

Privilege Escalation in Windows Vista


Windows Vista does not automatically assign Administrator privileges to users, even if the user is an administrator. When performing tasks which require administrator privileges, User Account Control (UAC) activates and prompts the user for permission. The process is then elevated.

However, one area where UAC does not prompt for elevation is network users, in a workgroup, logging in to a Windows Vista system with accounts that are administrators. Windows does not assign these network users with administrator privileges. This may cause compatibility problems as the classic behaviour is for network users to have their full privileges according to the account on the machine.

This can be reverted back to the classic behaviour as follows:

1. Select the following line and press **Ctrl-C** to copy:

```
reg add HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Policies\System /v  
LocalAccountTokenFilterPolicy /t REG_DWORD /d 1 /f
```

2. Click **Start**  and type **CMD** in the search box.
3. Press and hold down **Ctrl-Alt-Shift** and, while keeping those keys pressed, press **Enter**.
4. Windows will prompt for permission to run as Administrator. Choose **Continue**.
5. Click the control menu in the top left corner of the Command Prompt window and choose **Edit**, and then **Paste**.
The command will be pasted into the prompt.
6. Press **Enter**.
The prompt should display **The operation completed successfully**.
7. Reboot the machine.

See Also

- <http://support.microsoft.com/kb/947235>
- <http://support.microsoft.com/kb/947232>

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