VDS and XP Login Rights

Background

Under Windows XP, we have to be careful about how we set our VDS programs to use the registry and folders as Windows XP assigns access permissions/restrictions to certain registry keys and folders. This means that certain registry keys and folders are not accessible to all users who log in, while others are.

To help clear up the situation of login rights and permissions under XP, this document has been put together in the form of questions and answers. The questions were initially asked as posts at the VDS Forum board (http://forum.vdsworld.com), and PGWARE, Hooligan and Skit very graciously answered them.

Questions and Answers

- **How to install a program so that only the current user can run it and access his/her data?**
  Current User is Logged into computer; if not an admin account you should limit the ability to install software to follow Windows guidelines and system administrator policies. However if you do wish to install software, the limited account would need to install the software other than to the Program Files directory. Limited Accounts should install to My Documents directory. You also will NOT be able to place any files in the Windows dir or Windows System dir. Basically under a limited account you need to make certain the software is self contained into a single folder and installed somewhere in My Documents. I honestly do not recommend you allow limited users to install software; your installer should prompt them to have the system admin install the software. As a system admin account you basically have full access to entire computer; therefore software should be installed to Program Files dir.- how to install a program so that all users can run it and access the data? You would be logged in under a system admin account. You would install the software to the Program Files directory. If you have inifiles, or any data files you need to write to those files should be placed into the Program Files\Common Files directory. The Common Files directory allows ANY user to access that data in the directory.- how to make a program load with windows under the current user only? You would add a registry key to start up the program at: HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run\

- **How to make a program load with windows for all users?**
  You would add a registry key to startup the program for ALL users at: HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run\

- **Where to save settings in the registry only for the current user?**
  You can save your software data in the registry ANYWHERE within the HKEY_CURRENT_USER data tree. Note that each user has his/her own unique HKEY_CURRENT_USER registry data tree and other users CANNOT access (view, write, read, delete) that data.

- **Where to save settings in the registry for all users?**
  You will write data anywhere within the HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE registry data tree. All users (limited and admin) can READ data from HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE. Only admin accounts can delete and write data from HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE, limited accounts cannot (again they can only read).

- **Where on the hard disk data can be saved so that only the current user can access it?**
  If you only want the current user to access data within a file on disk, you should place it within the My Documents directory for that user account.

- **Where on the hard disk data can be saved so that all users can access it?**
  You should use Program Files\Common Files directory so all users can access the data (read, write). This is good for inifile or other types of files that need to be written to disk and shared by all users.

- **Explain the "guest" login available under xp to test user limitations without the need to create a dummy login.**
  The GUEST account is a limited account built into Windows. You should be able to use this account to test your software without any problems. To login as a guest, just type GUEST in the login popup, without a password.

- **How can you determine the username of the person logged in?**
  @env(username)

- **How do you find the location of his/her "My Document"?**
  - @env(userprofile)\MyDocuments - this will only work on an English version of Windows because "MyDocuments" is localized to the local language,
  - info @windir(Personal) - this will work for all non-English (and English) versions of Windows XP.

  Look at the help topic about @windir() to see all parameters you can use. Be sure to also check this registry directory:
  HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer\Shell Folder

Code

Marty put together some code to retrieve the current list of users of a current windows system which Hooligan tweaked a bit. Note that this code is only for VDS 5 and that it requires the use of string.dll which is readily available from VDSWorld.

```
#define function,string
 external @path(%0)string.dll
 Title Get users
 DIALOG CREATE,Get users,-1,0,456,359
 DIALOG ADD,LIST,LIST1,67,41,365,234,,,click
 DIALOG SHOW
 list create,1
 list create,2
 if @sysinfo(ISNT)
   #NT,200x,XP
   gosub NTUsers
 else
   #windows 95,98,ME
   gosub "9XUsers"
 end
```

```
  list seek,2,0
  repeat
    %%string = @item(2)
    list add,list1,@string(GetAfter,%%string, "\", LAST)
  until @null(@next(2))
:Evloop
  wait event
  goto @event()
:list1click
  info @item(2,@index(list1))
  goto evloop
:Close
  exit

:NTUsers
  %%profiles = "SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\ProfileList"
  list regkeys,1,HLM,%%profiles
  list seek,1,0
  repeat
    %%ProfilePath = @regread(HLM,%%profiles\@item(1),ProfileImagePath)
    list add,2,%%ProfilePath
  until @null(@next(1))
  exit

:9XUsers
  %%profiles = "SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\ProfileList"
  list regkeys,1,HLM,%%profiles
  list seek,1,0
  repeat
    %%ProfilePath = @regread(HLM,%%profiles\@item(1),ProfileImagePath)
    list add,2,%%ProfilePath
  until @null(@next(1))
  exit
```

Thanks

Many thanks go to PGWare (for the bulk of the information), Hooligan, Skit and Marty.

Feedback

If there are errors or if there is additional information you would like to have included in this document, then add a post to http://forum.vdsworld.com/viewtopic.php?t=3411 to that effect.

Serge