

Re: Least User Priviledges for Network Administrators

"Thomas M." <NoEmailReplies@xxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
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XP SP2

My organization is trying to comply with the principal of least user privileges, and toward that end I have been given the task of converting all the users in my organization to standard user accounts. We've been doing this using the Restricted Groups policy, and for the most part it hasn't been a problem, but now I am working with our network technology group and I've run into some issues.

The employees in our network technology group are the people who design the network, install routers and switches, run all the cabling and install network jacks, use protocol analyzers to monitor network traffic and troubleshoot problems, etc. They maintain that they must be able to:

- 1) Use terminal services and FTP
- 2) Disable the firewall
- 3) Change NIC settings
- 4) Change IP address and subnet settings
- 5) Download and install drivers and networking tools

I'm sure the list goes on, but thus far they have not complied with my request for a complete list of duties that may be impacted by the loss of administrative rights. I've looked at making them all members of the Network Configuration Operators group, and while that may solve some issues it also looks like it will not solve every issue that I'll have with these users. I've also taken a quick look at some tools that would all specific applications to be run with a different set of credentials, so maybe the employee would login as an administrator but specific "high risk" applications would run with reduced rights, or maybe they'd login with limited rights and specific applications would run with administrator rights. But I kind of don't want to introduce a process like that if I can avoid it.

I'd appreciate the advice of anyone who's had to deal with converting these kinds of users to standard user accounts. Also, are there any group policies, or software tools, that would allow these users to do the things that they have a legitimate need to do in their daily jobs? Are there any registry keys that I can give them rights to that would (presto chango) allow them to modify any network setting on their local machine?

Any help that can be offered will be greatly appreciated!

--Tom

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