Bruce Chambers

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<http://dts-1.org/goodpost.htm>

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

You can have peace. Or you can have freedom. Don't ever count on having both at once. - RAH