

Windows Vista Annoyances

Paul Van House DBA Binx Custom Software

There are many security enhancements in Windows Vista that some users will find annoying. Here are a few tips on how to make your use of your Vista computer less annoying. **Please be forewarned that these changes will decrease the security of your system. Microsoft does NOT recommend changing these settings and Binx Custom Software is not responsible for problems caused by this reduction in Security.**

Problem 1: Annoying messages that ask for your permission and even an administrator password to perform some operations. These messages include:

- **Windows needs your permission to continue**
- **A program needs your permission to continue**
- **An unidentified program wants access to your computer**
- **This program has been blocked.**



To make these messages stop appearing you need to turn off the “User Account Control:”

1. Click Start-Control Panel.



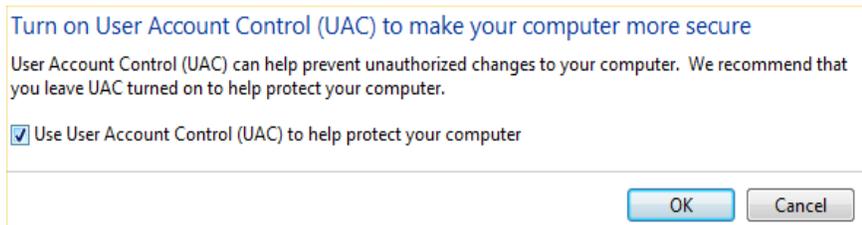
2. Double-Click “User Accounts”.



3. Click “Turn User Account Control on or off.



4. To Enable User Account Control (MS Recommended), check the box labeled “Use User Account Control (UAC) to help protect your computer”



To Disable User Account Control (makes messages described above go away but decreases security) Uncheck the box labeled “Use User Account Control (UAC) to help protect your computer”

5. Click OK. You may need to restart your computer to make the changes effective.

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If one or more of the messages shown above continue to appear you'll need to change two security policies on your computer:

1. Click Start-Control Panel.



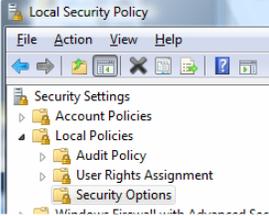
2. Double-Click "Administrative Tools"



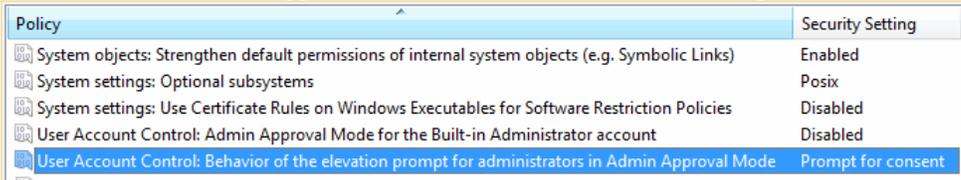
3. Double-Click "Local Security Policy".



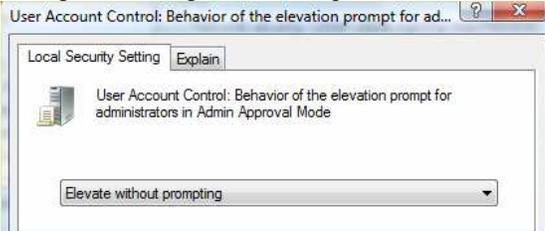
4. Use your mouse to expand "Local Policies" Then click on "Security Options" as shown in the image below.



5. Now scroll down on the right side of the window until the option "User Account Control: Behavior of the elevation prompt for administrators in Admin Approval Mode." Double-Click on this setting.



6. Change the setting from "Prompt For Consent" to "Elevate Without Prompting" then click OK.

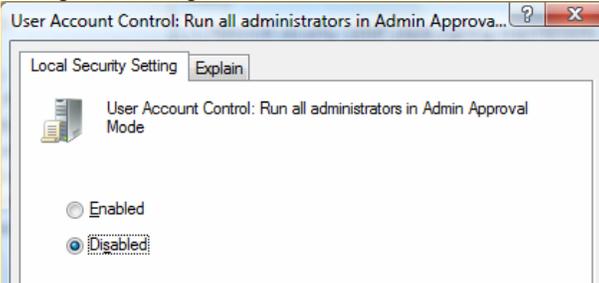


7. Depending on your individual situation you may also want to change the setting "User Account Control: Behavior of the elevation prompt for Standard Users" to "Elevate Without Prompting" as in the previous two steps.

8. You should be returned to the Policy Window. Scroll down on the right side of the window until the option "User Account Control: Run all administrators in Admin Approval Mode." Double-click on this setting.



9. Change the setting from " Enabled" to "Disabled" then click OK.

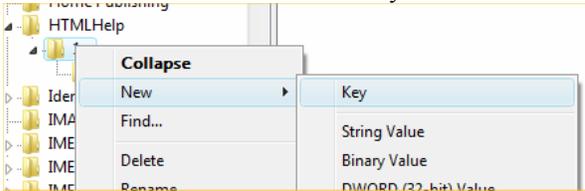


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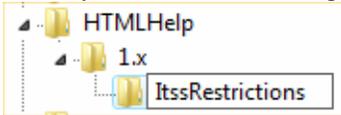
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Problem 2: Inability to run html/chm compiled help programs from a network work station. This has actually been a problem since Windows server 2000 was released. To correct this problem you must perform a “registry hack” on each work station which needs to use the help files. *Please note that if you are NOT familiar with working with the registry you should not attempt this change. Any mistakes made can disable the computer or cause unpredictable and undesired behavior in applications.*

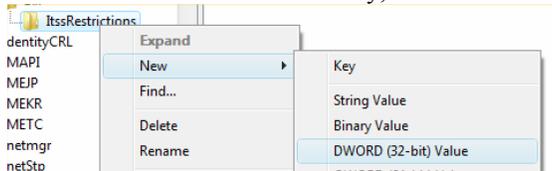
1. Open Regedit by clicking Start-Run, key in “Regedit” (without the quotation marks) and press Enter. (If Run is not available on your Start menu, choose “Command Prompt”, key in “Regedit” (without the quotation marks) and press Enter.)
2. Navigate to **HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\HTMLHelp\1.x.**
3. Make a backup of this key by right-clicking on the key, choose Export, key in a file name and click “Save”
4. Expand the “1.x” key.
5. If a subkey “**ItssRestrictions**” does not exist, create it as a subkey of 1.x:
 - a. Right-click on “1.x” and choose “New-Key”



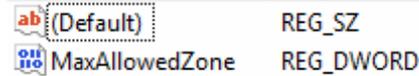
- b. Name the Key **ItssRestrictions** and press Enter. (The name is case sensitive)



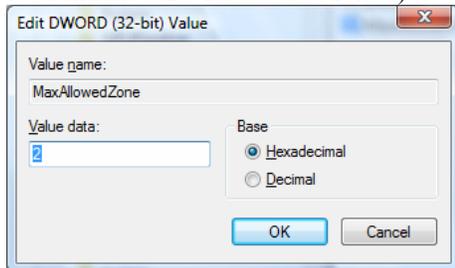
6. Right-Click the **ItssRestrictions** subkey, choose “new- **DWORD Value.**”



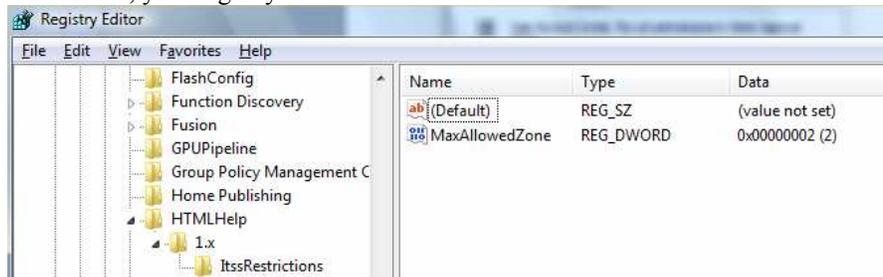
7. Type **MaxAllowedZone** and press ENTER.



8. Right-Click the **MaxAllowedZone** and click “Modify”
9. In the **Value Data** box, type **2**, and choose “**Hexidecimal**” and click OK (this will allow html help/.chm files to be opened from the local intranet and trusted sites zones.)



10. When done, your registry editor window should look like this:



11. If you Still have problems See the solution under “Problem 4” below.

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Problem 3: Inability to run Win32 help files (Help files with an extension of .hlp)

Windows Vista does not include a viewer for the most common type of help files, used since the release of Windows 95. Programs using these help files will display an error message when you try to access the Help System. This affects Binx programs **Storm** Versions older than 6.20, **Copy Genie** versions older than 5.0, **Ball32** versions older than 3.0.

To remedy this problem you can either upgrade to a Vista-compatible version of the program, or download and install the Vista Win32 Help system from Microsoft using the following link (Valid as of May 4, 2007) <http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkID=82148>

Problem 4: “Unknown Publisher” warning when running a program whose executable file is located on a server. We found that this error appears only if a non-administrative user invokes the program.

Here is the workaround:

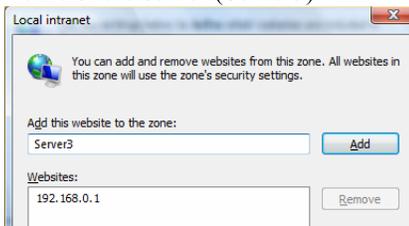
1. In Internet Explorer from the Toolbar goto “Tools-Internet Options.” Under the 'Security' tab highlight the Local Intranet section. Click the 'Sites' button.



2. Click the 'Advanced' button.



3. Add the server's name and/or IP address to the list of trusted zones by keying in the name/address in the area to the left of the “Add” button, then click the Add Button. In this example we added both the IP address of the server (192.168.0.1) and are about to add the Name of the server (Server3)

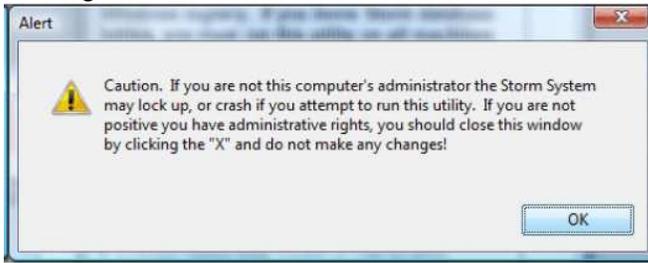


4. Once all servers are Added click “Close,” “OK,” and “OK” to close the Internet Options window. ***You will need to do this for each user who logs into a work station!***

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Problem 5: Non-administrative users are not able to change the “Database Location” using the “Database Location” option in Storm versions 6 and higher and Copy Genie versions 5 and higher. Because of the potential for problems a warning is presented when you attempt to change the location:



The potential for problems also exists when using the “Borland Database Administrator” (BDE Administrator) from the Control Panel. There are two workarounds to this problem:

1. Since changing the database location is an infrequent action, the person installing the program (should be a user with administrative privileges) should set the database location before logging off.
2. To prevent problems in the future, the person installing the program (should be a user with administrative privileges) should set security on the “Program Files\Common Files\Borland\BDE” folder to allow all users “Full Access.”