

Question: How do I eliminate the dialog box, which appears on booting up Windows XP and asks for a password, so it will go directly to the desktop instead?

Disabling Windows XP Logon screen:

Answer 1:

There are four conditions necessary to disable the Windows Logon screen:

- 1 There must be only two accounts on the computer, the administrator and the guest account.
- 2 There must be no password for the administrator account.
- 3 The guest account must be turned off.
- 4 The welcome screen must be turned on.

First step: is delete all user accounts except the administrator and guest accounts. Note: Windows XP requires that at least one account must be an administrative account; also you cannot delete the guest account. When you delete user accounts, their email and favorites will be lost, so you must export or back up this information if you wish to save it. Windows will give you the option of saving the user's desktop and "My Documents" to a new folder on your desktop under the deleted accounts name.

To delete accounts, logon as administrator then click start/ settings/ control panel and click user accounts. Then click "change an account" Click on the account you want to delete, then click delete account. Here is where you have the option to save that account's "My documents" folder and desktop. If you wish to keep these files click "Keep files", if not click "Delete files". Do this for all accounts except the administrator and the guest account.

Step two: is to remove the password from the administrator account. Note: You need only follow this step if you administrator account is password protected. To determine if your administrator account is password protected, simple look for the words, "Password protected" Under the accounts name. To do this follow the instructions in step one to reach user accounts in the control panel. Click on the administrator account and then click "Remove my password". You will be prompted to enter your password on the next screen. Enter your password then click, "Remove password"

Step three: Turning off the guest account. Navigate back to "User accounts" in the control panel. If the guest account is turned on click it then click on "Turn off the guest account"

Step four: Turning on the welcome screen. Navigate back to the "user account screen" as described above. Click "Change the way users log on or off" Then make sure there is a check mark next to "Use the welcome screen". Then click "Apply options". Note: Leaving "Use the welcome screen" unchecked will bring up the enter password screen during boot up, even though you have previously deleted the password from your account.

Answer2:

OK, there are a few different ways to do this; they allow for different situations, as I explain below. In all cases you have to be the system administrator to alter these settings. These instructions are generally for XP Home.

Option 1: This is useful if there is only one user account on the machine.

- 1) Open the Window's Control Panel (Settings>Control Panel on your Start Menu), and choose the "User Accounts" panel.
- 2) Choose the "Change an account" option, then select your account.
- 3) Choose the "Remove my password" option and follow the instructions (you may already have no

password, and in that case skip this step).

- 4) Use the back button to go back to the "User Accounts ... Pick a task" page, then choose the "Change the way users log on or off" option.
- 5) Uncheck "Use Fast User Switching" and apply the change.

Your system should now go straight to your desktop.

Option 2: Automatically logon to a specific account. This is perhaps more useful as it lets you use apps which require user authentication (Window's "Scheduled Tasks" for instance). You do need to install an extra program from Microsoft here, but it's free and very useful anyway.

1) Go to Microsoft's PowerToys XP page:

<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/pro/downloads/powertoys.asp> and from the downloads column on the right get Tweak UI. Install it!

- 2) Run the newly installed app (it'll be on your start menu), and choose the "+" by "Logon" from the list on the left.
- 3) Select the "Autologon" sub-option.
- 4) Tick the "Logon automatically at system startup" check box, and fill in the required user name and password.
- 5) Click "OK" to save the changes and close Tweak UI.

Your system now instantly logs on itself. Note that you can still logoff which means other user accounts are still accessible.

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