

Re: Detecting local user before stealing his machine

Source:

http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.work_remotely/2006-03/msg00285.html

- *From:* "Shenan Stanley" <newshelper@xxxxxxxxx>
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Kenneth Porter wrote:

I remote-login to a lab machine at a customer site. I don't want to steal a session if someone is using the machine there. Is there some way to tell if the machine's in use before I grab it?

Sooner AI [MVP wrote:

Depending on how you have the XP box configured you should be seeing warning messages as described in this KB article...

<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/280828/en-us>

Kenneth Porter wrote:

Alas, that doesn't handle the case I'm dealing with. We use a common user ID for lab machines as we're manipulating the product (an automation system). The system is typically left running an exercise loop to validate code. Forcing a logout on a running system could be dangerous, as it would bypass any graceful shutdown of the system under test.

If you are using a common logon username/password – you aren't REALLY logging anyone out (in Windows XP).. you are merely taking over their current session and locking the screen from anyone but that username and/or an administrator. They can even take it back from you.

Now if you are logging in as a different username/password combination, you would get a warning as directed to earlier. (Windows XP again.)

Now – you could look at the remote processes with many different tools – see if anything is really utilizing the CPU/memory heavily.. Or write a logon/logoff script that lets you know when someone is on that machine in a variety of ways.

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Shenan Stanley
MS-MVP

How To Ask Questions The Smart Way
<http://www.catb.org/~esr/faqs/smart-questions.html>

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