

RE: Win2000 OS Access for SQL Server Admin

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From: Kevin McDonnell [MSFT] (kevmc_at_online.microsoft.com)

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Previous post:

My questions are, why did this service fail to start and yet the other SQL services start successfully before granting the Administrators or the System account sysadmin privileges?

Changes in sp3 make it necessary for SQL agent if required to run as a Admin account. LocalSystem has more privledges than local administrator. If you're not using SQLAgent, then you could either disable the service or set it to manual.

SQL Server Agent will need local Windows administrator privileges if one of the following is true:

SQL Server Agent connects to SQL Server using SQL Server Authentication (not recommended).

SQL Server Agent uses a multiserver administration master server (MSX) account that connects using SQL Server Authentication.

SQL Server Agent runs Microsoft ActiveX® script or CmdExec jobs owned by users who are not members of the sysadmin fixed server role.

Also, what are the security risks with granting System sysadmin privileges vs creating a local windows account and using this to startup the services? I'd like to use the most secure method.

The risk are associated with a comprimise of the system. If "bad guys" can comprise a SQL box, then they may be able to run under the context of the service account. So, if the account has admin or domain admin privledges, then you're at risk. Best practices are to run the MSSQLService account under a local nt user account or domain user account.

This goes hand in hand with good Password policies, protecting the server by a firewall, keeping the server up to date on patches (Windows Update/SMS or SUS), running good Anti virus software.

You need to assess your threats to your environment and decide what actions are necessary to take. Example, what protocols are running on this machine, what machines have access to this machine? Is the machine in a DMZ or is it sitting in the local lan in the Accounting Dept.?

microsoft.public.sqlserver.security: RE: Win2000 OS Access for SQL Server Admin

Thanks,

Kevin McDonnell
Microsoft Corporation

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