

Re: user icons gone from welcome screen!

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Source:

http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.perform_maintain/2008-03/msg00209.htm

- *From:* "Bill H." <wh@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Fri, 14 Mar 2008 10:51:48 -0700
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Well, Patrick, I tried a password cracker, and it reported that the admin password was [blank], yet when I try recovery console and hit enter when prompted for the admin password, Windows says the password is not valid.

What can I do now?

Thanks!

--Bill

"Patrick Keenan" <test@xxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:%23Nwm08DfIHA.5560@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

"Bill H." <wh@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
[news:Oe4wSU\\$eIHA.6136@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:Oe4wSU$eIHA.6136@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

Suddenly, this win xp home computer boots to the "welcome" screen, but there are no icons on which to click to logon. And there used to be two.

All they can do is click on the "shut down" icon in the lower left corner of the screen.

Safe mode does no better. Get no icons to click on.

Tried the C-A-D technique to get the alternate logon menu, and when we try using the same display name as when it was working, (there are no passwords on either of the two accounts), we get a message about "local policy of this system does not permit you to log on interactively."

Now, what does THAT mean?

And no one can remember/find the Administrator password.

Can't get to command prompt as it wants you to log on first. :-(

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Is there a way to boot with the Win install CD and then run system restore?

Thanks.

Bill

By default, on XP Home the Administrator account is available only in Safe Mode, and has no password (just press Enter). If a password has been applied, or if the system has decided there is one, there are a number of password reset/removal utilities available. Many are based on Linux. You will of course need to download these and burn to CD from another system.

Since you're using XP Home, the potential for data loss when doing this with EFS does not exist as it does with XP Pro.

If you use an inexpensive external USB2 drive case or drive connector, it's very easy to back up the data from that XP Home system. Just pull the drive, attach it to the drive case electronics, and plug that into a USB2 port on another XP system that has enough space. You can then just copy the data that you need.

Finally, part two of this KB article gives details on choosing a restore point from Safe Mode. You can likely also adapt these directions for use with a Linux boot CD, or by hosting the drive on another XP system, using the external USB2 drive case or connector, or the internal drive connectors on the host PC.

<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/307545>

HTH

-pk