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Automatic Logon

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On a dedicated special function server such as print server or application server, one might want to bypass the Logon dialog box and automatically logon to the server. **Not recommended**. If you want to set it on your

standalone workstation at home, well that's a different matter. If you want to set this on a laptop or workstation on a network, consider the word **security**.

If you need to set autologon and twiddling with registry hacks is daunting, see [Autologon](#) tips which points to freeware utility to do the work for you.

The following registry hack details the registry keys which control automatic logon:

Hive: **HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE**

Key: **SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Winlogon**

Name: **AutoAdminLogon**

Type: **REG_SZ**

Value: **1** enable auto logon

Value: **0** disable auto logon

Hive: **HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE**

Key: **SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Winlogon**

Name: **DefaultUserName**

Type: **REG_SZ**

Value: *account to logon automatically*

Hive: **HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE**

Key: **SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Winlogon**

Name: **DefaultPassword**

Type: **REG_SZ**

Value: *pw for DefaultUserName above*

Caution: Password is stored in clear text. Set security permissions on Winlogon subkey to protect the account used.

Hive: **HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE**

Key: **SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Winlogon**

Name: **DefaultDomainName**

Type: **REG_SZ**

Value: *if domain account, domain name; if local account, server name*

Windows 2000 / XP has an additional registry setting to force autologon and ignore bypass attempts. This can be valuable with a kiosk environment:

Hive: **HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE**

Key: **SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Winlogon**

Name: **ForceAutoLogon**

Type: **REG_SZ**

Value: **1**

The following registry values must not exist: **LegalNoticeCaption**, **LegalNoticeText**. These values force a person logging into a PC to acknowledge having read the notice. If these values exist, the legal notice dialog hangs until someone hits enter. Don't just null out the values. Delete them.

The value **DontDisplayLastUserName** determines whether the logon dialog box displays the username of the last user that logged onto the PC. The value does not exist by default. If it exists, you must set it to 0 or the value of **DefaultUser** will be wiped and autologon will fail.

Finally, the value **RunLogonScriptSync** determines whether a logon script will run synchronously or

asynchronously. It should not effect this process but there have been reports that setting the value=1, that is, synchronous, is more stable.

Whether you use the Autologon utility or the registry approach, there are times when you must logon as another user or need the logon dialog to appear. Hold down the shift key until during boot until the logon dialog appears. For the control freaks, even the shift override can be blocked (also see ForceAutoLogon above) :

Hive: **HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE**

Key: **SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Winlogon**

Name: **IgnoreShiftOverride**

Type: **REG_SZ**

Value: *1*

If you want to enable autologon for a certain number of times, follow the above instructins and use the following Windows NT / W2K / XP registry hack:

Hive: **HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE**

Key: **SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Winlogon**

Name: **AutoLogonCount**

Type: **REG_DWORD**

Value: *# autologons you want to allow*

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