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SQL Server 2008 installation will fail if the setup account does not have certain user rights

Symptoms

Consider the following scenario:

As part of tightening security, you remove some of the default user rights to local administrators group on a Windows operating system. In preparation for setting up SQL server on this system, you add setup account to the local administrators group.

In this scenario, if you either install or upgrade to SQL Server 2008, the installation process may fail with various error messages as noted below.

Scenario 1: For a new installation, the setup program will fail with the following error message

Access is denied

Additionally, you may notice error messages similar to the following in the Detail.txt file

2009-01-02 13:00:17 SQLEngine: --SqlServerServiceSCM: Waiting for nt event 'Global\sqlserverRecComplete\$NIIT' to be created

2009-01-02 13:00:20 SQLEngine: --SqlServerServiceSCM: Waiting for nt event 'Global\sqlserverRecComplete\$NIIT' or sql process handle to be signaled

2009-01-02 13:00:20 Slp: Configuration action failed for feature SQL_Engine_Core_Inst during timing ConfigRC and scenario ConfigRC.

2009-01-02 13:00:20 Slp: Access is denied

2009-01-02 13:00:20 Slp: Configuration action failed for feature SQL_Engine_Core_Inst during timing ConfigRC and scenario ConfigRC.

2009-01-02 13:00:20 Slp: System.ComponentModel.Win32Exception: Access is denied

2009-01-02 13:00:20 Slp: at System.Diagnostics.ProcessManager.OpenProcess(Int32 processId, Int32 access, Boolean throwIfExited)

2009-01-02 13:00:20 Slp: at System.Diagnostics.Process.GetProcessHandle(Int32 access, Boolean throwIfExited)

2009-01-02 13:00:20 Slp: at System.Diagnostics.Process.OpenProcessHandle()

2009-01-02 13:00:20 Slp: at System.Diagnostics.Process.get_Handle()

2009-01-02 13:00:20 Slp: at Microsoft.SqlServer.Configuration.SqlEngine.SqlServerServiceBase.WaitSqlServerStart(Process processSql)

2009-01-02 13:00:20 Slp: at Microsoft.SqlServer.Configuration.SqlEngine.SqlServerServiceSCM.StartSqlServer(String[] parameters)

2009-01-02 13:00:20 Slp: at Microsoft.SqlServer.Configuration.SqlEngine.SqlServerStartup.StartSQLServerForInstall(String sqlCollation, String masterFullPath, Boolean isConfiguringTemplateDBs)

2009-01-02 13:00:20 Slp: at Microsoft.SqlServer.Configuration.SqlEngine.SqlEngineDBStartConfig.ConfigSQLServerSystemDatabases(EffectiveProperties properties, Boolean isConfiguringTemplateDBs, Boolean useInstallInputs)

2009-01-02 13:00:20 Slp: at
Microsoft.SqlServer.Configuration.SqlEngine.SqlEngineDBStartConfig.DoCommonDBStartConfig(ConfigActionTiming timing)

2009-01-02 13:00:20 Slp: at
Microsoft.SqlServer.Configuration.SqlEngine.SqlEngineDBStartConfig.Install(ConfigActionTiming timing, Dictionary`2
actionData, PublicConfigurationBase spcb)

2009-01-02 13:00:20 Slp: at
Microsoft.SqlServer.Configuration.SqlConfigBase.PrivateConfigurationBase.Execute(ConfigActionScenario scenario,
ConfigActionTiming timing, Dictionary`2 actionData, PublicConfigurationBase spcbCurrent)

2009-01-02 13:00:20 Slp: at
Microsoft.SqlServer.Configuration.SqlConfigBase.SqlFeatureConfigBase.Execute(ConfigActionScenario scenario,
ConfigActionTiming timing, Dictionary`2 actionData, PublicConfigurationBase spcbCurrent)

2009-01-02 13:00:20 Slp: at Microsoft.SqlServer.Configuration.SqlConfigBase.SlpConfigAction.ExecuteAction(String
actionId)

2009-01-02 13:00:20 Slp: at Microsoft.SqlServer.Configuration.SqlConfigBase.SlpConfigAction.Execute(String actionId,
TextWriter errorStream)

2009-01-02 13:00:20 Slp: Exception: System.ComponentModel.Win32Exception.

2009-01-02 13:00:20 Slp: Source: System.

2009-01-02 13:00:20 Slp: Message: Access is denied.

Scenario 2: Upgrades to SQL Server 2008 will report the following error message on Engine_SqlEngineHealthCheck rule:

Rule name: Engine_SqlEngineHealthCheck

Rule description: Checks whether the SQL Server service can be restarted; or for a clustered instance, whether the SQL Server resource is online.

Result: Failed

Message/Corrective Action: The SQL Server service cannot be restarted; or for a clustered instance, the SQL Server resource is not online

Additionally, you may notice error messages similar to the following in the Detail.txt file

2009-05-27 17:50:20 SQLEngine: : Checking Engine checkpoint 'GetSqlServerProcessHandle_1'
2009-05-27 17:50:20 SQLEngine: --SqlServerServiceSCM: Waiting for nt event 'Global\sqlserverRecComplete\$SQL10' to be
created
2009-05-27 17:50:22 SQLEngine: --SqlServerServiceSCM: Waiting for nt event 'Global\sqlserverRecComplete\$SQL10' or
sql process handle to be signaled
2009-05-27 17:50:22 SQLEngine: --FacetSqlEngineHealthCheck: Engine_SqlEngineHealthCheck: Error: Access is denied

Cause

This behavior is by design. In addition to adding the user account that is running the setup as a local administrator as documented in [How to: Install SQL Server 2008 \(Setup\)](#), the setup user account requires the following default user rights for the setup to complete successfully.

Local Policy Object Display Name	User Right
Backup files and directories	SeBackupPrivilege
Debug Programs	SeDebugPrivilege
Manage auditing and security log	SeSecurityPrivilege

Resolution

To add the rights to the local administrator account follow these steps:

1. Log on to the computer as a user who has administrative credentials.
2. Click Start, click Run, type Control admintools , and then click OK.
3. Double-click Local Security Policy.
4. In the Local Security Settings dialog box, click Local Policies, double-click User Rights Assignment, and then double-click Backup Files and Directories.
5. In the Backup Files and Directories Properties dialog box, click Add User or Group.
6. In the Select User or Groups dialog box, type the user account being used for setup, and then click OK two times.
7. Repeat the procedure for the other two policies mentioned in the **Cause** section
8. On the File menu, click Exit to close the Local Security Settings dialog box.

More Information

- To check the list of privileges that are currently associated for the account used for setup, you can use the AccessChk.exe tool that can be downloaded from the following location:

<http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/sysinternals/bb664922.aspx>

Usage: `accesschk.exe -a <setup account> *`

For example:

`c:\tools\accesschk.exe -a testdc\setupaccount *`

Sample output:

```
SeSecurityPrivilege
SeBackupPrivilege
SeRestorePrivilege
SeSystemtimePrivilege
SeShutdownPrivilege
SeRemoteShutdownPrivilege
SeTakeOwnershipPrivilege
SeDebugPrivilege
SeSystemEnvironmentPrivilege
SeSystemProfilePrivilege
SeProfileSingleProcessPrivilege
SeIncreaseBasePriorityPrivilege
SeLoadDriverPrivilege
SeCreatePagefilePrivilege
SeIncreaseQuotaPrivilege
SeChangeNotifyPrivilege
SeUndockPrivilege
SeManageVolumePrivilege
SeImpersonatePrivilege
SeCreateGlobalPrivilege
SeTimeZonePrivilege
SeCreateSymbolicLinkPrivilege
SeInteractiveLogonRight
SeNetworkLogonRight
```

SeBatchLogonRight
SeRemoteInteractiveLogonRight

- [Microsoft Connect bug on this issue](#)
- [Setting Up Windows Services Accounts](#)

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APPLIES TO

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