

# How do I give ASP.NET process network credentials?

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I have a Source Safe database installed on my Win2K 'domain controller'. A Source Safe database is not a database in the traditional sense of the word. It is actually a file system folder structure. Source Safe workstation users access this 'database' via a folder share or mapped drive. The VSS database is installed on a machine called Dimension2.

I have written an ASP.NET process (web services) which interacts with the VSS API in order to access the VSS database on dimension. These web services are hosted under IIS on a member server named Dimension. I was finding that if I logged on locally to Dimension and ran the VSS Win32 Explorer client, I was able to successfully access the VSS database on Dimension2. However, the ASP.NET code was unable to access this database.

I changed the ASP.NET username in the processmodel section of machine.config to SYSTEM. Still no success. So I made the following changes to the web.config file at the root of the web service site.

Authentication: Windows

Impersonation: true

Now the code runs successfully, since the ASP.NET code is now running using my interactive session network credentials. This was a useful test to isolate the problem and to confirm that the problem is based on credentials and security. However this is no solution for a production environment. I need to allow this to work for anonymous users coming in over the Internet without domain credentials.

How can I set this up? Can ASPNET on Dimension be set up as a network account? Can a new network account be created and ASP.NET or my web services be configured to use this special account? Or is there a different way in which this is typically done?

Thanks for your help.

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– Joe Getetz –