

Account Operator Security Rights

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This is a question of curiosity more than anything else, since the problem has been resolved.

I'm running Windows Server 2003 SBS.

I wanted to give a user the ability to modify members of E-Mail Distribution lists which are created as ActiveDirectory Security Groups with Exchange E-Mail addresses.

In AD Users and Computers, I opened the security group that I wanted to allow changes to and looked at the Security tab. "Account Operators" was already included on that tab with "Full Control" rights.

I added the user who would be making the changes to the "Account Operators" group, and expected this would permit them to make changes to that list.

When the user tested this they got a message stating that they did not have security permissions to make changes to the list. As a note, the user had logged off and back on after the change to their account.

Next, I added the individual user to the Security tab of the list, and gave that user "Full Control". Once that was done the user is able to make changes successfully.

I'm curious why the rights didn't flow through the Account Operators group to provide the user with the rights they needed. I prefer to never assign individual users explicit rights to anything. Rather I like to assign users to groups and give groups rights. In this case that didn't seem to work. Any thoughts on why that might be?

Thanks,
--David