

Re: How does Local System Account bypass file permissions during a backup?

Source:

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Date: 11/04/04

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On Thu, 4 Nov 2004 10:13:19 +1100, "Pegasus \ (MVP)" <I.can@fly.com> wrote:

>

> "Tommy Gilchrist" <tommy@delete.gilchristcs.the.com.needful> wrote in
> message news: Iimio0524tuobb6i56b6amrvvlib5ce48p@4ax.com...

>> Folks

>>

>> I wonder could you shed some light on a problem we're having.

>>

>> The nature of the problem is very odd in that I'm arguing with a
>> backup vendor who shall remain nameless over a feature that I need,
>> that any backup software should be able to do, that their software
>> seems to be capable of doing but (and this is the odd bit) they claim
>> their software CAN'T do!

>>

>> The backup agent runs under the local system account and the vendor is
>> claiming that this means that all files must have "SYSTEM" granted
>> read access in order to guarantee a successful backup. Given that
>> there are about 100 file servers hosting millions of files in the
>> enviroment and multiple people have access to change permissions this
>> obviously can't be guaranteed.

>>

>> However I can create files, give them very restricted permissions,
>> even remove all permissions and the backup program can back them up
>> successfully. I've tested this on Windows NT 4.0, 2000 and 2003.

>>

>> What may help move the discussion forward is an understanding of how
>> the local system account accesses files. I understand that members of
>> the Backup Operators group and the Administrators group get the "Back
>> up files and folders" permission which will permit this. However the
>> SYSTEM account isn't a member of either group by default.

>>

>> Is the SYSTEM account the same as the Local System Account services
>> run under. Does the Local System Account have these permissions

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>> *automatically or is this not relevant at all and am I barking up the*

>> *wrong tree?*

>>

>> *thanks*

>>

>> *tommy*

>

>*The SYSTEM account has implicit access permissions to all local*

>*files and folders (but not to networked resources). This is independent*

>*of any NTFS permissions that you might set.*

>

Thanks for this. I suspected it was something of this nature.

Do you know if this is documented anywhere, preferably on one of Microsoft's sites?

tommy