

Re: Firewall and group policy mess !

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 - *Date:* Fri, 10 Nov 2006 17:58:53 -0700
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Lady Tex wrote:

Hi – I am a 60 year old woman who is attempting to turn on my pc firewall and to download Windows Live One Care.

When I click the firewall option to turn it on as prompted by the security center , I click on it and a screen says : Your firewall is turned off. Your network administrator is using Group Policy to control these settings. I also accessed the firewall via control panel and receive the same message.

I also want to download Windows One Care and when I reach Step 2 , I am told : Active X component failed to load. You do not have administrative privileges on this computer and therefore cannot download and install new software.

I asked this question somewhere here and was told to read a website that has me going into system registry and changing things. I don't feel comfortable doing this. What if I type in incorrect info and mess everything up ? I was also told to back up "something" prior to making changesarghhh. I was also advised to delete cookies and to reset default settings .

Is there another way to change the group policy thingy ? I am not part of a network just my one Dell pc.

Oh – it seems maybe this problem started when I updated IE but I use MSN Explorer as default since MSN is my ISP (dial up only in rural area). Can I remove IE ? Would this help ? Would there be a conflict between the browsers ?

Also on Tuesday , I received the monthly update from Microsoft for the malicious software removal tool. Seems things might have gone awry then too.

What should I do ?

Hi Lady Tex,

It sounds to me like you are trying to make these changes from a 'limited' user account. What you want to do is make the changes via

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an 'administrator' account.

Since you say this is a standalone computer and not on a network, I am going to assume that whoever set the machine up for you set you up with a limited user account so that you couldn't accidentally make any serious changes/mistakes.

Let's hope that whoever set up the computer did not set a password on the system administrator account.

You will want to print this e-mail so that you can follow the instructions off line.

1. Reboot the computer;

For WinXPhe -- press F8 and go into 'Safe Mode' when prompted for a user name type 'administrator' and leave the password field blank.

For WinXPpe -- When you get to the login screen press [CTRL]+[ALT]+[Del]. Again type the user name 'administrator' and leave the password empty

2. Now that you are in the administrator account. Go to <Start> <Settings> <Control Panel> and chose <User Accounts>.

3. Create a new user account and give it administrative privileges. Please make sure to set a password for this account.

4. Reboot the computer and go into the new account you created and try doing the install/maintenance. You should now be good to go.

Just as an aside, if you keep confidential data on your computer, you really should put a password on the system administrator account.

I don't want to start a flame-war, but one of the things that you might want to think about is what type of account you want to use for day-to-day operations. Personally, I use an administrator privilege account since I do a lot of changes and maintenance on my machine. If you do very little of that, then a limited user account may be the way to go. Just remember that with the power of an administrator account comes more ways to mess up your system.

Ciao . . . C.Joseph

"When hope is lost . . . the spirit dies."

-- Lao Tzu

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