By Pass the UAC Security Approval for Elevated Functions

What

Windows UAC (User Account Control) security feature is designed to prevent any changes to your PC without your prior approval which is given by allowing the app/file/shortcut that could make changes to your PC to run. When you start any app or command that is capable of making changes to your PC, an UAC window will open requiring you to click Yes to allow that app/command/file to run. This is a great security feature to help prevent malware from making changes to your PC without you knowing, but when you do want to make changes or to use an app that could make changes (such as the Registry Editor) answering this UAC popup window every time becomes a hassle. The UAC security feature can be turned off which will stop the UAC popup windows, but you will lose the security this feature offers and I do not recommend turning the UAC off. The instructions below explain how to use Windows Task Scheduler to create a shortcut that by passes the UAC window by pre approving the UAC security query. This will turn that function (such as open the Registry Editor, open an Administrator's Command Prompt, or other elevated commands) into a true one click function.

Why

Why is very simple...less clicks is faster and better.

How

Step 1: App or Command

- If the elevated function is to open an app (program) such as Registry Editor that requires UAC approval to open, proceed to Step 2 below.
- If the elevated function is a command that requires administrator's privileges to run such as a command in a shortcut, the command must become a .bat file.
- Making the command a .bat file is basically placing the command in a new Notepad document and saving as a .bat file as indicated in the following example.
- For my example I will use the Boot To BIOS command which requires UAC approval to run in a shortcut.
- In a new Notepad document enter the command (shown below) into the document so the command starts on the first line from the left margin.

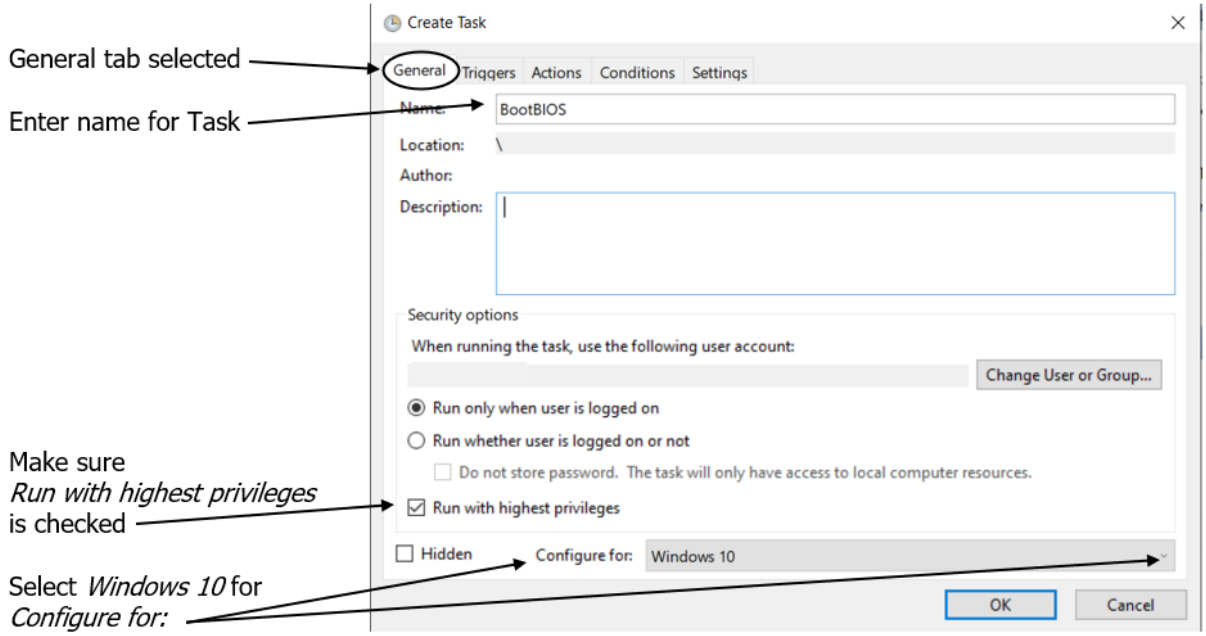
  Shutdown /r /fw /t 0

- Select *File > Saves as*. Select a location to store this .bat file. In the *Save as type:* box click the dropdown arrow and select **All Files (*.*)**. Name the file *BootBIOS.bat* (the *.bat* must be added when entering the file name) and save the file.

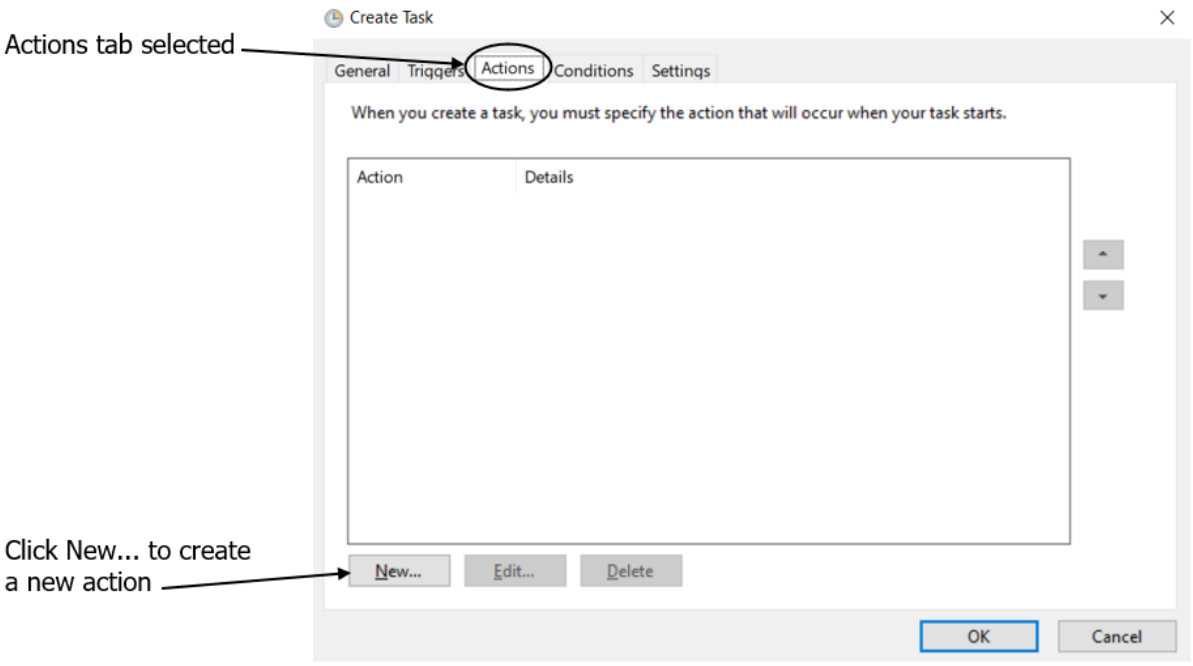
Step 2: Create the Task

- Create the task to open an app or run a .bat file with pre-approved elevated privileges as follows:

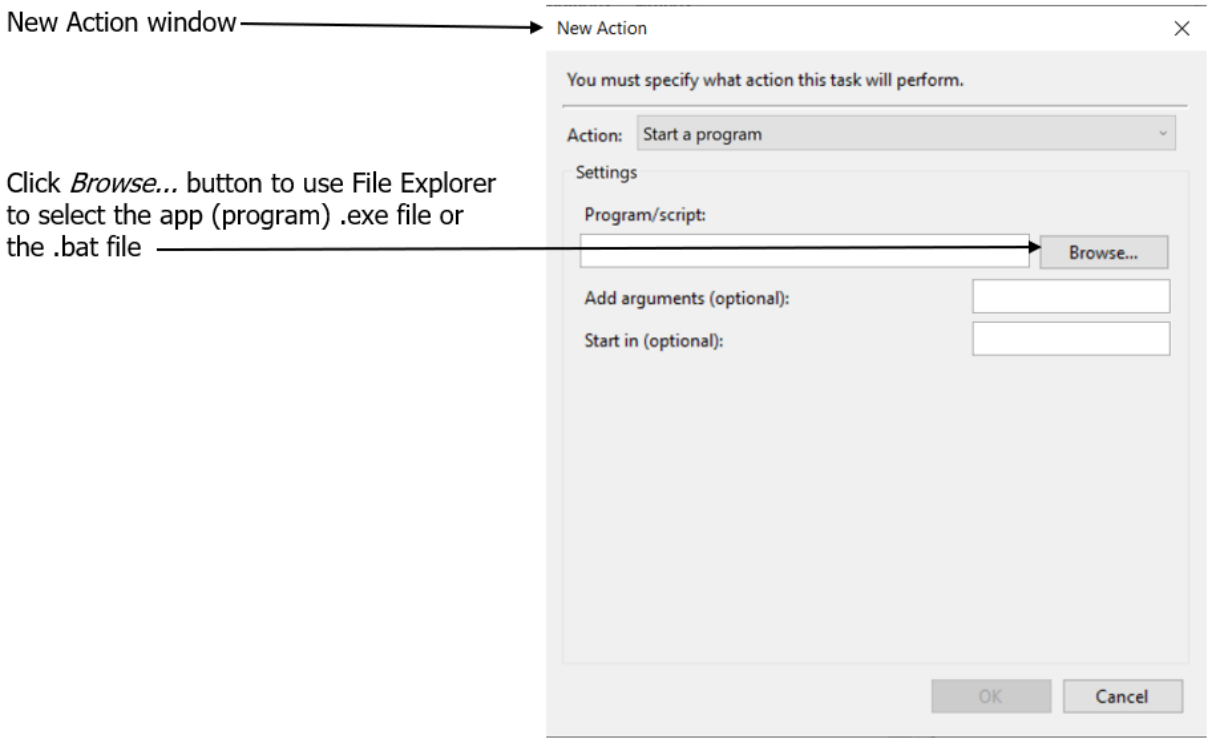
- Open the Task Scheduler by entering *taskschd.msc* into the Windows search box and pressing the Enter key.
- In the Task Scheduler window select *Action > Create Task...* (not Create Basic Task...) which will open the *Create Task* window to the *General* tab as shown in the image below.



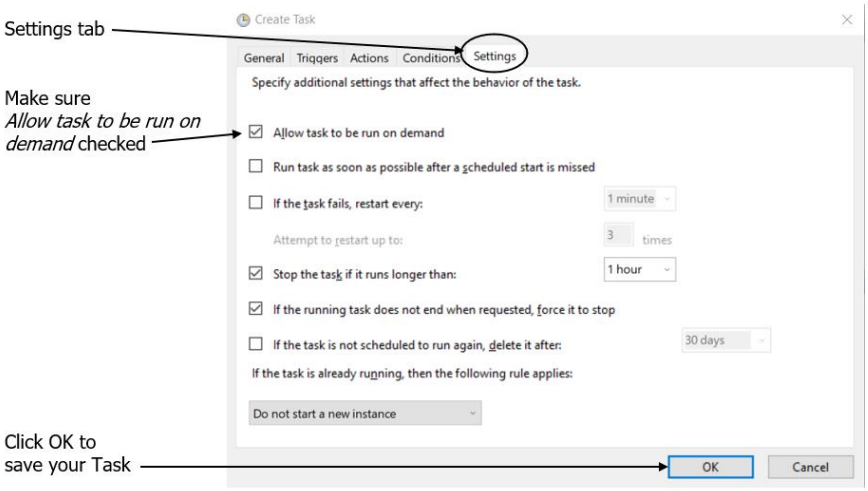
- Enter a name for the task. It is easiest and best to keep task names short and descriptive of what the task is for. Task names can't have any spaces in the task name. Following my example I named the task *BootBIOS* (the task to open the Registry Editor I named Registry).
- Be sure the box next to *Run with highest privileges* is checked. This is the pre-approval which by passes the UAC window opening and waiting for approval.
- Click the dropdown arrow to the right of the box next to *Configure for:* and Select *Windows 10* from the list.
- Do not click OK yet. Select the *Actions* tab to display that page as shown below. This will be a on demand task and no Triggers are needed.



- On the Actions tab click the *New...* button to open the *New Action* window as shown below.



- Click the *Browse...* button to open a File Explorer window to go to the location of the program (app) .exe file or the location of the .bat file you created. Clicking that program's .exe file or the .bat file will cause the PATH address to that file appear in the box to the left of the browse button. Following my example this would be the PATH to where I saved my *BootBIOS.bat* file.
- Special Note: You can place your .bat file anywhere you want, but once you enter that PATH address in the above action don't move the .bat file or the task will no longer work.
- To help: here are the default locations of common Windows program's .exe files that use elevated privileges:
  - Registry Editor = C:\Windows\regedit.exe
  - Administrator Command = C:\Windows\System32\cmd.exe
  - Administrator Powershell =C:\Windows\System32\WindowsPowerShell\v1.0\powershell.exe
- Click *OK* on the New Action window to close and add your new action to the Action tab.
- Click the *Settings* tab to display that page as shown below.



- Make sure the box next to *Allow task to be run on demand* (not my grammar...Microsoft's) is checked.
- Click *OK* to save your task which will be listed by the name you gave it in the top center section of the Task Scheduler.
- Highlight your task in Task Scheduler, right click, and select *Run* to see if the task will open the program or run the .bat file without the UAC window. Note: If you test the BootBIOS task it will restart your PC and boot to BIOS.
- Now you have a task that runs without requiring you to answer the UAC popup window.
- Next we create a shortcut to run the task "on demand".

Step 3 – Create Shortcut to Run Task

- Create a shortcut to run the task without having to open Task Scheduler.
- On a blank area of the Desktop right click and select *New > Shortcut* to open the Create Shortcut window.
- In the *Type the location of the item:* box enter the following location and operators as indicated below:

  C:\Windows\System32\schtasks.exe /run /tn XXXXX

- Replace **XXXXX** with the name you gave the task in Task Scheduler. Notice the space between **.exe** and **/run**, between **/run** and **/tn**, and between **/tn** and **XXXXX**. This shortcut command tells Task Scheduler to Run the named task. Writing the command this way has Task Scheduler run the task without Task Scheduler having to open. Following my example the task name was BootBIOS and this would replace the XXXXX in the above command.
- Enter a name for the shortcut and click *Finish*.
- You can move the shortcut anywhere you want. One click on this shortcut and that task runs and since the tasks runs without the UAC popup window, thus one click to perform an elevated function.
- You can create a task and a shortcut for each app or .bat file you have. Result: One click to open an Administrator Command window, one click to open the Registry Editor, one click to open an Administrator Powershell window, One click to Boot to BIOS, or one click to run a .bat file with elevated privileges (such as Robocopy for on demand file copies).

Comments

- If you leave the shortcut on the Desktop, you can create a keyboard shortcut to run the shortcut...no clicks at all, just 3 keys pressed at the same time. If you like to keep your Desktop looking clean, you can make the shortcuts totally invisible and operate by the keyboard shortcuts.