

Re: Limited account in WinXP

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speeder <no.spam@invalid.com> wrote:

- > *I've been thinking about creating a limited account in WinXP as*
- > *another layer of security. An administrator level account would exist*
- > *only for installing new stuff. Is this a valid idea as a threat*
- > *deterrent?*
- >
- > *My assumption is that in a limited account malicious code from*
- > *webpages or possible injection of malicious code through unknown*
- > *server vulnerabilities (I run a few) would not be able to install or*
- > *provide further attack venues.*
- >
- > *If my assumption is all wrong can the limited account be helpful at*
- > *all in providing further security?*

Yes, this is a good idea. In fact, it is the way that it SHOULD work all the time. As a long time Unix user, I was flabbergasted when I installed Windows XP on a machine and found out how many things (regular, user applications) broke when not run as Administrator. That's simply inexcusable, in my opinion.

I do have things set up with normal user accounts for everyone who uses the machine, and a separate Administrator account that's only supposed to be used to install new software or change configuration settings. I have had to fight with some software to make it work (the most common fix is to make the installation directory for the software world writable --- some software apparently tries to save temporary files in the install directory!). And a few things just have to be run as Administrator for some reason (for example, I have to personally start Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone for my son when he wants to play it, because it has to be run as Administrator --- lovely, eh? Nothing like having to give full admin rights to a 4 year old...).

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