Windows Administration - Feature #672

Reset a Lost Administrator Password on Windows Server 2012

10/08/2015 08:30 PM - Daniel Curtis

Status:	Closed		**Start date:**	10/08/2015
Priority:	Normal		**Due date:**	
Assignee:	Daniel Curtis		**% Done:**	100%
Category:	User Management		**Estimated time:**	0.50 hour
Target version:	Windows Server 2012		**Spent time:**	1.00 hour

Description

I recently needed access to a Windows Server to administer the system, however the previous administrator failed to record the password anywhere and I am unable to get in touch with the previous admin. This is the procedure I used to reset the password.

- Reboot the system and press **F8** before Windows loads up, this will bring up a menu.

- From the menu select **Safe Mode with command prompt**.

- Once the command prompt appears, run:

```
secpol.msc
```

- When the Local Security Policy editor appears go to Account Policies -> Password Policy

- Click on the **Password must meet complexity** requirements then disable

- Then **Ctl + Alt + Del** and choose Change a Password

Registry Hack

Hiren's Boot CD is an excellent tool, however if you've accidentally cleared the password instead of changing it, this will prevent logging in to the server since blank passwords are not allowed.

- To fix this use an offline registry editor and modify the following registry key:

```
[HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\Lsa]
"LimitBlankPasswordUse"=dword:00000000
```

- Or from the command line while the system is running:

```
Reg.Exe add "HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\Lsa" /v LimitBlankPasswordUse
 /t REG_DWORD /d 1 /f
```

Resources

- http://www.yancylent.com/blog/2012/09/10/how-to-disable-password-complexity-requirements-in-windows-server-2012/
- http://superuser.com/questions/106917/remote-desktop-without-a-password
- http://www.speedguide.net/faq/how-to-connect-using-remote-desktop-without-a-password-435

History

#1 - 10/08/2015 08:31 PM - Daniel Curtis

- Status changed from New to In Progress

- % Done changed from 0 to 50

#2 - 03/12/2016 02:30 PM - Daniel Curtis

- Status changed from In Progress to Closed

#3 - 06/27/2016 11:33 AM - Daniel Curtis

- Description updated

- Status changed from Closed to In Progress

- % Done changed from 50 to 70

#4 - 06/04/2017 08:24 PM - Daniel Curtis

- Status changed from In Progress to Closed

- % Done changed from 70 to 100