

Re: Rename Administrator.WORKSTATION folder?

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Win2000/microsoft.public.win2000.general/2004-10/1169.html>

From: Dave Patrick (mail_at_Nospam.DSPatrick.com)

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You didn't format the drive before the reinstall. These articles may help.

<http://support.microsoft.com/?id=314045>

<http://support.microsoft.com/?id=296834>

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Regards,

Dave Patrick ...Please no email replies - reply in newsgroup.

Microsoft Certified Professional

Microsoft MVP [Windows]

<http://www.microsoft.com/protect>

"Galan" wrote:

| I'd just finished doing a fresh install of 2KPro, all the drivers and
| apps and everything. It was 5:00 AM.*

| Right! So I deliver the box, plug it all in, hit the power and it
| ...BLUE SCREENS! WTF! It's self destructed a chunk of the registry and
| Repair "can't find" a Windows 2000 installation. (Mumbles something
| about forgetting to do the ERD thing...**)

| Right! I got the custom built, bootable 2K CD-R right there with all the
| drivers and apps, so I'll just reinstall everything.

| Tooling right along, it totally wipes the WINNT directory tree, no
| problem there, reinstalling all... It overwrites things in the Program
| Files tree, leaving things not part of 2k alone. That's good.

| Then I notice that instead of simply overwriting or blowing away the
| Documents and Settings tree, it's created Administrator.WORKSTATION All
| Users.WORKSTATION and Default User.WORKSTATION folders. I figure, "Eh,
| must be like how 9x offers to do a reinstall into windows.000, except 2K
| doesn't offer a choice, it just *bloody well goes and does it without
| asking!*" Oh well, it'll work, no worries, right? I'll just delete the
| old ones..."***

| WRONG!

| I've run into some programs, among them Netscape 7.2, that absolutely
| cannot handle the Administrator folder being named anything but
| Administrator. It will not finish installing so it won't run.

| So, now that you know how I got into this situation (with *help* from
| "Choices? You don't get choices!" 2K Pro install, how do I fix it so

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those three folders can have the .WORKSTATION amputated from their names?

I've dug through the Registry and found that the Administrator folder is NOT referenced in any Values, just Data attached to Values, so that could be edited to point to a new Administrator folder, except there are files in that subtree it won't allow to be copied. The All Users and Default User subtrees CAN be fully copied, but those two are referenced multiple times in Values, which cannot be edited with regedit.

Soooo, how do I fix this short of "nuke and pave"? (Again!)

How about a little "Repair/Rename Administrator and User Folders and all Registry References" program? It'd show all those folders under Documents and Settings, with checkboxes by the ones you wish to fix, which activate edit boxes to enter the new names. Clicky the Restart button and watch it work the magic during boot before 2000 locks things down? (Like how the BEST defragger for 2000 and XP, O&O Defrag, takes care of the MFT and other exclusively locked files.)

*Had to fight for a while with a hard drive that was pulled from a new HP cheap-PC, and you know the dirty nasty things HP, Compaq etc often do to their drives to try and keep you from simply using them in a new box. "NTLDR is missing"! Zero fill, baby, ZERO FILL! (For several hours...)

**It _was_ 5:00 AM, remember! :P

***How about fixing this with SP5 so that when I make streamlined install CDs, this little "issue" of creating these other default folders _never happens again_? Or at least give users the CHOICE to use the existing folders!