

What is a user account?

A user account is a collection of information that tells Windows what files and folders you can access, what changes you can make to your computer, and what your personal preferences are, for example, your desktop background or screen saver. With user accounts, you can share a computer with several people, but still have your own files and settings. Each person accesses his or her user account with a user name and password.

There are three kinds of accounts, each of which gives users a different level of control:

- * Standard accounts are for everyday computing.
- * Administrator accounts provide the most control over a computer, and should only be used when necessary.
- * Guest accounts are intended primarily for people who need temporary use of a computer.
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