Turn on automatic logon in Windows

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In this article

Use Registry Editor to turn on automatic logon

This article describes how to configure Windows to automate the logon process by storing your password and other pertinent information in the registry database. By using this feature, other users can start your computer and use the account that you establish to automatically log on.

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2012 R2

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(i) Important

The autologon feature is provided as a convenience. However, this feature may be a security risk. If you set a computer for autologon, anyone who can physically obtain access to the computer can gain access to all the computer's contents, including any networks it is connected to. Additionally, when autologon is turned on, the password is stored in the registry in plain text. The specific registry key that stores this value can be remotely read by the Authenticated Users group. This setting is recommended only for cases in which the computer is physically secured and steps have been taken to make sure that untrusted users cannot remotely access the registry.

Use Registry Editor to turn on automatic logon

(i) Important

This section, method, or task contains steps that tell you how to modify the registry. However, serious problems might occur if you modify the registry incorrectly. Therefore, make sure that you follow these steps carefully. For added protection,

1 of 4 3/13/2021, 3:26 PM back up the registry before you modify it. Then, you can restore the registry if a problem occurs. For more information about how to back up and restore the registry, see **How to back up and restore the registry in Windows** .

To use Registry Editor to turn on automatic logon, follow these steps:

- 1. Click Start, and then click Run.
- 2. In the **Open** box, type *Regedt32.exe*, and then press Enter.
- 3. Locate the HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion \Winlogon subkey in the registry.
- 4. Double-click the **DefaultUserName** entry, type your user name, and then click **OK**.
- 5. Double-click the **DefaultPassword** entry, type your password, and then click **OK**. If the **DefaultPassword** value does not exist, it must be added. To add the value,
 - a. On the Edit menu, click New, and then point to String Value.
 - b. Type *DefaultPassword*, and then press Enter.
 - c. Double-click DefaultPassword.
 - d. In the **Edit String** dialog, type your password and then click **OK**.
 - ① Note

follow these steps:

If no DefaultPassword string is specified, Windows automatically changes the value of the AutoAdminLogon key from 1 (true) to 0 (false), disabling the AutoAdminLogon feature.

- 6. On the **Edit** menu, click **New**, and then point to **String Value**.
- 7. Type AutoAdminLogon, and then press Enter.
- 8. Double-click AutoAdminLogon.
- 9. In the **Edit String** dialog box, type 1 and then click **OK**.

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- 10. If you have joined the computer to a domain, you should add the **DefaultDomain** value, and the data for the value should be set as the fully qualified domain name (FQDN) of the domain.
- 11. Exit Registry Editor.
- 12. Click Start, click Shutdown, and then type a reason in the Comment text box.
- 13. Click **OK** to turn off your computer.
- 14. Restart your computer. You can now log on automatically.

① Note

- To bypass the AutoAdminLogon process and to log on as a different user, press and hold the Shift key after you log off or after Windows restarts.
- This registry change does not work if the Logon Banner value is defined on the server either by a Group Policy object (GPO) or by a local policy. When the policy is changed so that it does not affect the computer, the autologon feature works as expected.
- When Exchange Active Sync (EAS) password restrictions are active, the
 autologon feature does not work. This behavior is by design. This behavior is
 caused by a change in Windows 8.1 and does not affect Windows 8 or earlier
 versions. To work around this behavior in Windows 8.1 and later versions,
 remove the EAS policies in Control Panel.
- An interactive console logon that has a different user on the server changes
 the DefaultUserName registry entry as the last logged-on user indicator.
 AutoAdminLogon relies on the DefaultUserName entry to match the user and
 password. Therefore, AutoAdminLogon may fail. You can configure a
 shutdown script to set the correct DefaultUserName.
- You can use the Sysinternals tool **AutoLogon** to enable this functionality easier. This tool also helps you to use an encrypted version of password.

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🖒 Yes 🐶 No

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