

## Re: Pro's and Con's of Administrative Shares

**Source:**

[http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.network\\_web/2004-06/2971.html](http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.network_web/2004-06/2971.html)

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**From:** Chuck (*none\_at\_example.net*)

**Date:** 06/22/04

Date: 21 Jun 2004 21:45:06 -0500

On Mon, 21 Jun 2004 18:48:53 -0700, <anonymous@discussions.microsoft.com> wrote:

>  
>>Are you talking about "hidden" shares ("C\$" etc)?  
>  
>Yes, exactly.  
>  
>  
>>Those are the default administrative shares, that don't  
>get displayed up by the browser service. They are still  
>accessible to those with administrative >authority,  
>including you.  
>  
>I realize that, you have to put the \\computername\c\$ to  
>get to the drive. Unfortunately, these person's are  
>somewhat computer savey and have gone in and disabled  
>those shares. They were set up as administrators on their  
>pc's long before I was there. And unfortunately, to  
>attempt to change that could cause some heads to roll. I'm  
>not ready nor am I prepared for that one yet. GRIN!  
>  
>>

Gack. Legacy staff.

>>Why do you have all these computer users with  
>administrative authority on their computers?  
>  
>See above  
>  
>>  
>>Don't worry about these users right now – you should be  
>able to access the hidden shares. But, if you leave them  
>as admin users, and they disable your administrative  
>access in the ACL, then you'll have problems.  
>  
>Unfortunately, I am worried about these users as two of

>them are in the actual IT Dept under me. I want to put a  
>policy in place so that all computers company wide are  
>active with the administrative shares but need some amo  
>first before going ahead. Like to cover my tracks and give  
>them a reason why it's required. And by the way, they do  
>use Norton Corporate. Right now they claim to update their  
>own dat files from Norton, but I don't want them to do  
>that. So thats some amo.

A very brief extract from our CSP, distilled, and heavily depersonalised:

- 1) Regular scheduled execution of automated network security software is essential, to guarantee the future integrity of the corporate LAN.
- 2) The default administrative share is essential, to provide reliable access to all workstations, to automated network security software.
- 3) Customised, or manual, security precautions by knowledgeable staff is not a reliable, or acceptable, substitute for automated security software.
- 4) No employee may not interfere with administrative access, or with any component of network security software, on their workstations.

>  
>>  
>>And, if your AV protection depends upon network admin  
>shares, and you let the users remove those shares, you  
>could have even worse problems. AV protection,  
>>including automated scanning, is an essential network  
>protection. Let one of those computers get infected, and  
>spread its infection thru the LAN. THEN you'll have  
>problems.  
>  
>  
>Thanks

Good luck.

Cheers,  
Chuck

Paranoia comes from experience – and is not necessarily a bad thing.