

## controlling executables in user accounts

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I am a teacher in a UK Secondary School (equivalent to High School in the US) and our network consists of Windows Server 2003 with Windows XP Professional on the user desktops. Clearly, WS2003 is used for administration of the user accounts of both students and teachers. It also hosts various applications which are run centrally from the server rather than on the individual machines, e.g. MS Office etc.

I am encountering a serious control problem. My students are quite happily installing P2P executables, specifically Ares Lite, into their user areas. I don't actually know whether they are downloading this from the internet or installing it from pen drives via the USB ports. Whichever manner they are using the software is appearing in their user areas and they are quite happily disrupting my lessons by using it to download mp3s and then play them in Media Player.

It has always been my impression that windows server has tools that restrict user activity, especially the installation of software. Am I correct in this impression? Should our network manager be able to configure the user areas so that it is impossible to install software – even if users have access to the internal floppy disk drives or pen drives (via the USB ports)?

Is there a way to stop anything other than pre-defined applications from running, so that even if someone breaches restrictions and installs software it will somehow be prevented from operating?

I'm mainly looking for advice so I can have a sensible conversation with the technical support staff who support out systems and network.

TIA for any help or assistance

Louis

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