**Windows 7 Auto Logon Registry Hack**

The idea behind the Windows 7 Auto Login is that a userName can logon at a computer without having to type their password.  A typical scenario would be a test machine on a private network.  With Auto Logon enabled, when you restart the machine it automatically logs-on a named user.  The trick, which also its liability, is to use regedit to set a value for DefaultPassword in the registry.

**Topics for Windows 7 Auto Logon Registry Hack**

* [**Instructions to Enable Auto Logon with Regedit**](http://www.computerperformance.co.uk/windows7/windows7_auto_logon.htm#Instructions_to_Enable_Auto_Logon_with_Regedit)
* [**Key Learning Points**](http://www.computerperformance.co.uk/windows7/windows7_auto_logon.htm#Key_Learning_Points)
* [**AutoLogonCount**](http://www.computerperformance.co.uk/windows7/windows7_auto_logon.htm#AutoLogonCount)
* [**Auto Logon for Windows 7 Home Editions**](http://www.computerperformance.co.uk/windows7/windows7_auto_logon.htm#Auto_Logon_for_Windows_7_Home_Editions)
* [**A real-life Story Starring AutoAdminLogon**](http://www.computerperformance.co.uk/windows7/windows7_auto_logon.htm#A_real-life_story_starring_AutoAdminLogon)

**Instructions to Enable Auto Logon with Regedit**

1. Launch Regedit. ([**See more details on starting regedit**](http://www.computerperformance.co.uk/vista/vista_registry.htm#Getting_Started_with_Regedit))
2. Navigate to:
HKLM\Software\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\winlogon
Set: AutoAdminLogon = 1 (one means on, zero means off.)[](http://www.computerperformance.co.uk/win8/windows8-autoadminlogon-registry.htm)
3. Tip: Try Regedit's 'Find': AutoAdminLogon.
4. Crucial Point set the Administrator's password.
5. Create a new String Value called DefaultPassword
Set: DefaultPassword = "P@ssw0rd".
6. Check for the existence of a REG\_SZ called DefaultUserName.  The value should reflect the user who you wish to logon automatically.  If this value does not exist, then right-click in the right pane, New, REG\_SZ, name it, DefaultUserName.  Set the string value to the required UserName.
7. Optional Item: If your Windows 7 Machine has joined a domain, then create a String Value called DefaultDomainName.
Set: DefaultDomainName = "OnlyYouKnowDomain"

**Here is a summary of the four registry settings to enable Auto Logon**

AutoAdminLogon = "1" Enabled  (To disable Auto Logon set to value to zero)
DefaultUserName = "xxx"
DefaultPassword = "xxxx0xxxx"
DefaultDomainName = "xxx.xxx".  Only needed if computer has joined a domain.

**Disable Auto Logon in Registry**

It's easy to disable Auto Logon with regedit; you just need to find, then change AutoAdminLogon from 1 to zero.  You can leave the other settings, especially if you change your mind later!

**Key Learning Points For Windows 7 Auto Logon**

* When you set a user's Auto Logon with regedit, do you find the AutoAdminLogon value in HKCU\*\* or HKLM?
Answer: HKLM
* Do you have to add a value, or modify an existing setting?
Answer: Modify 0 (Disabled) --> 1 (Enabled).
* Is it a String Value or a DWORD?
Answer: These are all REG\_SZ (String value).
* Do you need to Restart, or merely Logoff / Logon?
Answer: Restart
* Extra Information: To enable Auto Logon with regedit you also need to create a REG\_SZ called, DefaultPassword, and possibly another called DefaultDomainName.
* If you ever need to breakout of AutoAdminLogon, hold down the shift key as Windows 7 initializes and the user logs on.  What the shift key does is enable you to logon as a different user.

**Problems With AutoAdminLogon**

* The number one problem is not setting a DefaultPassword.  Yes this is insecure, but it gets the job done.  If you leave it's value blank than Windows 7 sets AutoAdminLogon = 0.
* DefaultDomainName - Check and set correctly if you really are in a domain.

**AutoLogonCount**

This registry value is mainly used during setup.  The idea is for a machine to automatically reboot during installation.

Each time the computer is restarted AutoAdminLogon kicks-in and the administrator is logged on automatically, furthermore, the AutoLogonCount value is decremented by one until the count reaches zero.  Once its value reaches zero, the AutoLogonCount value in the Winlogon key is removed.

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1. Launch Regedit.
2. Navigate to:
HKLM\Software\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\winlogon
Create a Reg\_DWORD: AutoLogonCount
3. Set the value, for example 7.