

# Installing Software without being Local Admin?

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Hi,

Some of you may remember back in June I posted a topic entitled 'Network Computer Games on Business Machines' which detailed the problem we were having with some of our users installing software & games on their machines, as they were local admins (against my recommendations). A number of people posted replies, including PA Bear, Malke, Aaron etc with advice, and recommendations including presenting the directors with a risk analysis. Well I went on holiday the following week, and while there wrote up a fairly long, detailed risk analysis, which I gave to our directors when I returned.

Surprisingly they actually accepted and agreed with the risk analysis, and decided to back me in removing all users from the local admins group!

This was going well on most of our users workstations, with little or no side effects. I decided to use VM workstation for our developers who needed to install/uninstall development software, allowing them to be local admins on their virtual system, but not the base system. Then we came to our business analysis/modellers. They use a piece of business modelling software that is quite flaky, and they have to keep installing/uninstalling and applying fix packs to get it to work, all this means they need admin rights. Also this software seems to require a minimum of 1 & 1/2GB ram to run, 2GB to run smoothly. These business modellers all have Dell laptops, as they are mobile consultants, which have a max 2GB ram installed. I tried setting these guys up with VM workstation, as local admins so they could install/uninstall, and assigning all but 256mb of the systems ram to the image however the modeller software ran so painfully slow, that users could type a sentence and practically make a cup of tea before it would show up on the screen.

Personally I don't think this software is fit for purpose due to the bugs and crashes users have experienced, and the fact it requires nearly 2GB of ram to run smoothly isn't practical for use on laptops, so I think we should be looking at another product. However, the software is from one of our business partners, and this means we have to use it. So I need to find some way of allowing users to install fix packs/re-install the software, without giving them full local admin access. I don't think virtualisation is going to work because of the memory problems.

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One solution I guess would be to setup a generic local admin user on all business modeller machines, and get people to use the RUNAS command when executing the install, however I think this maybe a l