What is and how to Disable User Account Control (UAC)

User Account Control (or UAC) is included in Windows Vista, 8, 7 and 2008 to help prevent unauthorized changes to your computer. UAC notifies you when changes are going to be made to your computer that require administrator-level permission. These types of changes can affect the security of your computer or can affect settings for other people that use the computer.

When you are notified by UAC that there is a pending change to your computer, you should carefully read the contents of each dialog box before allowing changes to be made to your computer. It's usually safe to allow changes to be made to Windows settings without you being notified. However, certain programs that come with Windows can have commands or data passed to them, and malicious software can take advantage of this by using these programs to install files or change settings on your computer. You should always be careful about which programs you allow to run on your computer.

Starting on Windows 7, UAC settings got a slider to change the level of the notifications and allows you to choose one between the following four options:

Always notify - With this option, you'll be notified before programs make changes to your computer or to Windows settings that require the permissions of an administrator. When you're notified, your desktop will be dimmed, and you must either approve or deny the request in the UAC dialog box before you can do anything else on your computer. The dimming of your desktop is referred to as the secure desktop because other programs can't run while it's dimmed. This is the most secure setting, and is similar to what the Windows Vista UAC looked like.

Notify me only when programs try to make changes to my computer - You will be notified before programs make changes to your computer that require the permissions of an administrator. You will not be notified if you try to make changes to Windows settings that require the permissions of an administrator. Also, you will be notified if a program outside of Windows tries to make changes to a Windows setting. This is the default setting.

Notify me only when programs try to make changes to my computer (do not dim my desktop) - You will be notified before programs make changes to your computer that require the permissions of an administrator, and you will be notified if a program outside of Windows tries to make changes to a Windows setting.. However, you will not be notified if you try to make changes to Windows settings that require the permissions of an administrator. This setting is the same as "Notify only when programs try to make changes to my computer," but you are not notified on the secure desktop. Because the UAC dialog box isn't on the secure desktop with this setting, other programs might be able to interfere with the dialog's visual appearance. This is a small security risk if you already have a malicious program running on your computer.

Never notify - You will not be notified before any changes are made to your computer. If you are logged on as an administrator, programs can make changes to your computer without you knowing about it. If you are logged on as a standard user, any changes that require the permissions of an administrator will automatically be denied. This is actually somewhat similar to using Windows 7 in the permission model of Windows XP. This is the least secure setting. When you set UAC to never notify, you open up your

computer to potential security risks.

Personally, and unlike my recommendations on disabling UAC for Vista, I now think it's a good idea to leave UAC on if possible. Adjusting your notification options can make that a little easier to do.

If you do disable UAC, be aware of which programs you run as they'll have the same access to the computer as you do. This includes reading and making changes to protected system areas, your personal data, saved files, and anything else stored on the computer. Programs will also be able to communicate and transfer information to and from anything your computer connects with, including the Internet.

For detailed instructions on how to disable UAC, see below links for attached documents.

for [Windows Vista](#)

for [Windows 7](#)

for [Windows 8](#)

for [Windows 2008](#)

On all windows versions is required to restart the machine for the changes to be effective.