

Activate Extra Administrator Powers

What

Instructions to activate the Administrator account on a Windows system to utilize administrator functions in that account that are not available in other user accounts, even those with administrator privileges.

Why

A user with administrator privileges account must apply and approve each function that requires Administrator approval such as the UAC window that open and requires confirmation for opening the Registry Editor or an Administrator Command window. None of those extra step UAC confirmation windows or having to select Run as Administrator to run a .bat file occur in the Administrator account. In addition to "running everything as Administrator" the Administrator account has access to folders and files that a user account (even with administrator privileges) cannot access.

Notice: This should work for all versions of Windows since Windows XP; however, however I have personally performed it only on Windows 7 and 10.

WARNING: The Administrator account's functions can be very dangerous because there will be no confirmation step to keep you from changing something that shouldn't be changed. Only use the Administrator account for specific functions that you know are safe to perform and think before you start clicking.

How

- Note: All the commands below are suitable for copying and pasting into the Command window. If you type the commands into the Command window be sure to note the spacing in the commands.
- Open an Administrator Command window by opening a Run box (*WinKey +R*), type in **cmd**, press *Ctrl + Shift + Enter* keys simultaneously, and click *Yes* to the UAC query.
- To activate the Administrator account enter the following command at the prompt and press the Enter key.

net user administrator /active:yes

- The prompt will respond indicating that the action was completed.
- Enter a password for this Administrator account by entering the following command and pressing the Enter key.

net user administrator *

- The prompt will ask you to enter the password. The password is case sensitive. Be sure to record/remember this password to access this account in the future. As you type the password nothing will appear on the screen. When finished entering your password press the Enter key.

The prompt will ask you confirm the password which is to reenter the same password and press the Enter key. If the confirm entry does not match exactly (case sensitive) the first entry the prompt will reject the password and return to start the entry process from the first entry again. If the confirm entry matches the prompt will indicate that the password has been saved.

- Hackers know about the Administrator account and some malware targets the "Administrator" account. Renaming the Administrator account makes a malware script for the "Administrator" account not find the target of the script and no action can occur, thus providing another layer of security. To rename the Administrator account use the following command replacing **newName** with the name you want for the account and press the Enter key. Note that the quotes are single quotes

wmic useraccount where name='Administer' rename 'NewName'

- The prompt will respond that the action was taken.
- Close the Command window. The effects are immediate.

To Access the Administrator account:

Here are two easy ways to switch from your user account to the Administrator account:

Method 1:

- Click the Start menu icon to expand the Start menu.
- Click your user account name. This will display the Administrator account as the New Name you gave the account.
- Click that New Name account will bring up the window to enter the password for that account.
- Enter the password to open that account.

Method 2:

- Press *Ctrl + Alt + Del* keys at the same time to display the Security Options screen.
- Select *Switch user* which will bring up the logon screen with the two accounts displayed on the screen.
- Select the New Name administrator account and enter the password for that account.

When you logon to the Administrator account for the first time there will be a delay as Windows sets up that account with the default settings. This will be like the first time you logged in to your user account. You can customize it just like you did for your user account, but since you should use this account rarely it may not be worth the effort.

It is best to sign out of this Administrator account when you are finished. Leaving the account still logged on makes is more accessible for hackers and will interfere and delay any restart of the PC.