

W3 Insights White Paper – P.A.S.S. Software Compatability Issues with Windows Vista.

HOW TO RUN PASS SOFTWARE ON VISTA

Microsoft Preamble:

User Account Control (UAC) is a new security component Windows Vista. UAC enables users to perform common tasks as non-administrators, called standard users in Windows Vista, and as administrators without having to switch users, log off, or use Run As. A standard user account is synonymous with a user account in Windows XP. User accounts that are members of the local Administrators group will run most applications as a standard user. Vista separates user and administrator functions to enhance the security of this new operating system.

To help prevent malicious programs silent installation and computer-wide infection, Microsoft developed the UAC feature for Windows Vista. Unlike previous versions of Windows, when an administrator logs on to a computer running Windows Vista, the user's full administrator access token is split into two access tokens: a full administrator access token and a standard user access token. During the logon process, authorization and access control components that identify an administrator are removed, resulting in a standard user access token. The standard user access token is then used to start the desktop, the Explorer.exe process. Because all applications inherit their access control data from the initial launch of the desktop, they all run as a standard user as well.

After an administrator logs on, the full administrator access token is not invoked until the user attempts to perform an administrative task.

Contrasting with this process, when a standard user logs on, only a standard user access token is created. This standard user access token is then used to start the desktop.

Important:

Because the user experience is configurable with the Security Policy Manager snap-in (secpol.msc) and with Group Policy, there is not solely one UAC user experience. The configuration choices made in your environment will affect the prompts and dialogs seen by standard users, administrators, or both.

What this means is that for PASS software to work successfully on a PC running Vista:

- The application needs to be elevated to run as an administrative application (Process 1 below);
- Prompt screens, requesting administrative approval should be disabled (Process 3 below);
- For software running across client machines on a network administrative approval mode may need to be disabled (Process 2 below).

Processes 1 & 3 apply to all versions of the software (Practitioner & Network). Process 2 is relevant to network PASS software only.

PROCESS 1: Mark an application to always run elevated (For PASS Practitioner & Network versions)

Microsoft Preamble:

When you want to run an application or process as elevated with the administrator access token but this has not been marked by the developer or identified by the operating system as an administrative application. Some applications, such as internal line-of-business applications or non-Microsoft products might require administrative rights but have not been identified as such. In this scenario, you mark an application to prompt user for consent, and if granted, run as an administrative application. The following procedure steps you through that process.

W3I TRANSLATION: for every version of PASS software to work successfully on a PC running Vista you need to run through the Process 1 steps below.

If you do not, then individual student profiling files **will not transfer** successfully for storage in the **Stu_Recs** folder. **Network software** may show **additional problems** with successful data transfer to the **PASS SCHOOL AUDIT.mdb** Access database file.

Note:

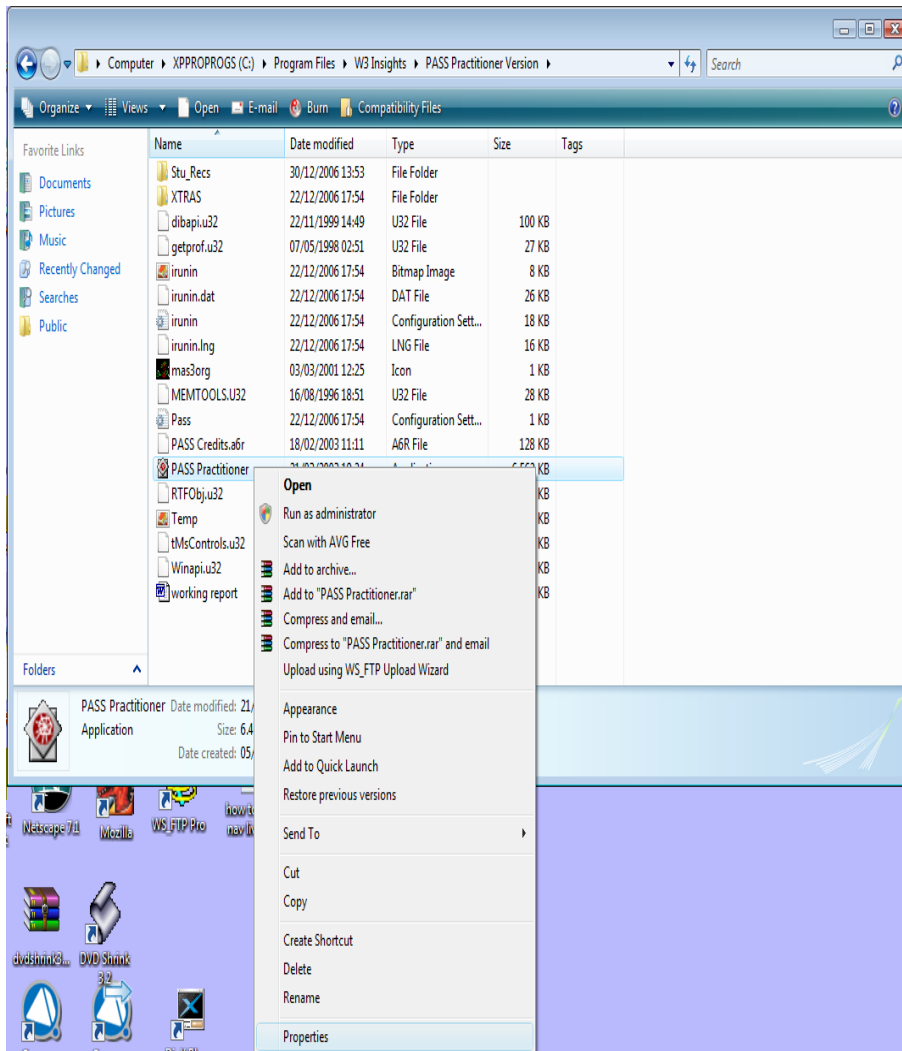
To perform the following procedure, you must be logged into a client computer as a member of the local administrators group. You cannot be logged in with the computer (or built-in) administrator account because Admin Approval Mode does not apply to this account.

Important:

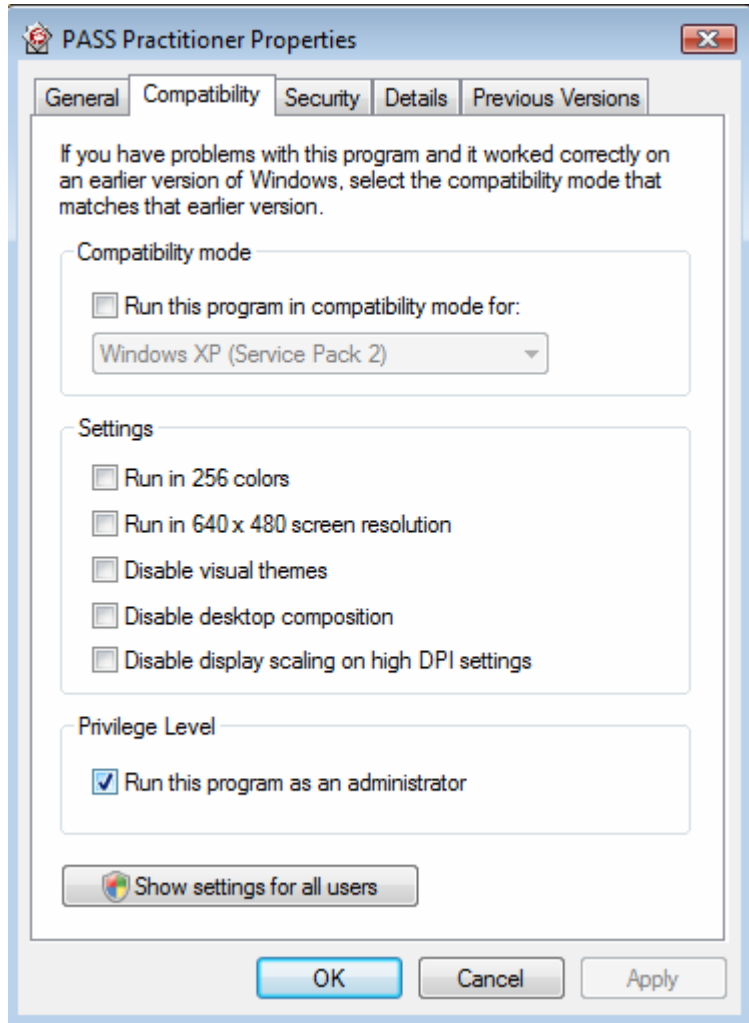
This procedure cannot be used to prevent UAC from prompting for consent to run an administrative application.

To mark an application to always run elevated

1. Right-click an application that is not likely to have been assigned an administrative token, such as PASS Practitioner (or its network equivalent) within c>Program Files> W3 Insights>PASS Practitioner Version



2. Click **Properties**, and then select the **Compatibility** tab.



3. Under **Privilege Level**, select **Run this program as an administrator**, and then click **OK**.

Note:

If the **Run this program as an administrator** option is unavailable, it means that the application is blocked from always running elevated, the application does not require administrative credentials to run, the application is part of the current version of Windows Vista, or you are not logged into the computer as an administrator.

NOTE:

NETWORK SOFTWARE USERS –should repeat this process both for their PASS Primary / Secondary Network PASS executable file & also for the client setup.exe file within the PASS installation folder.

STANDALONE SOFTWARE USERS (e.g. practitioner versions etc) should undertake this process only for their PASS standalone executable file within the PASS installation folder.

FURTHER DESIRABLE SETTING CHANGES

Outlined below are two common tasks that local administrators perform during the set up and configuration of client computers running Windows Vista. The following procedures step you through the tasks of disabling Admin Approval Mode and changing the elevation prompt behaviour.

PROCESS 2: Disable Admin Approval Mode

W3I TRANSLATION: for network users only. A configuration process to consider in the event of **software application crashes** or **data transfer problems** across the network.

Use the following procedure to disable Admin Approval Mode – useful for running software on client machines on a network. You **do not need** to do this if you are running the **PASS**

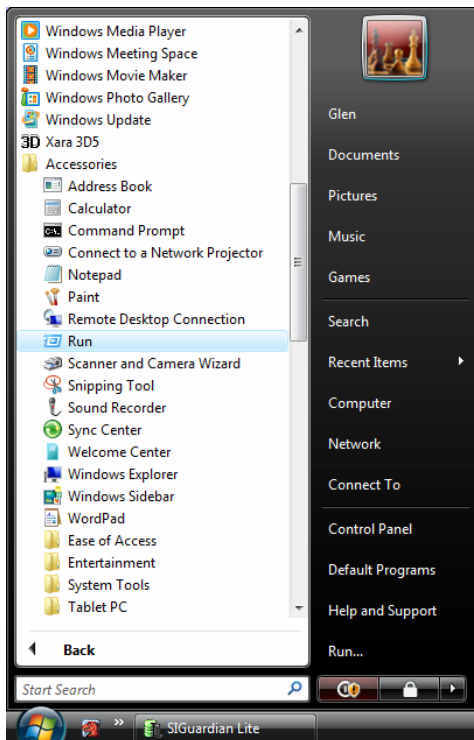
Practitioner version of the software.

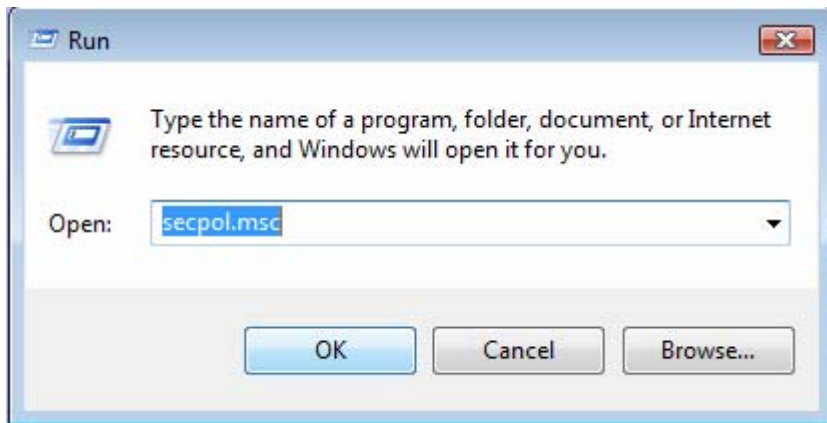
 **Note:**

To perform the following procedure, you must be logged into a client computer as a local administrator.

To disable Admin Approval Mode

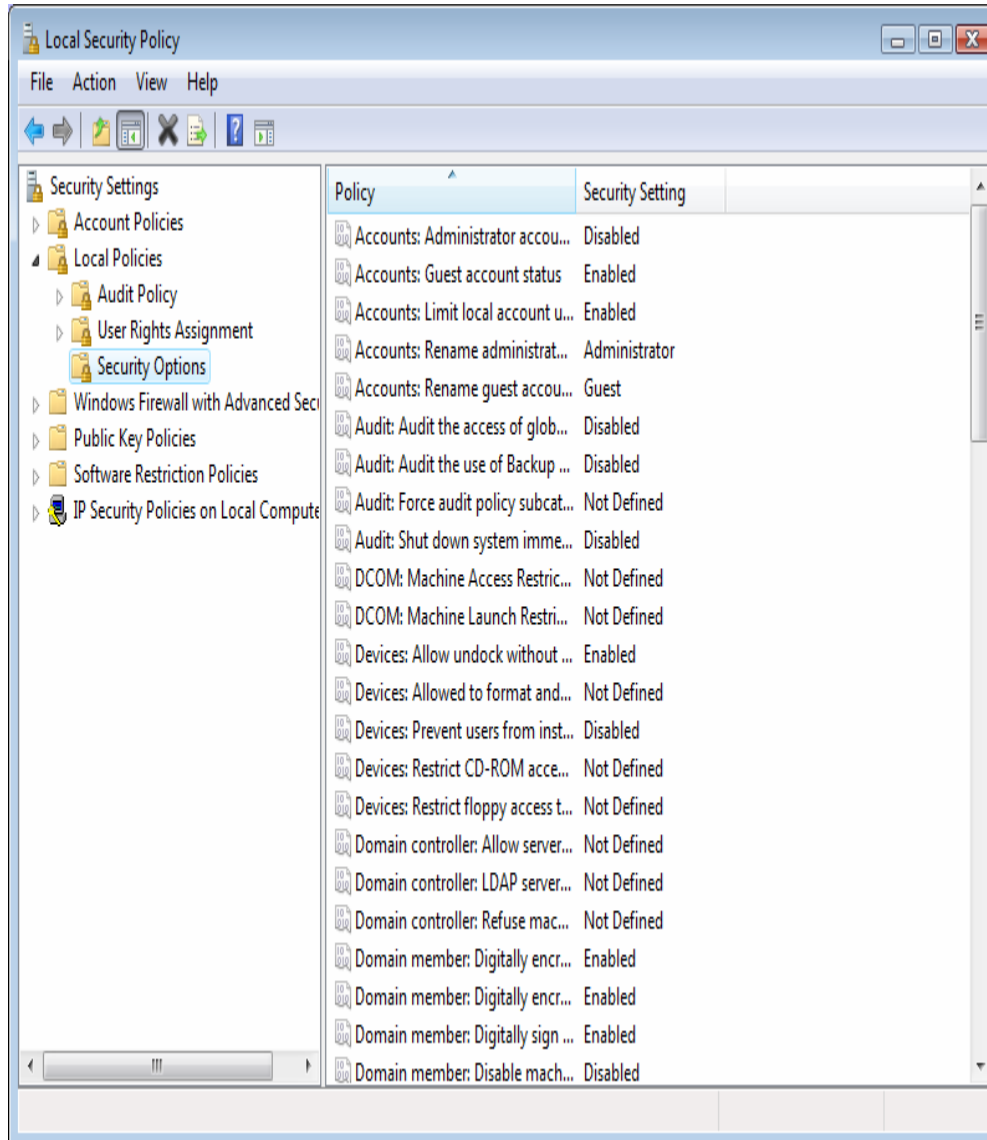
1. Click **Start**, click **All Programs**, click **Accessories**, click **Run**, type *secpol.msc* in the **Open** text box, and then click **OK**.



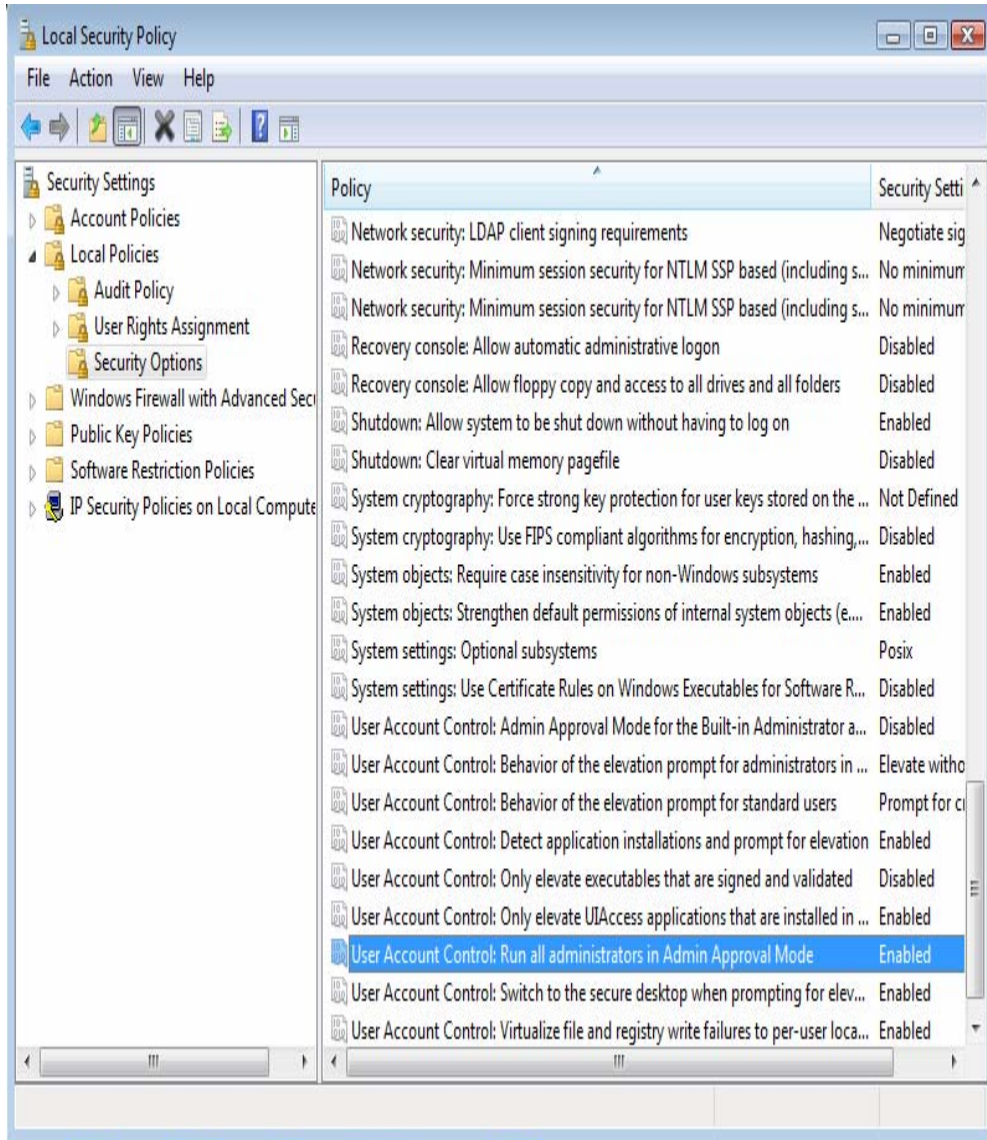


2. If UAC is currently active, a **User Account Control** dialog box will appear. If so, verify that the details presented match the request you initiated, and click **Continue**.

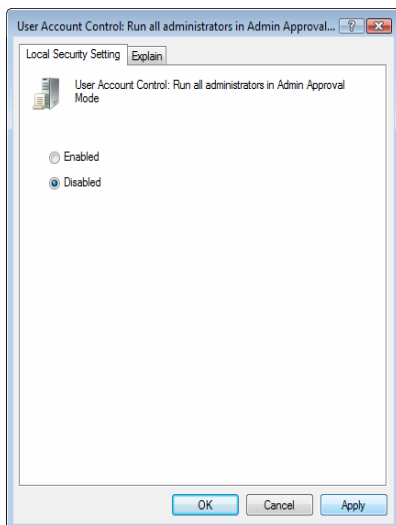
3. From the Local Security Settings console tree, click **Local Policies**, and then click **Security Options**.



4. Scroll down and double-click **User Account Control: Run all administrators in Admin Approval Mode**.



5. From the **User Account Control: Run all administrators in Admin Approval Mode Properties** dialog box, click **Disabled**, and then click **OK**. Close the **Local Security Settings** window.



NOTE:

Network users who experience problems **running the shortcut** on client machines or **data transfer issues** across their network should consider running Process 2 on the host server PC as part of the configuration and testing of PASS across their network. **Always ensure successful data transfer** to the PASS SCHOOL AUDIT.mdb file is **thoroughly tested** before undertaking larger scale school auditing.

Process 3: Change the elevation prompt behaviour

Use the following procedure to change the elevation prompt behaviour for UAC –a prompt screen that appears even if you mark a non-windows program to run as elevated.

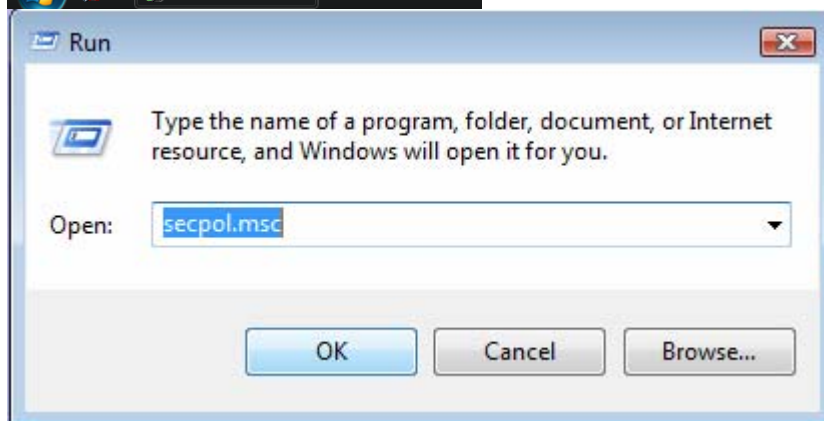
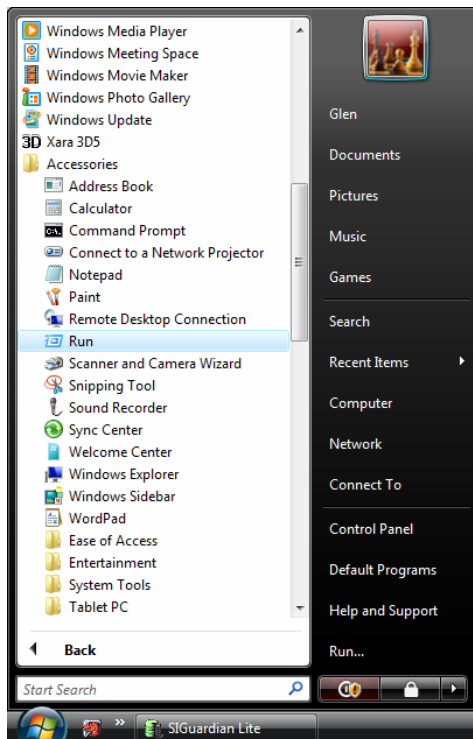
W3I TRANSLATION: for **every version** of PASS software you might want to run this process to reduce the number of unnecessary prompt screens as a student begins to undertake a PASS assessment.

 **Note:**

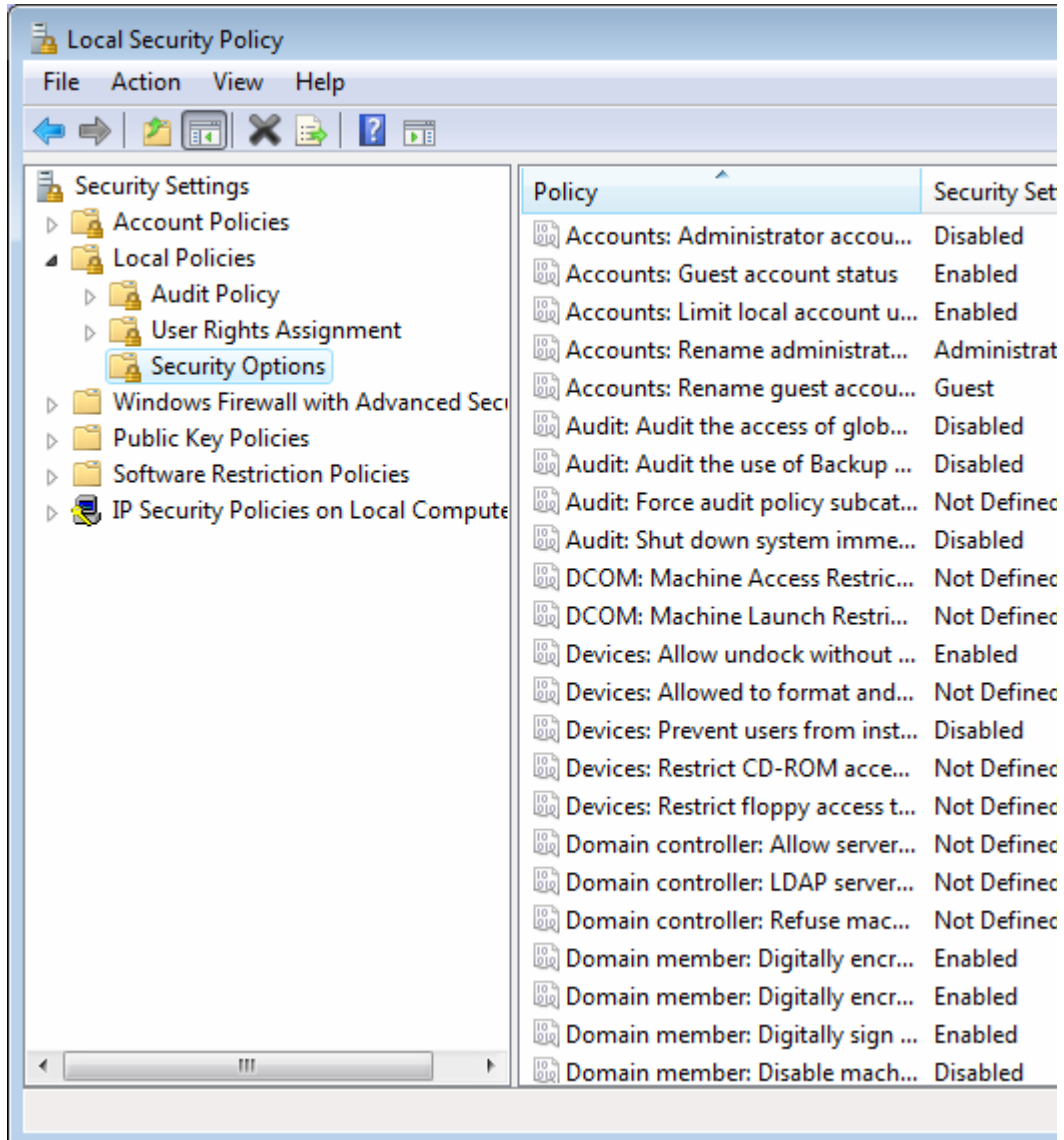
To perform the following procedure, you must be logged into a client computer as a local administrator.

To change the elevation prompt behaviour

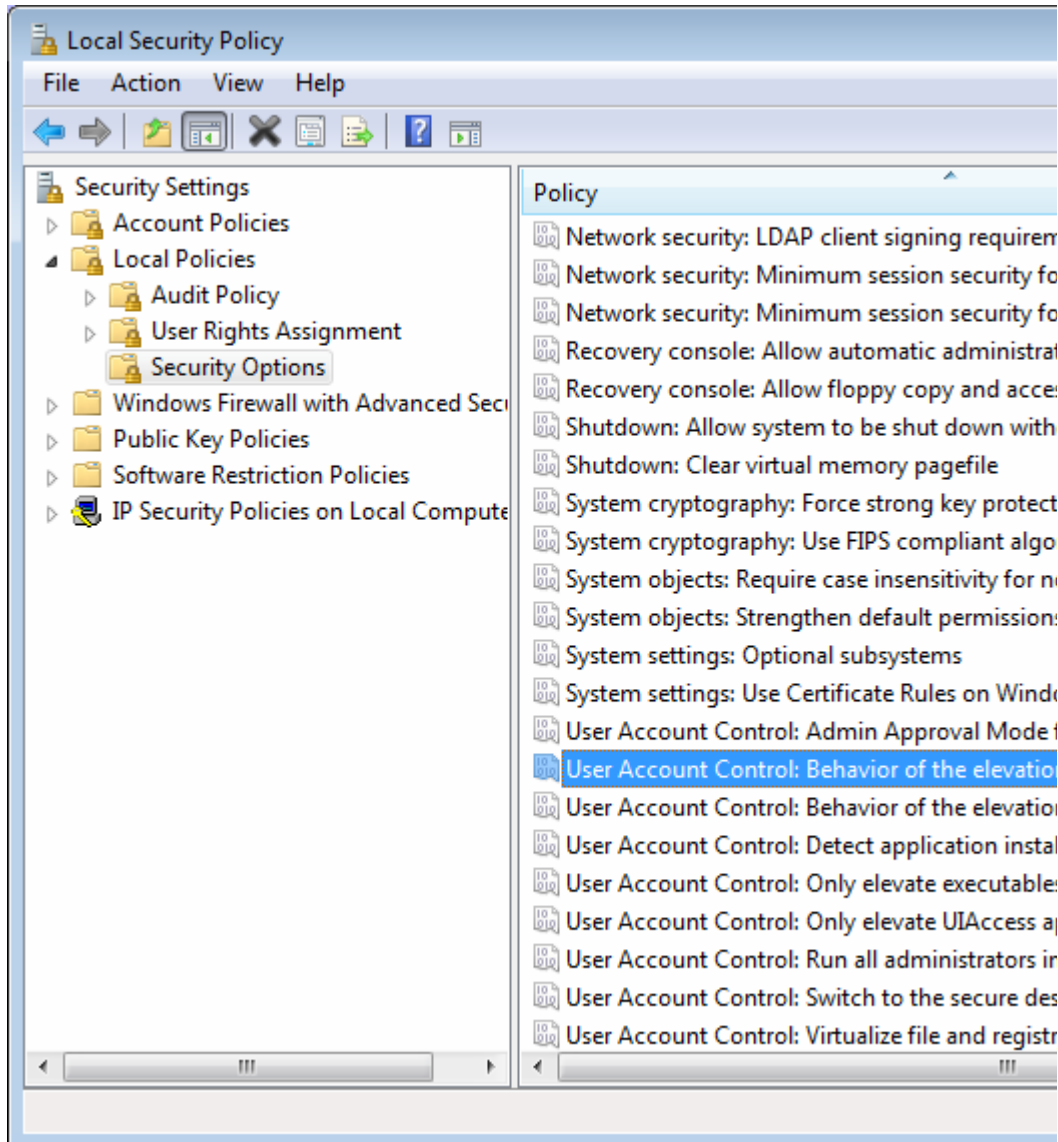
- 1 Click **Start**, click **Accessories**, click **Run**, type *secpol.msc* in the **Open** text box, and then click **OK**.



2 From the Local Security Settings console tree, click **Local Policies**, and then **Security Options**.

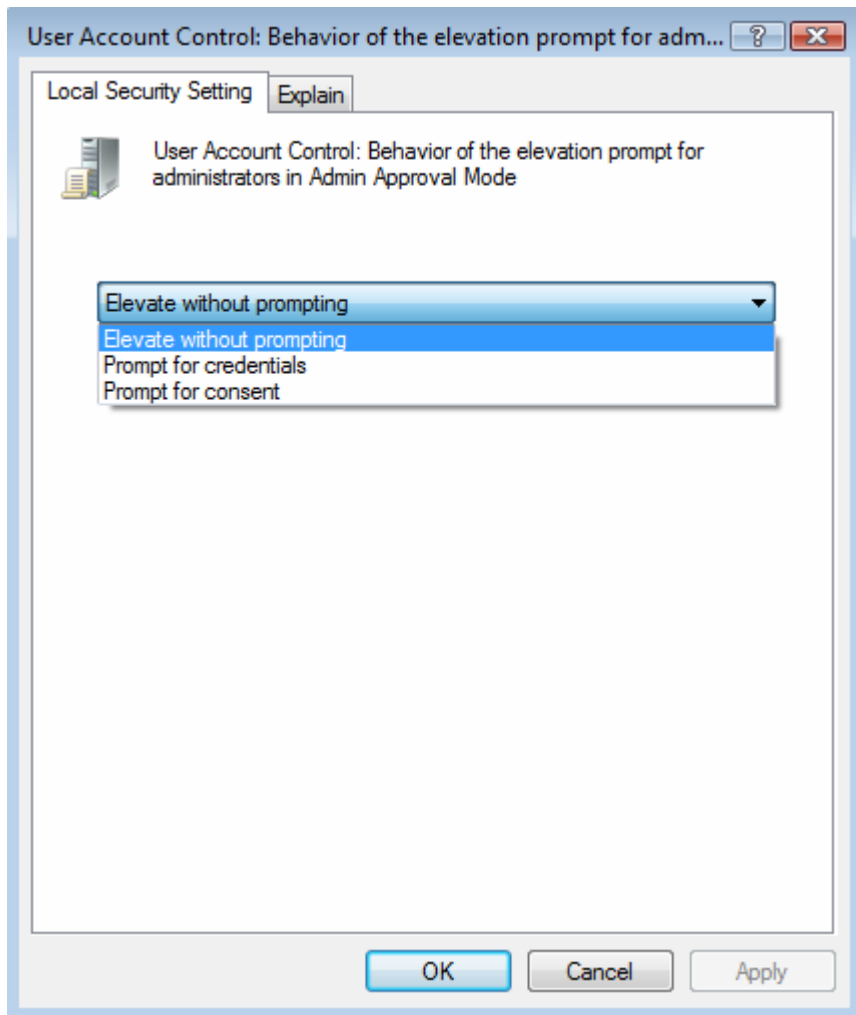


- 3 Scroll down to and double-click **User Account Control: Behaviour of the elevation prompt for administrators** or **User Account Control: Behaviour of the elevation prompt for standard users**.



4 From the drop-down menu, select one of the following settings:

- **No prompt**
- **Prompt for credentials** (this setting requires user name and password input before an application or task will run as elevated, and is the default for standard users)
- **Prompt for consent** (this is the default setting for administrators only)



5 Click **OK**.

6 Close the **Local Security Settings** window.

NOTE:

Although not essential, this last process ensures that pupils can easily run and complete their assessments without requests for technical support and questions regarding unexpected prompt screens. For this reason we would **suggest this** additional step for **both network and standalone PASS software users**.