

# Re: I reinstalled Windows and now can't access my old account

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*Source:*

[http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/microsoft.public.windowsxp.security\\_admin/2007-12/msg00181.html](http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/microsoft.public.windowsxp.security_admin/2007-12/msg00181.html)

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- *From:* "Jim" <j.n@xxxxxxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* Mon, 17 Dec 2007 13:43:41 -0600
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"Andrew" <Andrew@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message  
<news:A82544B0-5B46-4F48-8560-20EC38883C13@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

I just reinstalled Windows XP and set up a new Administrator account. The install went smoothly; all of my old programs and files still seem to be there on the hard drive. Unfortunately, there was some stuff on the desktop of my old Admin account that I want to get at, and I can't for some reason.

Under My Computer>C:>Documents and Settings I can see "Andrew Account" (my old login) but when I click on it it says "Andrew Account is not accessible.  
Access denied." I can't see why, if I'm logged in as an administrator, I should be denied access to anything, frankly. I tried the Recovery Console, but it won't let me access the files either. And finally, I've tried Control Panel>User Accounts>Change an Account, but Andrew Account simply won't come up. Any thoughts?

The cause of this behavior is that an account name is merely an alias for a security ID. Windows never reuses security IDs; thus when you reinstalled Windows, the security ID for the new Andrew account no longer matches that of the old. Hence, as far as Windows is concerned a new user is trying to gain access to data which belongs to somebody else.

As an administrator, you can circumvent this situation by taking ownership of the files and folders in question.

Jim