How To manage TFS Service Accounts & Password

We can help improve the security of Team Foundation Server (TFS) by changing its service account or the password used for that account. TFS runs services such as its Web services and the Team Foundation Background Job Agent in the context of a service account.

If an Active Directory domain policy requires that all passwords expire periodically, in that case we can update the password information for the service account in TFS when that password changes.

If the TFS deployment includes more than one application-tier server, we must manually update each server with any changes to the service account or its password.

Requirements:-

To perform these procedures, we must be **a member of the Administrators group** on the Team Foundation application-tier server and a member of the **sysadmin** group on the server and instance of SQL Server that hosts the TFS configuration database.

[**Change the password of the service account**](javascript:void(0))

In order to change the password of the service account we must log on to the TFS application-tier server and either use the **administration console for Team Foundation**, or open a Command Prompt window and use the **TFSConfig** command-line tool. If the deployment includes more than one application-tier server, we must perform this task on each server, or the account information will be out of synch.

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| **NoteNote** |
| Depending on deployment configuration, we might need to restart Internet Information Services (IIS) after we complete the procedure before the changes will take effect. |

**To use the administration console to change the password**

1. Open the administration console for Team Foundation on the server that hosts the application tier.
2. In the console, expand the server name and choose Application Tier.
3. In the Application Tier pane, choose **Update Account Password**.

The Update Account Password window opens.

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| **NoteNote** |
| If you used a system account as the service account, you will see an error message when you choose Update Account Password. You do not need to change the password of that account. System accounts do not have user-managed passwords. |

1. Type the new password in Password, and then choose OK.

The Change Service Account window opens.

1. Wait for all the status messages to complete in Status, and then choose Close.

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| **NoteNote** |
| This process might take a few minutes. |

**To use TFSConfig to change the password**

1. On the application-tier server, open a Command Prompt window and change directories to the directory that contains the **TFSConfig** utility.

By default, this utility is located in System Drive:\Program Files\Microsoft Team Foundation Server 12.0\Tools.

1. At the command line, type **TFSConfig Accounts /UpdatePassword /accountType:ApplicationTier /account:**AccountName **/password:**NewPassword, and then choose ENTER.
2. You must specify both the name of the account you want to use as TFSService (AccountName) and the password of the account (NewPassword).

[**Assign a different account as the service account**](javascript:void(0))

We can use either the administration console or the **TFSConfig** command-line tool. If the deployment includes more than one application-tier server, we must perform this task on each server, or the account information will be out of synchronization. Before you use either tool to make the change, consider these issues:

* We must choose a new account that is either a system account or a member of a workgroup or domain that is trusted by every computer in this deployment of TFS.
* The configuration utilities grant the Log on as a service permission to the new service account, but the utilities do not revoke this permission from the account previously used as the service account if another service still uses that account. If the old account no longer needs that permission for the service for which it is still in use, we might need to manually remove that permission from the old account.
* You might need to restart IIS after you complete the procedure before the changes will take effect.
* The **TFSConfig** utility changes only those services that run under the old account.

**To use the administration console to change the service account**

1. Open the administration console for Team Foundation on the server that hosts the application tier.
2. In the console, expand the server name and choose Application Tier.
3. In the Application Tier pane, choose **Change Account**.

The Update Service Account window opens.

1. Perform one of the following steps:
   1. If you want to use a system account, choose Use a system account, and then choose a system account from the drop-down list.

If your server is a member of an Active Directory domain, the default choice for the system account to use is Network Service. If your server is a member of a workgroup, the default choice is Local Service. Depending on the details of your deployment, the default choice might be the only available choice.

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| **NoteNote** |
| System accounts do not have user-managed passwords. If you choose to use a system account as TFSService, you should not type a password in the password field. |

* 1. If you want to use a domain or workgroup account, choose Use a user account, type the name of the account in Account Name, and then type the password for that account in Password.

1. Choose OK.

The Change Service Account window opens.

1. Wait for all the status messages to complete in Status, and then choose Close.

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| **NoteNote** |
| This process might take a few minutes. |

**To use TFSConfig to change the service account**

1. On the application-tier server, open a Command Prompt window and change directories to the directory that contains the **TFSConfig** command-line tool.

By default, this tool is located in System Drive:\Program Files\Microsoft Team Foundation Server 12.0\Tools.

1. At the command line, type **TFSConfig Accounts /change /accountType:ApplicationTier /account:**AccountName **/password:**NewPassword, and then choose ENTER.

Team Foundation Server has services and service accounts that run on the following computers in a deployment:

* any server that hosts one or more databases for Team Foundation Server
* any server that hosts components of the application tier for Team Foundation
* any computer that is running Team Foundation Server Proxy
* any build computer
* any test machine
* any computer that is running one or more components of Visual Studio Lab Management

**The following table illustrates the commonly used service accounts in a deployment of TFS.**

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| **Service Account** | **Placeholder name and usable account type** | **Required Permission and Group Membership** | **Notes** |
| Service account for Team Foundation Server | TFSService, which can be a local account, a domain account, Local Service in a workgroup, or Network Service in a domain | * Log on as a service on the application-tier server * **Farm Administrators** group for any SharePoint Web applications that Team Foundation Server uses1 * TFSExecRole, or if this role does not exist for the database, a combination of the following roles for any databases that Team Foundation Server uses:   + db\_owner   + db\_create | This service account is used for all of the Web services for Team Foundation Server. If you use a domain account for this account, it must be a member of a domain that all computers throughout the deployment fully trust. |
| Data sources account for SQL Server Reporting Services | TFSReports, which can be a local account, a domain account, or Local Service in a workgroup | * Allow log on locally on the application-tier server and on the server that is running SQL Server Reporting Services * **TFSWareHouseDataReader** on the report server | This service account retrieves data for reports from Reporting Services. |
| Service account for Team Foundation Build | TFSBuild, which can be a local account, a domain account, or Local Service in a workgroup | Log on as a service | This service account is used when builds are configured and when build status information is communicated between the build controller and the build agents. |
| Service account for Lab Management | TFSLab, which can be a local account, a domain account, Local Service in a workgroup, or Network Service in a domain | Log on as a service | This service account is used when information about Lab Management is communicated between Team Foundation Server and the lab agent that is running on a virtual machine. |
| Service account for Team Foundation Server Proxy | TFSProxy, which can be a local account, a domain account, Local Service in a workgroup, or Network Service in a domain | Log on as a service | This service account is used for all of the proxy services. If you use a domain account for this account, it must be a member of a domain that all computers throughout the deployment fully trust. |
| Service account for Test Agent and Test Agent Controller | TFSTest, which can be a local account, a domain account, or Network Service in a domain. | Log on as a service | This service account is used when information about tests is communicated between the test agent controller and the test agent. |
| Service accounts for SharePoint Web applications | WebAppService | Allow log on locally | You must add at least one service account for each SharePoint Web application that you configure for use with Team Foundation Server. This service account is used to create team project portals and to enable dashboard functionality. |
| Service account for Visual Studio Online | Account Service (CollectionName) | None. This account is only used if you are using a hosted deployment of TFS. It is automatically created for you, and can be viewed through the administration page of Team Web Access. | This service account is created automatically when you create a collection in Visual Studio Online, and is used when clients communicate with the hosted service. |

**Services that run under service accounts**

The following services run under service accounts in a deployment of Team Foundation Server:

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| **Service name** | **Service account** | **Logical Tier** |
| Code Coverage Service | TFSService | application tier |
| Team Foundation Server Web Services | TFSService | application tier |
| SQL Server Reporting Services (MSSQLSERVER or InstanceName if using a named instance) | Local System or a domain account | application tier |
| Report Web Service | Local System, Network Service, or a domain account | application tier |
| SharePoint Administration (if SharePoint Products is installed and configured for use with Team Foundation Server) | Local System, Network Service, or a domain account | application tier |
| SharePoint Timer (if SharePoint Products is installed and configured for use with Team Foundation Server) | Domain account | application tier |
| Visual Studio Team Foundation Build Service Host (if Team Foundation Build is installed) | TFSBuild | build computer |
| Visual Studio Team Foundation Background Job Agent | TFSService | application tier |
| Visual Studio Test Controller | TFSTest | any computer |
| Visual Studio Test Agent | TFSTest | test computer |
| Analysis Server (MSSQLSERVER or InstanceName if you are using a named instance) | Local System or a domain account | data tier |
| SQL Server Browser | Local Service or a domain account | data tier |
| SQL Server (MSSQLSERVER or InstanceName if using a named instance) | Local System, Network Service, or a domain account | data tier |
| SQL Server Agent (MSSQLSERVER or InstanceName if using a named instance) | Local System, Network Service, or a domain account | data tier |
| Account Service (CollectionName) | Automatic | web tier (Visual Studio Online only) |

* Service Account Roles for Team Foundation Server according to Wiki Document Created by [Christopher Benton](http://we.mmm.com/wiki/display/%7Ea4y44zz) on [Oct 27, 2014](http://we.mmm.com/wiki/pages/viewpreviousversions.action?pageId=241896338) .
* Referenced Site :- <http://we.mmm.com/wiki/display/CHBS/Service+Accounts+Needed+for+TFS>

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| **Service Account** | **Name (Domain Accounts)** | **Required Permission and Group Membership** | **Notes** |
| Service account for Team Foundation Server | USAC\USFETFSDEVS  USAC\USFETFSQAS  USAC\USFETFSPRODS | * Log on as a service on the application-tier server * Farm Administrators * group for any SharePoint Web applications that Team Foundation Server uses1 * TFSExecRole, or if this role does not exist for the database, a combination of the following roles for any databases that Team Foundation Server uses: * db\_owner * db\_create | This service account is used for all of the Web services for Team Foundation Server. If you use a domain account for this account, it must be a member of a domain that all computers throughout the deployment fully trust. |
| Data sources account for SQL Server Reporting Services | USAC\USFETFSDEVR  USAC\USFETFSQAR  USAC\USFETFSPRODR | * Allow log on locally on the application-tier server and on the server that is running SQL Server Reporting Services * TFSWareHouseDataReader * on the report server | This service account retrieves data for reports from Reporting Services. |
| Service accounts for SharePoint Web applications | USAC\USFETFSDEVSP2  USAC\USFETFSQASP2  USAC\USFETFSPRODSP2 | Allow log on locally | This service account is used to create team project portals and to enable dashboard functionality. |
| Farm Administrator Account | USAC\USFETFSDEVSP1  USAC\USFETFSQASP1  USAC\USFETFSPRODSP1 | * must be a domain account * must be a member of the Administrators group on the server that is running SharePoint Products |  |

Following service accounts are configured for use in QA:-

* USAC\USFETFSQAS
* USAC\USFETFSQAR
* USAC\USFETFSQASP2
* USAC\USFETFSQASP1

Following service accounts are configured for use in DEV:-

* USAC\USFETFSDEVS
* USAC\USFETFSDEVR
* USAC\USFETFSDEVSP2
* USAC\USFETFSDEVSP1

Following service accounts are configured for us in PROD:-

* USAC\USFETFSPRODS
* USAC\USFETFSPRODR
* USAC\USFETFSPRODSP2
* USAC\USFETFSPRODSP1

Please add if I missed any information.