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Windows 8 Security Insights

Milad Aslaner
Sr. Premier Field Engineer
Microsoft



User Account Control



About

- User Account Control is responsible for:

User Integrity Check – If elevation in integrity is required

Application Integrity Check – Follows four-step integrity

check

- Reduces the requirement for elevated privileges such as Power

User or Local Administrator

History

With Windows Vista introduced:


- By default users are standard users
- Administrator privilege is used only if required
- Backwards compatibility for 32-bit applications with file and registry virtualization

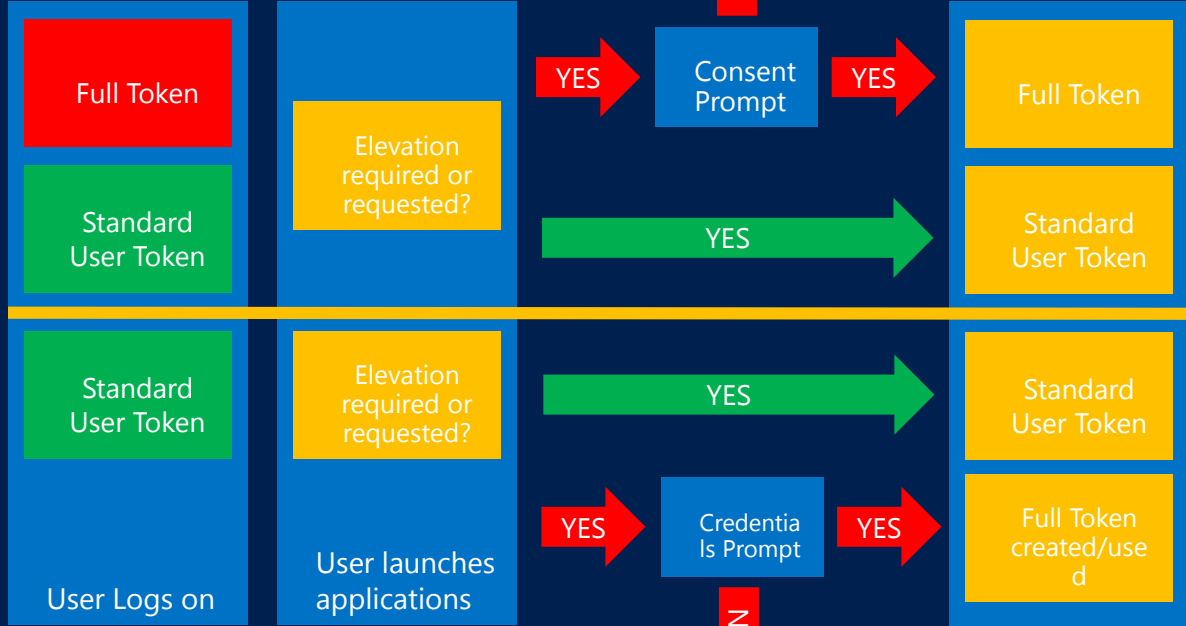
With Windows 7 we improved:

- Reduced OS components require higher privileges
- More can be done, thanks to automatic elevation

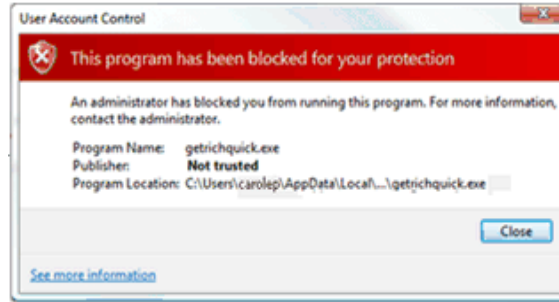
Token Filtering Scenario


Administrator

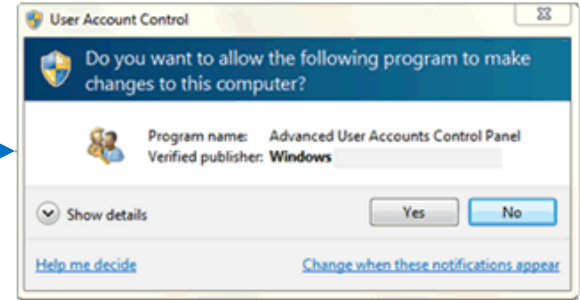

Standard User



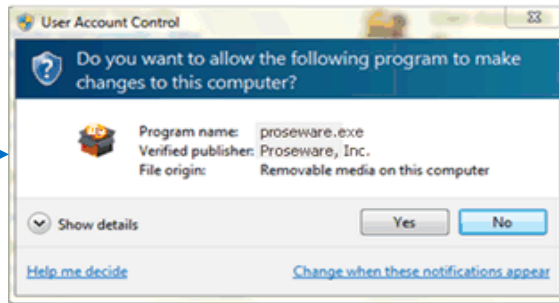
UAC Workflow



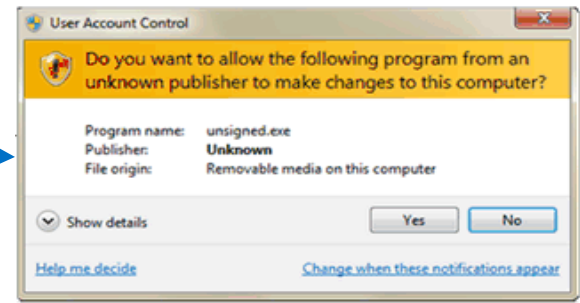
Is the Publisher blocked?



Is it signed by Windows?



Is this a verified Publisher?



If its unknown...

User Integrity Check

User Integrity Check—If elevation in integrity is required by:

- Application Manifest
- Filename
- Keywords in the following Versioning Resource fields
- Keywords in the side-by-side manifest embedded in the executable
- Keywords in specific StringTable entries linked in the executable
- Key attributes in the RC data linked in the executable
- Targeted sequences of bytes within the executable
- Application Compatibility
- Manual user request

Application Integrity Check

Application Integrity Check Follows four-step integrity check:

- Is the Publisher blocked?
- Is it signed by Windows?
- Is it a verified Publisher?

Improved in Windows 8

- Option '**Never Notify**' is now not anymore turning UAC off
- Additional local security policies that enable a local administrator to change the behavior of the UAC messages for standard users.

- **Standard user can now perform also:**

Install updates and drivers through Windows Update

View certain system settings without making changes

Bluetooth pairing

Change the screen display text size

Thank You.



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