How to Not Login as Administrator - Windows

Guide for Windows

Important Note
This guide is intended for self-managed Windows machines only (i.e. you're both the user and sole administrator of your computer). If your computer is managed by another group (e.g., MITS, ATS, etc.) and you require an administrative account, please contact your local IT support staff for assistance as your department may have specific policies or requirements governing such access.

Before getting started, there are some things to understand. First off, a computer can have multiple administrative accounts, that is accounts that belong to the Administrators group and have the same rights as "Administrator," but there is only one "Administrator" account and it cannot be deleted or demoted (but it can be disabled). Recent versions of Windows disable the built-in "Administrator" account by default, and walk the user through creating a new account during setup. This new account is added to the Administrators group, so while it is not "Administrator", it is just as dangerous.

Secondly, a lot of programs and computer configuration options are tied to a user account. Switching to a completely new user account will likely result in a lot of wasted time reconfiguring applications and moving data around. This is not the preferred solution. If, however, you are using the built-in "Administrator" account (very unlikely), it is the only way to move forward with this. In that case, we recommend you wait until you are installing a new version of the operating system or moving to a new computer before continuing. The rest of this document assumes that you are not using the built-in "Administrator" account (very likely).

Windows 7

How to not run as an administrator

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standalone (Not Domain-Joined/Personal Computers)</th>
<th>Domain-Joined (UT Computers)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Create a new administrative user account</td>
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</tr>
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</table>
5. Click Advanced and click Users in the tree view in the left pane.
Assign a password to the new administrative account

7. Click Create and then click Close

Add the account to the local Administrators group
10. When the group name resolves, verify that it reads "<hostname>Administrators"
   and click OK.

11. Click OK again.

Make the original account a standard user.
Make the original user account a standard user
15. When the group name resolves, verify that it reads "<hostname>\users" and click OK.

16. Click OK again.

17. Close the Local Users and Groups control panel applet.

18. Close the User Accounts control panel dialog (or click OK).

19. Close the Control Panel.

20. Log off and back on for changes to take effect.
14. Close the Control Panel. Log off and back on for changes to take effect.

Windows 8.1

How to not run as an administrator

Standalone (Not Domain-Joined/Personal Computers)
Choose the user you would like to change

Add a new user in PC settings
Set up Family Safety

How will this person sign in?

What email address would this person like to use to sign in to Windows? (If you know the email address they use to sign in to Microsoft services, enter it here.)

Email address

Sign up for a new email address

This person can sign in to easily get their online email, photos, files, and settings (like browser history and favorites) on all of their devices. They can manage their synced settings at any time.

Add a child’s account
Privacy statement
Sign in without a Microsoft account (not recommended)

Next  Cancel
Add a user

There are two options for signing in:

**Microsoft account**
- Signing in to PCs with your email address lets you:
  - Download apps from Windows Store.
  - Get your online content in Microsoft apps automatically.
  - Sync settings online to make PCs look and feel the same—like your browser history, account picture, and color.

**Local account**
- Signing in with a local account means:
  - You have to create a user name and account for each PC you use.
  - You'll need a Microsoft account to download apps, but you can set it up later.
  - Your settings won’t be synced across the PCs that you use.

Add a user

Choose a password that will be easy for you to remember but hard for others to guess. If you forget, we'll show the hint.

- **User name**: lyra-admin
- **Password**: ********
- **Reenter password**: ********
- **Password hint**: hint

Add a user

The following user will be able to sign in to this PC.

- **lyra-admin**
  - Local account

Add a user

Is this a child’s account? Turn on Family Safety to get protection.
14. Log out & back in.
Windows 10

How to not run as an administrator

Standalone (Not Domain-Joined/Personal Computers)
How will this person sign in?

Enter the email address of the person you want to add. If they use Windows, Office, Outlook.com, OneDrive, Skype, or Xbox, enter the email address they use to sign in.

The person I want to add doesn't have an email address

Privacy statement

Next  Cancel

Let's create your account

Windows, Office, Outlook.com, OneDrive, Skype, Xbox. They're all better and more personal when you sign in with your Microsoft account. Learn more

First name  Last name

someone@example.com

Get a new email address

Password

United States  

Birth month  Day  Year

*If you already use a Microsoft service, go Back to sign in with that account.

Add a user without a Microsoft account

Next  Back
Create an account for this PC

If you want to use a password, choose something that will be easy for you to remember but hard for others to guess.

Who’s going to use this PC?

lyra-admin

Make it secure.

************

************

hint

Change account type

lyra-admin

Local Account

Account type

Administrator

OK Cancel
13. Log out and back in.

Scenarios

After following the above set of steps, some tasks may not work right away because administrative access is required. Anytime administrative access is required, a dialog box (UAC) will open prompting you to authenticate with an administrative account. Using the new account you just created will almost always allow the process to continue, but in some cases you will need to run programs as an Administrator for them to work properly. If you find yourself unable to run a program you previously ran before or if you are having issue configuring a setting, the Run As... feature outlined below may resolve this issue.

UAC Elevation Prompts

Below are examples of UAC prompts for each operating system:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Windows 7</th>
<th>Windows 8.1</th>
<th>Windows 10</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Windows 7 UAC" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Windows 8.1 UAC" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Windows 10 UAC" /></td>
</tr>
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Run-As Administrator/Other User

Below are examples of running as administrator in each operating system, key combinations/procedures are the same in each OS:

- Run As Administrator: Right-Click on program > Choose “Run as administrator”
- Run As Different User: Shift + Right-Click on program > Choose “Run as different user”
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<td><strong>Administrator:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><img src="image1.png" alt="Context menu for Windows 7" /></td>
<td><img src="image2.png" alt="Context menu for Windows 8.1" /></td>
<td><img src="image3.png" alt="Context menu for Windows 10" /></td>
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- **Open**
  - Open file location
  - Run as administrator
  - Unpin from Taskbar
  - Pin to Start Menu
  - Restore previous versions
  - Send to
- **Cut**
- **Copy**
- **Create shortcut**
- **Delete**
- **Rename**
- **Properties**

**Open**
- Open file location
- Run as administrator
- Pin to Start
- Pin to Taskbar
- Send to
- Cut
- Copy
- Create shortcut
- Delete
- Rename
- Properties
Different User:

- Open
- Open file location
- Run as administrator
- Run as different user
- Unpin from Taskbar
- Pin to Start Menu
- Copy as path
- Restore previous versions
- Send to
- Cut
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- Delete
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Different User:

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