

Re: Granting all users Admin Rights

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From: JB Fields (jbfields3@hotmail.colm)

Date: 05/23/02

From: "JB Fields" <jbfields3@hotmail.colm>

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"Leo" <boeglin001@hawaii.rr.com> wrote in message
news:467201c1fdc9\$b38f4790\$b1e62ecf@tkmsftngxa04...

> *Rob,*
> *You are exactly correct!! Stand firm!*
> *I am an Information Systems Security Officer for the*
> *Army. I am responsible for the upkeep and security of 50*
> *computers in my unit and have the exact same issues.*
> *Standard users can do everything they need without admin*
> *rights. You stated it exactly right, keeping them out of*
> *the admin profile will prolong your computers life! I*
> *know from experience.*

> *Leo*

>

> >-----Original Message-----

> >Hello All,

> >

> >I am currently the network manager at a small college
> with about 250

> >faculty and staff computers(1500 students). I am in the
> middle of

> >implementing a windows 2000 domain. The network is
> currently peer to

> >peer workgroups with win95, 98 and 2000 clients. In the
> process of

> >building the domain, I am also trying to get every client
> onto windows

> >2000 so I can take advantage of the many features it
> allows in

> >conjunction with active directory. The most important
> thing to me

> >since I am starting from scratch is setting up rules and
> guidelines

> >for the users of the network. My background before
> working here was

> >working at a high-tech engineering company.

> >

> >Recently I have hit a snag with the management here where
> we cannot
> >agree on whether or not users should be allowed local
> administrative
> >rights on their machines. In my last company I was
> forced to give
> >admin rights to most users so they could develop and
> install hardware
> >on their local machine. I don't really see the need for
> the rights
> >here, but the people making the executive decisions
> disagree with me.
> >I am curious to know how other colleges or academic
> institutions deal
> >with this issue. It is my opinion that people should not
> need admin
> >rights as a function of their job and any software
> installations
> >should be routed through IT. The people making the
> decisions feel
> >that restricting rights would infringe upon academic
> freedom.
> >
> >I see several problems with granting a regular user admin
> rights. The
> >main reason is that system files become accessible and
> could be
> >corrupted very easily by accidental clicks, viruses,
> etc... I also
> >want to be able to control the licensing of software, and
> want to keep
> >the shareware to a minimum. Not having admin rights
> greatly reduces
> >their ability of screwing things up on the machine. It
> also increases
> >the security of each machine by knowing that many
> services can't be
> >inadvertantly disabled or uninstalled.
> >
> >The users that I am referring to are all Faculty and
> Staff. Each
> >person has a machine in their office to use. We are not
> an
> >engineering school or anything like that, and only have a
> few teachers
> >who teach computer related fields.
> >
> >If some people could give their feelings on this it would
> be greatly
> >appreciated. I apologize if some of you feel this isnt
> the right

> >newsgroup, but to me this seems like a security issue.
> *Mainly my*
> >question is asking how other groups handle this? Should
> we give in
> >and grant rights to everyone, or is it important to stand
> firm on my
> >own opinion.
> >
> >Thanks in advance
> >Rob
> >.
> >

How about offering them the chance to request a local admin account when they need one? Then turn on an adm-username account with an expiration time that you all agree on.

At the very least, get them to use a separate account for software installations and maybe one that has no e-mail profile configured.

I would stress to them the possibility that they would not want an e-mail virus that comes in to be operating under the context of their regular username with admin privileges. Do they really want their names on the audit log entries of a virus exploring the network?

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