

Impersonation in ASP.NET 2.0 (works from XP, not 2003)

Source:

<http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/microsoft.public.dotnet.framework.aspnet.security/2006-03/msg00332.html>

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We have a C# webapp which we recently upgraded from .NET 1.1 to .NET 2.0. We need to access remote fileshares from our app, so we enabled impersonation in the web.config file by doing:

```
<identity impersonate="true" userName="NT AUTHORITY\NetworkService"/>
```

While redundant on Windows 2003 since ASP.NET actually runs as NetworkService already, it is required on Windows XP for the app to function properly.

Since updating to .NET 2.0, having this line in the config file gives an error when loading the webapp from a Windows 2003 web server:
"Could not create Windows user token from the credentials specified in the config file. Error from the operating system 'Access is denied.'"

This works fine under Windows XP, and worked fine under both XP and Windows 2003 in .NET 1.1.

What changed that broke this in .NET 2.0 and Windows 2003?

Thanks!

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