

Using Pro Tools with a Standard (Non-Administrator) Account

Pro Tools on Mac OS X allows the use of either administrator or standard accounts. Allowing Pro Tools to work with a standard account gives schools and other facilities with multiple Pro Tools users greater flexibility. It enables multiple engineers or students to work with Pro Tools while limiting their ability to install software or access local disk and server locations that should remain restricted.

Installation and Operation

Installation and operation of Pro Tools with a standard user account follows the same procedures presented in the Pro Tools Reference Guide, and other documentation. When installing and using Pro Tools, keep in mind the following:

- Pro Tools requires an Administrator for installation.
- Pro Tools lets users save their Pro Tools User Preferences separately. Individual versions of Pro Tools Preferences will be stored in each user's Home directory if they alter the existing Pro Tools Preferences.
- As with previous Pro Tools releases, users still have *global* Read/Write privileges on all Pro Tools related files and settings other than the Pro Tools user Preferences referenced above. However, users of Standard accounts will have their *file* Read/Write privileges limited by Mac OS X.

Saving Files With a Standard Account on Mac OS X

File Saving

Users of standard accounts on OS X with Pro Tools will be limited to saving sessions and audio files to folders within their Home directory.

Existing folders in a user's Home directory include:

- Documents
- Music
- Pictures
- Desktop

A typical workflow for standard account users is to write their Pro Tools files to their Documents folder.

Standard account users working with Pro Tools who try to Save a Session, Save an audio file, or Save Session Copy In will not be able to save a session unless they choose to write the file or files to one of the folder locations in their Home directory.

Saving files and recording on an internal drive will work for small- to medium-sized sessions. For larger sessions requiring many tracks and higher sample rates, external Firewire or SCSI drives may be required. Users requiring external drive access will need to ensure they have Read/Write permissions set to use these drives if logged in using a Standard account.

Setting Up a Standard Account for Pro Tools Users

When setting up Standard accounts for Pro Tools users, it is suggested that System Administrators set the Limits for the non-admin account to “No Limits.” If the account is restricted, users will encounter further restrictions than those covered above when they try to do any of the following:

- Create a new session
- Record audio or MIDI
- Process AudioSuite
- Export MIDI
- Save session
- Save session as
- Bounce to disk
- Create fades
- Change playback engines
- Change disk allocation
- Use “AutoSave”

Known Issues

Usage Limitations with Third-Party Plug-Ins

Some third-party RTAS plug-ins (such as some instrument plug-ins) cannot be used when users are logged in with non-administrator accounts due to issues with their copy protection. If you experience problems, check with the plug-in manufacturer.

Opening a Session with a QuickTime Movie as a Standard Account (Non-Admin) User Can Prevent the Movie from Playing Back (Item #47053)

If you open a session as a Standard account user and you do not have permissions for the QuickTime movie file, Pro Tools will tell you that the movie file cannot be found and prompt you to relink. In the Relink window, the movie can be found and Pro Tools will appear to relink to it but it will still not play back. For correct playback, make sure you have permission to use the QuickTime movie file.