

## Re: Help with Guest account

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*Source:*

[http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/microsoft.public.windowsxp.security\\_admin/2006-08/msg01045.html](http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/microsoft.public.windowsxp.security_admin/2006-08/msg01045.html)

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- *From:* "Steven L Umbach" <n9rou@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* Thu, 24 Aug 2006 23:37:51 -0500
- 

My mistake. I meant to say that I never use the built in guest account – sorry about that. Enabling the built in guest account can be a security risk as I mentioned by allowing anonymous access to your computer shares if everyone has permissions for share and NTFS permissions even is simple file sharing is disabled. And I did enable the built in guest account and had no problem accessing the internet with it as it uses that same network connection as configured by an administrator even though guest can not see network connections.

Glad to hear you have made some apparent progress but again I would suggest that you not use the built in guest account and instead create regular user accounts that use a password for those users that you want to have limited access to the operating system. Unfortunately there are far too many programs that will not work unless the user is also in the local administrators group though I am not sure if your Corel program is one of them.

Steve

"seree" <seree@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message  
<news:CDA27D04-F13E-4297-A10E-36C36C91C546@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

Steve, You misunderstood. I did not say I was using the default built-in Administrators Account. You are absolutely correct in how dangerous and even

foolish that would be. No, I said the my main account, the one I used to enable the Guest Account is "an" administrator account. Big difference.

Thanks for enabling your built in admin account to see if you could recreate

the problem you thought I was having. I have two computers networked, both with user accounts with identical passwords for networking. I have NTFS permissions, have disabled the Simple File Sharing, but have not as yet done

any intricate shares other than just allowing access to my fiance's and my documents. That is the only share I have created since setting up the network. I enabled the guest account so my son could use the computer to play

games during a recent visit. This was when I discovered the "access

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denied"

error along with the Corel photo program attempting to install. I read a previous post regarding a similar situation and the response was sometimes software does not have proper permissions to run under the Guest Account and the person suggested contacting the manufacturer and seeing if this may cause this problem.

Now, I was finally able to get connectivity on the Guest Account on my other networked computer. It was not anything I did, just this morning it worked.

There was an error, but it did not give me a chance to write it down. I will see if it replicates next time I open it. At this point I don't know what to do other than wait for the replication of the other computer I just mentioned and contact Corel about this program not having permissions to run with the Guest Account. Thanks for responding to my problems. Sorry about the misunderstandings regarding what type of account I was using. I am not anywhere close to an expert, but I am not a complete beginner now either. I have a LOT to learn, and really appreciate all the help you and others here provide. Thank you for your time, have a nice evening. I will post again when I get this worked out or if I come up with something new to describe. Bye, Seree

—  
seree

"Steven L Umbach" wrote:

Hi Seree.

Thanks for the very detailed information! I personally never use the built in administrator account because enabling it on XP Pro can be a security vulnerability as it will allow access to shares that have everyone permissions to for share and folder/NTFS permissions. But just to see I enabled it and was able to access the internet right away without a problem as I thought it would work and I noticed that guest could not see any connections in networking properties just as you described though I did have networking connectivity. Network configuration is configured at the "computer" level by an administrator and will then work for any user that

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logs onto the computer assuming no software firewall is applying user specific settings. However the connection settings in IE can vary per user and if proxy settings are enabled in advanced settings that can cause access problems for IE. I am still curious if you can create another user account and logon with that account and access the internet? I also wonder if you were able to ping or do ipconfig /all for the guest account and what the results were though I believe you mentioned that you get access denied errors when you try that as the guest account.

If that is the case that leads me to believe that some process, possibly an internet "protection" or spyware/malware program, is locking down the guest account and preventing your access to it even as administrator. If that is the case then booting into Safe Mode with networking may bypass such restrictions. Otherwise if an application is doing such lockdown you will need to logon as administrator and undo those restrictions if that is what is happening. You also could try using runas to run commands while logged on as guest to do ping and ipconfig /all which are needed to establish basic network connectivity.

Having said all that again I do not recommend using the built in guest account on your computers but instead create another user account that by default will not be in the administrators group and use that account for a user that you want to use the computer without advanced privileges. Best practice is to create a user account for each user that logs onto the computer. Then each user will have their own profile that can customize the way they want and the security log will track logon/logoff activity of the users. You as administrator then can use NTFS permissions to specify which folders a user can access and which applications they can run.

My bottom line here is that normally the built in guest account when enabled is not restricted to network connectivity, further testing needs to be done to determine if basic network connectivity exists for guest account and if an application or process is interfering with normal access of the guest account and administrator account but having said that I strongly recommend that you do not use the built in guest account [keep it disabled] but

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instead create other user accounts that are not also administrators.

Steve

"seree" <seree@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message  
news:BA3236F3-25EC-40C5-ABD6-C6C515ABC1D2@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Good morning Steve, Thanks for responding. I only have a little time this morning. First, I am not a complete beginner. I am self taught via books from Microsoft Press such as Windows XP Inside Out by Ed Bott and others, other books, Microsoft resources, etc. The "Guest" account I am referring to IS the Guest account, not a limited user account. I have a great Internet Security Suite—Panda, there is no Viruses, spyware or other malware on either computer. I have not had time to ping in the Guest Account in my other computer as yet, I can't in "MY" computers Guest Account due to the "Access Denied" situation. I am unable to do anything in that Guest account. I was wondering if the "Access Denied" may have something to do with the Corel photo program attempting to install in "My" Guest account. "MY" referring to my computer, the other is my fiance's computer. Sorry if that was not made clear my having two computers both with problems with the Guest Account.

I first enabled the Guest Account on my computer. It came up with the access

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denied, with the Corel Photo program attempting to install underneath.

Let me tell you a bit about these two computers. The are both XP

Pro—Actually Media Edition 2005. "Mine" is a Dell Dimension 5150, Intel Pentium D 820—2.8 Ghz, 4 Gigs RAM, 300 SATA Hard drive, ATI video card, Radean X600 256MB Hypermemory, six months old. The other computer is my fiance's. It is a 3 month old HP Pavilion a1445n, Pentium D 820—2.8 Ghz, 1 Gig RAM, 200 Gig Hard drive with RAID, NVIDA G Force 62000SE TurboCache Video card 256 MB. We have a wireless network with the Belkin Pre—N Router and the corresponding Belkin Adapters. The Network has been functioning fine except for a few drops once in a while which I need to address with Belkin soon. That is a seperate issue. Just thought I would throw it in as it does cause problems occasionally and I thought I should mention it just in case you are aware of anything which it may relate to here that I don't know. I have configured the Router at 192.168.2.1 in the browser setup page. I configured WPA—PSK—TKIP, set a good password at the setup page, changed the SSID. The Router has four built in ports, an access point, a built in switch and of course the firewall. I have an account for both my fiance and myself on both computers for the Network. I have a great Internet Security Suite—Panda. The firewall in Panda is not compatable with the Belkin WPA

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so I do not have it installed, using instead the hardware firewall and the Windows Firewall. Monthly I run the Microsoft Live Safety Scan just to ensure there are not any malware which escaped Panda, nothing ever shows up, both systems are clean as a whistle. Panda updates every day and performs an automatic full scan I configured on both computers. The Router has automatic DHCP IP Address assigning. Neither of these computers have ever been on a different Network configuration. I hope this is enough information for us to get to the bottom of what is occurring.

Now, I wanted to activate the Guest account when my son came to visit. Two things occurred. An "access denied" message, and underneath this the Corel photo suite attempted to install. When I looked into the Event Viewer it showed several "warning" messages. The basics of these where the Registry had not released my Admin Account from use for some odd reason and the other was a problem with the Corel suite attempting to install, something about a installation file missing. I checked the Device Manager to make sure all drivers where functioning correctly, no errors there. Looking through some of the posts here I saw one where a poster who was having a similar

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"access denied" in the Guest Account was told that a certain software program may not have the proper permissions to run in the Guest Account. So, I was wondering if the Corel photo program may have triggered this Access Denied on "MY" Guest Account.

To check if the situation duplicated itself on my Network I enabled the Guest account on my other computer. It enabled just fine but does not have any Internet Connectivity. The Icon for our Network does not appear in the Notification Area, bringing up the Network connections via the control panel just has an empty box. Clicking on IE just gives the "page can not be displayed" error message. I don't understand why the Guest account does not have any Connectivity. Ok, now I hope I have given enough information. If you need more let me know. I am off to school. No, I am not a kid, an adult with an empty nest after raising eight children (biological and adopted) as a widow and am now remarrying and going back to school to finish my B.S. in Psychology of Behaviorail Science, with two years to go. Thanks so much for your response to this problem I am experiancing. Oh, I am self taught with computers. Some college courses but mostly via books like Winddows XP Inside

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Out by Ed Bott and others, Windows XP Pro, other  
Microsoft Press books,  
books  
by other author's who came highly recommended, the  
Microsoft websites,  
etc.  
I am not a beginner, not yet intermediate but coming up on it.  
I do not  
know  
much about servers. Again, thanks for all your assistance.  
Seree

--  
seree

"Steven L Umbach" wrote:

OK. Are you talking about the built in guest  
account or just another  
user  
account. Some refer to any other account as  
to guest which makes  
things  
confusing. As the administrator can you  
create another user account  
and  
logon with that account, which will create a  
new user profile, and  
access  
the internet from that user account? I don't  
know if it is related to  
your  
problem but since you mention registry  
related problems for the  
administrator account you may want to  
install the User Profile Hive  
Cleanup  
Service on your computer. If you can create  
another user account that  
is  
not  
in the administrators group and access the  
internet with it then there  
is  
something wrong with the user profile for  
the user account in question  
you  
call guest and you will want to scan the

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computer for malware and spyware.  
AdAware SE is free and works well for spyware if you do not have a spyware detection and removal program. For the "guest" account be sure to check IE properties and go to connections to make sure it is set the same as your user account and run the command ipconfig /all to see what it shows compared to your user account and try to ping the default gateway IP to see if that works or not. What exactly do you mean by My guest account keeps up with the Access Denied??

Steve

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?familyid=1B286E6D-8912-4E18>

"seree"

<seree@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

wrote in message

<news:8C61986C-FF9E-489B-AABF-22BA90BF7C04@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

Steve, yes I am absolutely sure I am using an administrator account. I did use the command prompt to make sure there had not been an error, but I have been using this account a long time and am sure what it is. I wrote in the post below this one as well in answer to the fellow

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having a problem  
with  
the  
internet access with the  
guest account. I need to let  
you know that  
so  
we  
don't go back and forth now  
between these two posts.  
My fiance had  
been  
using  
dialup, I configured a  
wireless network with a  
Linksys Router (yes,  
I  
know  
the difference between  
dialup and a router a hub a  
hub w/switch, a  
router  
w/switch is the norm) then  
changed to a Belkin Router  
about six  
months  
ago  
and it has been functioning  
very well. I configured  
WPA, changed the  
SSID,  
configured it all at the  
browser setup page located  
at 192.168.2.1  
which  
is  
the address for the Belkin  
Routers. I also put in a good  
password.  
Now,  
the  
guest account I enabled on  
my fiance's comptuer is up  
and running  
without  
any  
problem except for no  
internet connection. There is  
not any icon  
down  
in

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the  
notification area, I can't  
access the network  
connections via the  
guest  
account to see what is up  
with this and clicking IE  
result is an  
"page  
can  
not be displayed" message.  
My guest account keeps up  
with the Access  
Denied.  
I checked the event viewer  
and there were several  
entries suggesting  
the  
registry would not let my  
Admin account lose for  
some reason. I  
tried  
accessing the link in help  
without any luck, have  
looked this up in  
my  
Windows XP Inside Out as  
well as other books without  
any success as  
well.  
There should not be any  
reason for either the access  
denied nor the  
lack  
of  
internet connectivity  
problems yet there you have  
it. When I switch  
back  
to  
my admin account  
everything works fine there.  
Thanks, Seree  
--  
seree

"Steven L Umbach" wrote:

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Are you  
sure you are  
using an  
administrator  
account and  
did you  
verify  
it  
with the  
command I  
recommended?

You can  
also run the  
command  
net  
user  
username  
using the  
actual  
username  
for your  
account to  
see if it  
shows  
that  
it is a  
member of  
the  
administrators  
group under  
local group  
memberships.

Below is  
the output  
you should  
see. Also  
why do you  
need to  
enable  
the  
guest  
account??

You can  
also create  
other user  
accounts for  
other user  
that  
you  
want to be  
able to

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logon to  
your  
computer.

Steve

```
D:\WINDOWS\system32>net
```

```
user steve
```

```
User name
```

```
Steve
```

```
Full Name
```

```
Comment
```

```
User's
```

```
comment
```

```
Country
```

```
code 000
```

```
(System
```

```
Default)
```

```
Account
```

```
active Yes
```

```
Account
```

```
expires
```

```
Never
```

```
Password
```

```
last set
```

```
7/26/2006
```

```
11:16 AM
```

```
Password
```

```
expires
```

```
Never
```

```
Password
```

```
changeable
```

```
7/26/2006
```

```
11:16 AM
```

```
Password
```

```
required
```

```
Yes
```

```
User may
```

```
change
```

```
password
```

```
Yes
```

```
Workstations
```

```
allowed All
```

```
Logon
```

```
script
```

```
User profile
```

```
Home
```

```
directory
```

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Last logon  
8/23/2006  
3:42 PM

Logon  
hours  
allowed All

Local  
Group  
Memberships  
\*Administrators  
\*Network  
Configuration  
\*Users  
Global  
Group  
memberships  
\*None  
The  
command  
completed  
successfully.