

REMOVE OR RESET COMPUTER LOGON PASSWORD XP

1. Click Start...Control Panel...Click your User Account...
2. Delete the logon password.

ADMINISTRATOR ACCOUNT ENTRY

Shut down and reboot (hold down the CTRL key or hit F8 key repeatedly until the blue screen appears with the option to open in SAFE MODE. Select SAFE mode. Control panel and users account. Enter a password for administrator and get out and reboot.

IF above didn't work, try this:

1. Click START...Run and type in "control userpasswords2" without the quotes.
2. Select the account for which you wish to reset the password and click Reset Password.
3. Type in a new password...

Note 1: Some versions of XP Home don't allow this method of resetting the password. In this case, you must go to control panel ...Users Account and reset password there.

Note 2: Do not store the passwords for your computer or websites in a computer file. Rather, store them in an inconspicuous booklet that is easily accessible to you, but not obvious to anyone who just happens to sit down at your computer.

Note 3. If the above doesn't work for you. Do a system restore back to before you set the password. Then go to control panel, click user account and then click your user administrative account and select Remove Password.

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Lightweight Approaches: Resetting User Account Passwords

First, if you have access to any XP admin-level account on the machine in question, and need to gain entry to any other user account, the simplest method is via XP's built-in "userpasswords2" function: Click Start/Run, and in the Run box, type "control userpasswords2" without the quotes. A window will open showing you all accounts on the system. You can then use the "reset password" button to change any or all of the passwords on the system, even if you don't know the current password.

In some XP systems joined to Domains, and in some versions of XP Home, the direct approach of using "Control Userpasswords2" won't work. In these instances you have to edit the accounts conventionally via the Control Panel "User Accounts" applet, accessed from an admin-level account. This is less convenient, but still works fine.

The XP Help system and the Microsoft Knowledgebase both contain abundant additional information on this simplest form of resetting passwords. See these [articles](#) at Microsoft Service and Support

Heavy-Duty Password-Resetting Tools

Ironically, Linux offers perhaps the easiest way to reset any XP account's password, including the Administrator account. (In XP Home, the Administrator account is normally so well hidden that many XP Home users don't even know that their system has an Administrator account, but it does.)

The very best tool I've found is the free "[Offline NT Password & Registry Editor Bootdisk](#)." Even though its name says "NT," it actually works fine on NT, Win2K, XP Pro, and XP Home.

The tool can run from a floppy or CD, and is a series of highly automated scripts that lets you easily change the password of any user account on an NT/2K/XP box. You don't have to know the existing password to make the change, and the tool will even detect locked or disabled accounts and offer to unlock or re-enable them.

The "Offline NT Password & Registry Editor Bootdisk" is so well done that using it is often just a matter of accepting the defaults and hitting Enter when asked. But it's also flexible enough that you can break out of the automated process to accommodate whatever machine-specific idiosyncrasies you may encounter. Although the tool is almost two years old, the Web page still describes it as "very alpha," which I have to assume is the author's extreme programmatic conservatism because the software's never even hiccupped when I've used it. It's worked smoothly every time.

If the main site above doesn't have enough how-to information for you to use the "[Offline NT Password & Registry Editor Bootdisk](#)," this independent site has additional information.

A similar Linux-based tool is the Trinity Rescue Kit <http://trinityhome.org/trk/index.html> , based on Mandrake 9.1. Broader in scope than the "Offline NT Password & Registry Editor Bootdisk," the Trinity Rescue Kit "... is designed to rescue/repair/prepare dead or damaged systems, be it Linux or Windows. It has networking capabilities like SSH, samba, and FTP and supports about every network card, disk controller, and USB controller. You can use it to repair a Windows 2000 or Windows XP system by setting the chkdisk flag or editing the registry or just reset the administrator password (or any other user). You can even undelete files from an ntfs, ext2, or fat partition ..."

Both the above tools are self-contained: You boot to the tool's own environment and work from there on the affected system. A somewhat less-direct option is the LAN-based freeware "[NT Toolkit](#)", a small suite of utilities optimized for password administration via a local network. The tools of primary interest are ServiceSecure ("allows you to reset service passwords by specifying the username and password rather than having to specify the service names themselves or changing the password manually"), and Password Assistant ("a GUI application that lets you update passwords of user accounts on multiple Windows NT, Windows 2000, or Windows XP machines. A good example is updating the Administrator password on all of your network workstations.")

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