Windows ConsentPromptBehaviorAdmin

This is the situation: you are logged on at a
Windows computer as administrator, and you wish
to make a configuration change. Up pops the UAC
(User account Control) and ask, 'If you started this
action, continue'. You must click on that 'Continue'
button before Windows completes your
configuration.

Default Situation for UAC and ConsentPromptBehaviorAdmin

New in Windows, is a security check whereby you need elevated rights before you can
make any changes. Normal behavior in Windows is that everyone operates with only
minimal user rights; yet if you really are the Administrator, then you can call for
elevated rights.

Frankly, if you are not in a sensitive security environment, then this UAC procedure is
a pain. Windows, drove me mad, so I sought a registry hack to remove the need to
click 'Continue' in the security box every time I need to make a configuration change.

Please note that if you don't want to use the registry to change the Windows UAC
behavior, Microsoft provide a Local Group Policy to suppress the UAC dialog box. See
here for details of how to control:

Instructions for Editing ConsentPromptBehaviorAdmin

If you want to go ahead and change the behavior of the Windows Security dialog
using the registry, this is how you alter ConsentPromptBehavior.

1. Launch regedit and navigate to:
    HKLM\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Policies\System
    Trap: When you navigate to :
    HKLM\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Policies\
    Beware, at first I overlooked the \System sub folder.
2. The default value is : "ConsentPromptBehaviorAdmin" = dword:00000002.
    This means: Display the UAC dialog
    box
3. Change to:
    "ConsentPromptBehaviorAdmin" =
    dword:00000000.
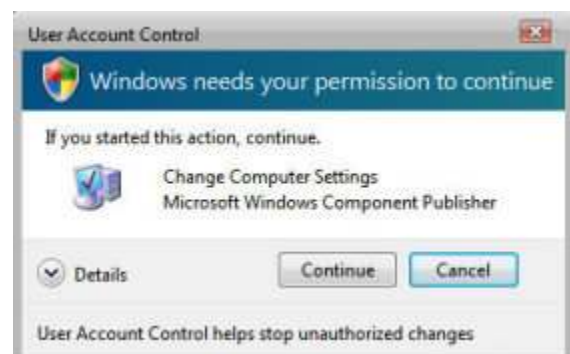
4. Setting the value of "ConsentPromptBehaviorAdmin" to zero bypasses the new UAC interface and the administrative task completes without further user interaction.
5. In Windows there is no need to even logoff, changes to "ConsentPromptBehaviorAdmin" are applied straight away.

Key Points

Do you find the ConsentPromptBehaviorAdmin value in HKCU** or HKLM?
Answer: HKLM

Should you add a value, or modify an existing setting?
Answer: Modify 00000002 --> 00000000

Is ConsentPromptBehaviorAdmin a String Value or a DWORD?
Answer: DWORD.

Do you need to Restart, or merely Log Off / On?
Answer: Neither. Changes to ConsentPromptBehaviorAdmin happen straight away.

Tip: Add this Value, ConsentPromptBehaviorAdmin to Regedit's Favorites menu
See more about Local System Policy and **UAC behavior**

Bonus Registry Hack - Turn off the notification that you disabled UAC

If you use the Control Panel or the Local Policy to control the UAC then you get a notification to warn you that the UAC has been turned off. What this registry hack does is disable that notification box.

Launch regedit and navigate to:
HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\CLSID\{FD6905CE-952F-41F1-9A6F-135D9C6622CC}

You have two choices, either disable or delete. If you go for the disable, then you could rename the key, for example {FD6905CE Notify}.

History of the UAC

UAC (User Account Control) was a hot topic in Windows Betas. Here is a short history of how this system evolved. Indeed, UAC may still be evolving in the sense that more and more people turn off the 'Continue' dialog box.

Build 5270

Incidentally, note the better graphics, for example the glowing 'Permit' button
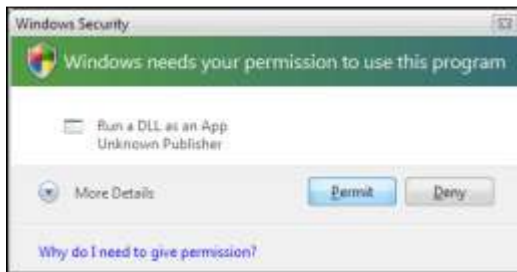
Build 5112

Decision to alter the behavior of User Account Control

Technically, when you want to perform an administrative action in Windows, the operating system switches tokens and asks you to confirm the action that is about to take place. The advantage of ConsentPromptBehavior is that it allows you to just click on a button which says 'Continue'. No more struggling with the pound, ampersand or whatever strange keystrokes your password requires.

Does ConsentPromptBehavior compromise the whole idea of extra security? Yes and No. Yes, if you leave your machine unlocked and some psycho takes advantage of an unattended machine. No, because it still protects you from rogue programs such as malware that are trying sneaky back door activities on your machine. If you are concerned about security then do not change either the registry or the local policy settings. If security is not paramount and you know who you where your real security enemies are, then go ahead, join me by removing this nagging UAC dialog box.

Summary of ConsentPromptBehaviorAdmin

Whenever you make a change to the Windows operating system that could compromise security, then up comes a UAC dialog box. If you are security conscious then you will applaud this measure, read the menu and click on 'Continue'. However if you are a developer or administrator in a secure environment, then you may decide to edit the registry or change the local policy and thus bypass this nagging menu.