

# Why Do So Many Windows EXEs Require Write Attribute File Permissions?

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I'm noticing that a very large number of EXE and DLL files in c:\windows of both Windows XP and Windows 2003 require the executor to have "Write Attributes" permission against the file. Without that permission the EXE still operates, but you get a security audit assuming you are tracking failures on Write Attributes.

When you are trying to secure a drive by having common users only have Read & Execute access to most of the drive, the sheer number of log messages can get distracting. Is there a good security reason to not enable common users to have Write Attributes permissions against c:\windows and its children that inherit the auditing settings?

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Will