

Re: Help with Guest account

Source:

http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/microsoft.public.windowsxp.security_admin/2006-08/msg01150.html

- *From:* "Steven L Umbach" <n9rou@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Tue, 29 Aug 2006 23:00:02 -0500
-

Sorry to hear your experience with Dell. I think you may find some progress not using the built in guest account so let us know when you around to all that though again some poorly written [from a security point of view] will not run right or at all for a regular user either. Sounds like you are coming along just fine learning about your operating system and computer and you will learn a lot resolving situations like the one you currently are having though it is a pain until you do get it resolved. I also recommend taking advantage of the built in Help for XP. It is surprisingly good once you learn how to make the most of it. Let us know how things progress.

Steve

"seree" <seree@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
<news:0267EAC9-EEC3-4297-8116-C5BDF9D252B3@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

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,

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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.
--
sereee

"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 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

"sereee" <sereee@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> 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

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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

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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
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

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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 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

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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

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guess
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

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

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

Let me tell you a bit about these two computers. They 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,

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Pentium D 820–2.8
Ghz, 1
Gig RAM, 200 Gig Hard
drive with RAID, NVIDA G
Force 6200SE
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

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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
so I
do not have it installed,
using instead the hardware
firewall and
the
Windows
Firewall. Monthly I run the
Microsoft Live Saftey Scan
just to
ensure
there
are not any malware which
escaped Panda, nothing ever
shows up, both
systems
are clean as a wistle. Panda
updates every day and
performs an
automatic
full
scan I configured on both
computers. The Routrer has
automatic DHCP
IP
Address assigning. Niether
of these computers have
ever been on a
different
Network configuration. I
hope this is enough infor 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

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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 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

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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

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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
Out by Ed Bott and others,
Windows XP Pro, other
Microsoft Press
books,
books
by other author's who came
highly reccommended, 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

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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