

Reset Administrator or any User password on Server 2008 or Win 7

I did some Googling and discovered this technique:

Boot from a server 2008, Win 7, or Vista install disk. Use the version for your operating system. IE 32 or 64 bit.

Choose **Repair** which opens a command prompt window.

Change to the Windows/System32 subdirectory on the partition with the operating system. Often on Win 7 or Server this will be drive D because it often creates a small 100 megabyte system partition.

Rename Magnify.exe to Magnify.sav

(This is an ease of access tool that shows up on the initial Windows log-on page.)

Copy cmd.exe to Magnify.exe.

Remove the disc and reboot the machine.

When the logon page appears, click on the Ease of access icon and choose Magnify, this opens a command prompt in Windows with administrative privileges.

Change to the C: or D: as needed /WINDOWS/System32 subdirectory.

You can now use the "**NET USER**" command to change any password and enable any account. This is a command line tool that basically allows you to modify any parameter of an account. See <http://support.microsoft.com/kb/251394> for details of its usage.

NET USER by itself displays all accounts.

NET USER username password changes password.

Close the Command Prompt and logon.

Eventually you will want to go back and rename the Magnify.sav tool if you want to use it and also to close that backdoor into the system.

All it needs is physical access to the computer and about 5 minutes of downtime, no special tools needed except an install disk. I even used the evaluation copy that came with the textbook.

YouTube has a number of videos showing how this works. Here is one:

<http://tinyurl.com/yzk26j3>