

Launching Excel

Source: <http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/microsoft.public.win2000.security/2007-09/msg00030.html>

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A product that I work on uses the following code to check if Excel is installed. It runs inside a client-side ActiveX control hosted by Internet Explorer. The client OS is Windows 2000 of course.

```
Function ExcelFound() As Integer
On Error GoTo ErrorHandler

Dim xlObj As Object

Set xlObj = Nothing
Set xlObj = CreateObject("Excel.Application")
If xlObj Is Nothing Then
ExcelFound = 0
Else
ExcelFound = 1
End If
Set xlObj = Nothing
Exit Function
ErrorHandler:
Set xlObj = Nothing
ExcelFound = -1
End Function
```

For certain machines and certain users, the check fails even though Excel is installed. On one such machine, I checked the DCOMCNFG settings for Excel. It is set to run as the launching user and uses the default security settings. The default security settings give access and launch permissions to "INTERACTIVE" and no other groups. If I explicitly give launch and access permissions to the user, then the check for Excel works.

As far as I know this is the user's personal machine in his office, so he's not logging in through Terminal Server.

Any suggestion as to why he didn't get permission via the INTERACTIVE user principal? If not, are there any diagnostics that I should ask the customer to run?

Thanks