

Re: How can I change the admin password of all our XP PC's on the doma

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Source:

http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.server.active_directory/2007-10/msg01563

- *From:* "Austin Osuide" <austin@xxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Tue, 23 Oct 2007 23:22:39 +0100
-

My absolute favorite Jorge!

I believe that for a domain joined workstation, disable the local admin account. It's cheaper in the long run. You'll have people who'll rile against this, but when you check it out, it's a viable option.

Makes sure user data is redirected to file servers and backed up. If the box has a problem (usually network related e.g. issues with drivers) that means you can't use a domain admin account to logon, it is usually quicker to rebuild than troubleshoot.

Laptops will present special requirements that may make you want to bend the rules for them but I think the idea of disabling the local admin account has its merits.

Regards,

Austin

"Jorge Silva" <jorgesilva_pt@xxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:ea28U0bFIHA.1184@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Cyborg, I don't think that you should spend money on any kind of software to do what you want.

If you want to control the Local Administrators on the workstations, just disable the Local Administrator (you can do this using GPO, as I already mentioned before), and then use another GPO or Script that adds a existing security group in your AD as member of the local Administrators on the workstations.

To finish, add only the users that you think that should be members of local administrators on the workstations.

=====
I hope that the information above helps you.
Have a Nice day.

Jorge Silva
MCSE, MVP Directory Services
=====

"Cyborg" <andrewwhite@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:F475B711-F46F-4167-A11C-306F61642FFD@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

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Is there a command line method to reset it as we can get LANDesk to run the script against any PC?

"Austin Osuide" <austin@xxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:uWj98ZZFIHA.5272@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

My point exactly!

Because of the complexities involved, people sell you Enterprise Class software that helps you address the issues.

For example:

<http://www.liebsoft.com/index.cfm/products?id=378>

Hence my initial statement that it's not an exactly straight forward or cheap to fix this.

Regards,

Austin

"Cyborg" <andrewwhite@xxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message

news:FA163985-AED2-443D-9F67-DF8A53A6287C@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

How exactly do you manage it then?

"Austin Osuide" <austin@xxxxxxxxxxx>
wrote in message

news:EE51F3C3-B622-4BE0-A6AA-E91B3D1CBF3A@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

And, if you rename the account, the users you want not to have the credentials can't tell that the admin account has been renamed by looking in computer management or asking some other friendly admin?

Remember, your former passwords got shared. "Root cause" is still there.

If you also have a lock down policy so these computers can only be used for certain purposes and users do not install anything on their machines, you have a way out.

But from my experience, if you have a large enough set of users, and Admins (they

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are also part of this
problem), you need to
Actively manage local
admin passwords. A rename
is more "Security Theatre"
in the event of a credible
threat because the SIDs
what's gone after and that
wont change.

Regards,

Austin

"Cyborg"

<andrewwhite@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

wrote in message

news:A8195110-A9EB-49CD-89F7-C5A455D68247@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

This looks
like a quick
fix for now?

<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/816109>

"Austin

Osuide"

<austin@xxxxxxxx>

wrote in

message

[news:yI8Ti.3953\\$TY4.3104@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:yI8Ti.3953$TY4.3104@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

Hi
Cyborg,

You've
got
a
problem
thats
really
not
very
easy
to
solve
(read
cheap).
You
have

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this
problem
because
it
is
the
nature
of
all
but
the
least
inquisitive
of
users
to
want
to
be
admins
on
their
workstations.
If
you
dont
give
the
user
accounts
admin
privilages,
they
go
for
the
local
admin
account.
Now,
your
next
problem
is
how
do
you
manage
the
local
admin

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account?

Do

you

set

the

same

one

on

all

workstations?

If

you

do

that,

all

that

needs

happen

is

one

user

finding

out

and

"word

gets

around"

or

the

document

that

"holds"

the

password

gets

into

the

wrong

hands.

Regular

use

of

the

password

even

makes

it

more

insecure.

Will

you

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change
it
regularly
on
all
workstations?
A
real
procedural
nightmare
depending
on
the
size
of
your
estate.
If
you
have
different
passwords
for
different
workstatis,
how
do
you
provide
ready
access
to
admins
who
require
it?
Several
home
grown
Apps
exist
which
derive
an
admin
password
from
the
workstation
name
based

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on
some
algorithm
but
securing
the
tool
becomes
the
issue
and
usually,
it
doesn't
take
a
rocket
scientist
to
reverse
engineer
them.
So
you
decide
to
pay
for
some
Enterprise
Class
tool
to
do
this
for
you
if
especially
you
have
thousands
of
boxes
to
visit.
And
there
companies
out
there

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who
wite
apps
for
just
that.
As
an
example
(
not
a
recomendation
by
any
way,
shape
or
form),
see:
<http://www.liebsoft.com/index.cfm/products?id=512>.

HTH,

Austin

"Cyborg"
<andrewwhite@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
wrote
in
message
<news:B3A473D8-D40D-4ED0-B3E8-4A034552684F@xx>

Hi
this
is
great,
do
I
need
to
change
anything
in
this
script
apart
from
the

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"testpassword"

I
take
it
I
can
then
add
the
script
to
the
logon
part
of
the
doamin
group
policy?

"Simon"

<Simon@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

wrote

in

message

news:55FB500B-675B-426B-9E75-F3954A30DA

try
this
as
part
of
a
logon/startup
script:

```
strComputer  
=  
"MyComputer"  
Set  
objUser  
=  
GetObject("WinNT://"  
&  
strComputer  
&  
"/Administrator,  
user")  
objUser.SetPassword
```

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"testpassword"
objUser.SetInfo

To
make
it
more
generic,
you
will
need
to
set
the
script
to
get
the
pc's
computer
name
before
trying
to
change
the
password.

"Cyborg"
wrote:

Somehow
many
of
our
users
know
the
local
admin
password
for
our
XP
machines,
is
there
a
way
to

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change
this
on
all
PC's
to
something
else,
like
a
group
policy?