How to Recover Windows 7 Administrator Password

1. If you have a Windows System Repair Disk, you can reset a forgotten Windows administrator password. If you don't have a system repair disk but you have access to a blank cd and another Pc running Windows 7, you can create a Windows System Repair Disk using the following steps:

   Click the Start button and then in the "Search programs and files" box, type **system repair disc** and press enter. This launches a simple tool that will create a bootable recovery disc.

2. Put the system repair disc in the CD/DVD drive of your locked machine. Restart the computer. Watch for the screen to display "Press any key to boot from CD or DVD.". When you see this press a key and the computer should boot from the System Recovery cd that you created.

3. When the System Recovery Screen appears, choose this option: "Use recovery tools that can help fix problems starting Windows option". Click Next. On the next screen choose command prompt.

4. In the Command Prompt window, type these commands one by one in order to replace the sethc.exe (Sticky Keys application) with the Command Prompt (cmd.exe). Press enter after each line that you type.

   a. c:
   b. cd windows
   c. cd system32
   d. ren sethc.exe sethc.exe.bak
   e. copy cmd.exe sethc.exe

5. Close the command prompt by typing exit and pressing enter or by clicking on the x in the upper right hand corner of the command prompt window. Remove the system repair disc and restart your PC.

6. When you see the Windows 7 login screen, hit the Shift key 5 times and it will open the Command Prompt window.

7. To reset the password - just type the following command, replacing the username and password with the combination you want.

   net user *yourusername 123456*

   For example, if your user name is Bob and you want your new password to be spring123, you would type the following:

   net user Bob spring 123

8. Close the Command Prompt and you should be able to log into your PC using the new password.

9. When you have successfully logged in to Windows 7 you will need to rename the sethc.exe.bak back to sethc.exe. To do this, click **Start**, click All Programs, and then click Accessories. Right-click **Command prompt**, and then click Run as **administrator**. If the User Account Control dialog box appears, click yes, or allow, and then click Continue. At the command prompt type the following commands, pressing enter after each one.

    del sethc.exe
    ren sethc.exe.bak sethc.exe

10. Close the command prompt by typing exit and pressing enter or by clicking on the x in the upper right hand corner of the command prompt window. Remove the system repair disc and restart your PC.

That's it – you have successfully reset your forgotten Windows 7 password!

TIP - It would be a good idea at this point to create a Password Recovery drive to make it easier to reset the password if you forget it again. To create a password reset disk:

1. Insert a blank usb flash drive.
2. Open User Accounts by clicking the **Start** button, clicking **Control Panel**, clicking **User Accounts and Family Safety**, and then clicking **User Accounts**.
3. In the left pane, click **Create a password reset disk**, and then follow the instructions. Make sure you store the password reset disk in a safe place.

Note: You will need to create a new Password Recovery Drive each time you change your login password.