

# Enable the Hidden Administrator Account on Windows Vista

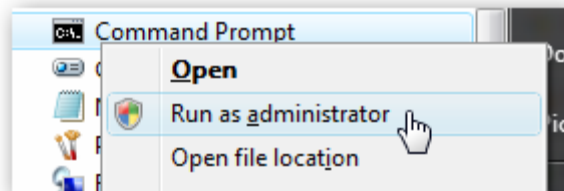
<http://www.howtogeek.com>

Many people familiar with prior versions of Windows are curious what happened to the built-in Administrator account that was always created by default. Does this account still exist, and how can you access it?

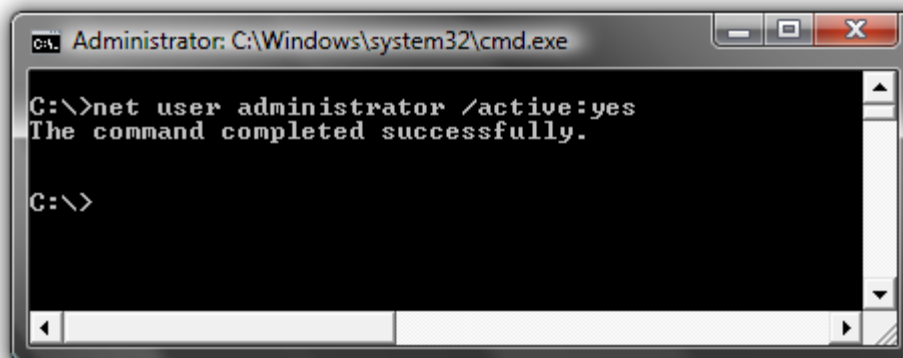
The account is created in Windows Vista, but since it's not enabled you can't use it. If you are troubleshooting something that needs to run as administrator, you can enable it with a simple command. Note: You really shouldn't use this account for anything other than troubleshooting. In fact, you probably shouldn't use it at all.

## Enable Built-in Administrator Account

First you'll need to open a command prompt in administrator mode by right-clicking and choosing "Run as administrator" (or use the Ctrl+Shift+Enter shortcut from the search box)



Now type the following command: **net user administrator /active:yes**



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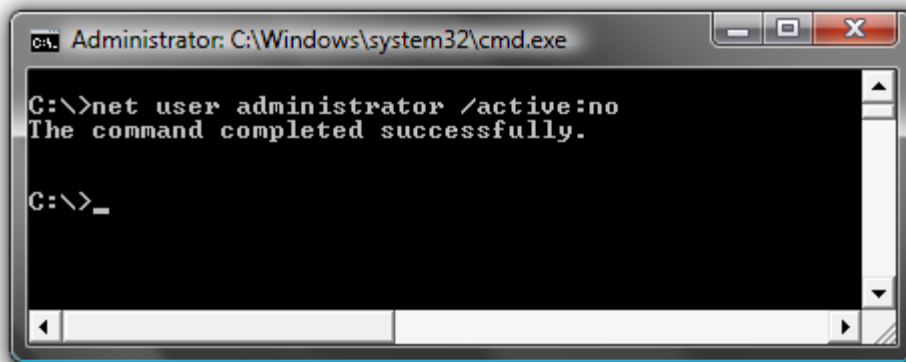
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You should see a message that the command completed successfully. Log out, and you'll now see the Administrator account as a choice. You'll note that there's no password for this account, so if you want to leave it enabled you should change the password.



## Disable Built-in Administrator Account

Make sure you are logged on as your regular user account, and then open an administrator mode command prompt as above. Type the following command: **net user administrator /active:no**



The administrator account will now be disabled, and shouldn't show up on the login screen anymore.