

## Re: Granting all users Admin Rights

**Source:** <http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/microsoft.public.win2000.security/2002-05/0921.html>

---

**From:** JB Fields ([jbfields3@hotmail.colm](mailto:jbfields3@hotmail.colm))

**Date:** 05/23/02

From: "JB Fields" <[jbfields3@hotmail.colm](mailto:jbfields3@hotmail.colm)>

Date: Thu, 23 May 2002 11:59:30 -0400

"Leo" <[boeglin001@hawaii.rr.com](mailto: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?

JB Fields, MCSE, MCT, CTT+, A+  
Mantech Security Technologies Corp.