

microsoft.public.windowsxp.security_admin: Registry is unalterable, says see Admin, I AM ADMIN

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From: DOH2003 (ZFOZLJAYGFED_at_spammotel.com)

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I've tried to do some pretty standard things with WinXP Home and been given a message saying, more or less, "Changing the registry has been disabled by your system administrator". I am the system administrator (at least I thought so).

I only have one login, and the guest login is off. I frequently get a message like this one

"This operation has been cancelled due to restrictions in effect on this computer. Please contact your system administrator"

I also get messages saying "Registry Editing Has Been Disabled On This Computer. Contact Your System Administrator" when I try to run Regedit.

I cannot run regedit (and anything I do that tries to alter the registry) will not happen. I created a "test" account for my system and none of these issues were present there. I also ran Norton anti-virus and found no viruses. Ditto for Spyware, or other hostile programs.

I can log on as administrator with another account and I can open regedit there.

By the way – and I don't know if this means anything – when I hit ctrl-alt-del and check the Users tab the user name listed is "Owner". This is not the case when I login under the test account.

I logged on under my "test" account and just poked around with the first HKEY entry.

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There are four entries under permissions for
HKey_Classes_Root

Administrators (DEVILBOX\Administrators)
CREATOR OWNER
SYSTEM
Users (DEVILBOX\Users)

Everything is set to Allow for Full Control and Read except
CREATOR OWNER which will not let me switch from Special
Permissions. If I attempt to assign it Allow and Full
Control it just switches the settings back after a couple
of seconds. Under Advanced Options the Apply to column
shows CREATOR OWNER as Subkeys Only. It will not switch
either. Both these settings switch themselves back after a
couple of seconds.

I have looked far and wide for help on this to no avail.
Any assistance in this matter would be greatly appreciated.