

Re: Determining Permission Inheritance

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 - *Date:* Wed, 17 Oct 2007 00:23:39 -0600
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"Kevin Sinclair" <Kevin.Sinclair@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message news:E70128E2-729F-45A9-8354-45AB21A3FEEA@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

I have a very large shared folder, 68GB – 10,000 sub-folders – 115,000 files.

For the past few years permissions on this share have been controlled by the share owner. Needless to say the permissions are a mess, there were no groups created so users have been added directly to folders at various levels. I have been tasked with cleaning up the mess with very minimal impact to the users.

I feel your pain...

I tried writing a script to determine permissions using <see below> but, due to the size of the share, the script isn't practical. I need to write a script that can look at inheritance and output a list of permissions that are not being inherited from the parent. Basically something that shows me where permissions are explicitly granted. Is this possible or am I stuck with an impossible task?

No, just a difficult one that may not be doable without some pain for your users.

But first, consider this: the existing permissions are a mess; but do they represent **exactly** the share owner's intent? he might like to think so, but I seriously doubt it.

A more rational approach might be to involve the owner in a discussion about who needs what type access to which folders. If he can do this generically,

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then you could apply a whole new and structured permissions layout, and forget about the mess that is there now.

Of course, the permissions will have been inherited and changed by moving folders around indiscriminately, so it might also be good to have the owner consider a more rational folder hierarchy that is simpler to apply permissions to.

You might then even have the luxury of identifying folders of interest, moving them to a completely new location, and permitting them as required. Yes, this will impact users whose shortcuts will break. But in the long run they will benefit from a more manageable setup.

I am currently facing a similar problem, but on a much smaller scale. Fortunately, most permissions are to groups, but the structure is messy. Each folder may be permitted to up to 15 different groups, each of which have permissions on many other folders as well. Makes it very hard to add one new person to one folder without inadvertently giving them access elsewhere.

I could convert this mechanically to the model I normally use: one-to-one relationship between folders and "resource permission" groups, and then populate these groups with the same groups currently having direct permissions. I hesitate, because I suspect the result would only be a simpler model of an unrealistic combination of permissions.

And, before you ask, no, I have not developed a script to help me analyze the current structure. The reason is that the current structure is a mess, and not likely as it should be. So I basically use cacls.exe on selected groups of folders to see what is currently what.

/Al

```
SE_DACL_PRESENT = &h4  
ACCESS_ALLOWED_ACE_TYPE = &h0  
ACCESS_DENIED_ACE_TYPE = &h1
```

```
FILE_DELETE = &h010000  
FILE_READ_CONTROL = &h020000  
FILE_WRITE_DAC = &h040000  
FOLDER_ADD_FILE = &h000002
```

Thanks in Advance.

Kevin

