

Re: Question on Desktop Icon Universality

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.newusers/2006-11/msg00166.html>

- *From:* "Shenan Stanley" <newshelper@xxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Thu, 9 Nov 2006 10:06:31 -0600
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figment wrote:

I am running Windows XP Home Edition with Service Pack 2, and all updates as of three o'clock this morning installed. There are four user logins, and the guest login is turned on. Two of the user logins are administrator, and two are limited.

When programs are installed from my login, set to administrator, desktop icons and start menu entries show up universally. Desktop icons I delete are deleted universally, and changes I make to the start menu are applied universally. Icons I create are isolated to my desktop.

When programs are installed from the other administrator login, the start menu changes are universal, but the icons created are isolated to that desktop. If the universal icons are removed from the desktop, this happens system wide, and start menu changes are system wide.

From the two limited desktops, desktop icons can be created normally, and items created on that desktop can be deleted normally, without effecting any other desktop. But, trying to delete icons created during program installs from my login, gives an error message (Access Denied).

Here's my issues;

I like the installed icons appearing universally. How do I set the other administrator login to do this?

You don't. You have to do this manually. That's why the "All Users" profile (directory under C:\Documents and Settings) exists – for all users stuff to go. However – each program and the corresponding installation was written differently. Some ask you if you want things put in all users, some just do it and some just put it in the current user account. In other words – it's out of your hands when installing most of the time. Unless the installation process asks you, it is determined by the people who made the

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application and not you.

Afterwards – you can easily move the icons from your start menu/desktop to the All Users desktop/start menu if you desire.

I dislike the issues with deleting desktop icons. How do I allow the administrator login to delete icons from only their desktop, and allow limited logins to delete unwanted universal icons?

File and directory permissions.

However.....

Given your scenario – I don't think you want JUST ANYONE deleting from the all users desktop (although – an administrator will do what they want, when they want.) You may, instead of copying things into the "All Users" profile – have to start putting things in each of the users profiles you want to have these things and then letting that user delete things from their own profile.

HOW TO: Create and Configure User Accounts in Windows XP

<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/279783>

HOW TO: Set, View, Change, or Remove Special Permissions for Files and Folders in Windows XP

<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/308419>

How To Create a Custom Default User Profile

<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/319974>

Doug's Windows XP Security Console

http://www.dougnnox.com/xp/utls/xp_securityconsole.htm

Windows XP is a multi-user OS, even when used by one person only, the fundamentals don't change.

Documents and Settings is the directory that contains your user information/documents/etc. It also contains a few extra directories used by Windows.

One is "Default User" – This is used whenever a new account is created. It bases the initial setup of that account off this directory.

Another is "All Users" – This is used by.. all users. If you want something to appear on the desktop of every user of the machine, you put it on this users desktop (in the desktop folder.) Etc.

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How To Ask Questions The Smart Way

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

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