

## Re: Networked Office

**Source:** <http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Office/microsoft.public.office.setup/2004-07/0729.html>

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**From:** Sarah Tanenbaum ([sarahtanenbaum\\_at\\_yahoo.com](mailto:sarahtanenbaum_at_yahoo.com))

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Date: Thu, 22 Jul 2004 11:29:47 -0400

"AndyC" <[andyc69@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:andyc69@tiscali.co.uk)> wrote in message  
news:#NlrWq9bEHA.2660@TK2MSFTNGP12.phx.gbl...  
>  
> "Sarah Tanenbaum" <[sarahtanenbaum@yahoo.com](mailto:sarahtanenbaum@yahoo.com)> wrote in message  
> news:2m8lp5Fk4fk8U1@uni-berlin.de...  
>> Forgive me if I was mistaken.  
>>  
>> Let me rephrase my understanding of your(MS) solution:  
>>  
>> I- I put all the executable file as well as dll on the server to share  
> with  
>> other workstation without  
>> copying any exec and/or dll file on the workstation.  
>  
> Almost correct. You create an Administrative Install on the server with:  
>  
> `msiexec /a office.msi`  
>  
> This creates the correct folder structure for the server. No files are  
> copied to the workstation.

Sure, but you have to do this for all the workstation, is that correct?  
Imagine if you have to do this install 1000+ times.  
Why can I just install all the file in the server and executed in the  
workstation.

Another thing is that it needs administrator installation, why? Again,  
you are simulating workstation installation but using the network drive.  
That's not the same thing.

>  
> You then use the Office Custom Installation Wizard to configure the way  
you  
> want the Office installation done. In your case this would involve  
selecting  
> "Run from the Network" for all options. However it's perfectly valid to  
mix

- > *and match if, for example, you wanted Powerpoint installed locally or*
- > *Outlook to install locally on first use etc.*

If this is a SMART and TRUE Network Apps, I will be able to execute the apps as regular user where then I can customized whatever I want e.g. location of my personal template, my document directory, etc.etc.

And, it should not need an administrative priviledge! Again, if it does not need to copy or put something in the workstation, why administrative installation has to be performed?

- >
- > *You then save the .mst file in your server's shared office folder* (referred
- > *to from here on in as \\server\office)*
- >

What happen if you have many users access it? How's the application manage to keep each user to its own space?

- > > *2– I just create a shortcut and registry setting and voila I can ran the*
- > > *office apps?*
- > > *PS: I'd like to see the scripts that create those shortcut(don't need*
- > > *the shortcut, I'd like to just*
- > > *execute it directly from the network–attached directory) and*
- > > *registry setting(what setting do*
- > > *I need?)*
- >
- > *Depending on your environment you can do this one of two ways:*
- >
- > *1) If you have Active Directory, just create a GPO containing the Office*
- > *package with the .mst transform you created earlier and assign it to the*
- > *relevant Organisational Unit.*

Why do I have to go this trouble? I thought that all I need is install the apps in the file server, attach the drive to the workstation, and all users on all workstations can just execute the apps. No fuss.

What's so hard to do that? The point is that it is not necessary to even need AD to control it, or GPO to control it. If you need to change permission on the file, change it on the server and all those 10000+ workstation can see it right away.

Again, you are avoiding the issues.

>  
> 2) *Alternatively, run the msiexec utility from a startup script or similar  
> method, again applying the relevant transform. Something like this should  
do  
> the trick:*  
>  
> *msiexec /i \\server\Office\office.msi  
> TRANSFORM=\\server\Office\my\_office\_transform.mst /qb  
>  
> This will create the appropriate registry information and Windows  
Installer  
> shortcuts for the setup you decided upon in your Custom Installation. If  
you  
> don't want the shortcuts you can always opt to omit them in your .mst  
file,  
> although I don't really see and advantage in that.*

Oh my! How many more step that you have to do in the workstation?  
I thought that you want to show me that nothing has to be done on the  
workstation,  
period.

This process is just as time consuming and prone to error as installing from  
a pre-packaged  
CD's 1000 times(all workstations).

>  
> > *3- Just to be sure! NO INSTALLATION PROCESS ON THE WORKSTATION AND NO  
> > EXEC and DLL files COPIED TO WORKSTATION?  
> >  
> > Are those correct! If they are, please forgive me, but I can bet that  
was  
> > not the case!*  
>  
> *Yes that is correct. EXE or DLL files are only copied to the local  
> workstation if you request it in your installation. One possible caveat to  
> this is that Office 2003 has a few .NET optional extras (programmer  
support  
> IIRC) which have to be installed locally if you want them (because of the  
> way .NET Code Access Security works), although 99% of people probably  
don't.*

AndyC, you got to admit there are room for major overhaul of how those  
office apps  
run and installed.

My point is, why can I just install the application in the file server and  
execute that apps  
in the workstation network drive! Its just as easy as that.

No administration headache.

Centralize apps administration

Patch and upgrade will be done only on the file server(instant upgrade for ALL workstation)

And many other ....

>

> *AndyC*

>

>