

## Re: Help with Guest account

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*Source:*

[http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/microsoft.public.windowsxp.security\\_admin/2006-08/msg01141.html](http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/microsoft.public.windowsxp.security_admin/2006-08/msg01141.html)

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- *From:* seree <[seree@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:seree@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Tue, 29 Aug 2006 16:13:01 -0700
- 

Thank you for your correction as it did have me a tad confused. I hear what you are saying about the guest account. I am seriously considering all you had to say in regards to not using it. I am considering creating a limited user account which will be for guests and then use the permissions to control it. I am just learning how to use the Local Users and Groups Console and the Group Policy Console. I do a lot of reading and research before I do anything. Well, most anything! lol I have also been following some of your links in answers to others here. I am self taught. I have a lot to learn, but am doing so as quickly as I can. I sent an e-mail off to the Corel folks with the Event Viewer ID and description of the events. I still need to contact Belkin about the adapters. Just thought to update you on my progress. I really appreciate all the hard work you and others do here in assisting all us who are lost and/or learning. I use to have a great help desk by Dell but they cut it off after I exchanged CPU's. They told me if I purchased my replacement unit through Dell it would transfer to the new unit. Well, they renege on that after I bought the unit of course. Drat them! lol But that help desk was great. They don't sell the help desk in one or two year contracts any longer. Only in "instances" or a package of five instances. Which is the point in them cancelling out on me later. Darn! Oh, well. Thanks again for all your assistance. I will write back on this strand when I find out what is going on.

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seree

"Steven L Umbach" wrote:

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 if 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

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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@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> 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 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 any

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where 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 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

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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.

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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 instead create other user accounts that are not also administrators.

Steve

"seree" <seree@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message

[news:BA3236F3-25EC-40C5-ABD6-C6C515ABC1D2@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto: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

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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  
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

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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 compatible with the Belkin WPA 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

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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 simular "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

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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 Behavior Science, with two  
years to go. Thanks so much  
for  
your response to this problem I am  
experiencing. Oh, I am self taught  
with  
computers. Some college courses but mostly  
via books like Windows XP  
Inside  
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. Sere

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sere

"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,

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which will create a new user  
profile, and  
access  
the internet from that user  
account? I don't know if it is  
related to