

Re: Roaming Profiles Slow with Windows 2003 and XP

Source:

http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Win2000/microsoft.public.win2000.setup_deployment/2004-12/0150.html

From: NIC Student (*nospam_at_nospam.land*)

Date: 12/28/04

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Hi Mike,

Thanks for the info. From what you said, the name resolution doesn't seem to be a problem although it certainly still makes me suspicious.

If you create a new user and set them up for roaming profiles is the logon time slow?

I wonder what is getting replicated that is taking so long. Oli posted an excellent blurb last year at this time. I'll just post his remarks below (I'm sure he won't mind) – please review the "common mistakes" that he mentioned.

Good luck,

Scott

>*From 12/23/2003 Oli Restorick*

<snip>

Mistakes I've seen others make with roaming profiles are:

- * Setting the profile path to be the same as the home directory. As the user starts to put documents in their his home directory, they are all copied back and forth between the server and workstation at each logon and logoff.
- * Not redirecting My Documents out of the profile (use group policy for this).
- * Not limiting the size of profiles. Group Policy (and System Policy before it) have policies for restricting the size of profiles. An example that comes to mind is a user copying a 100Mb video file to his desktop and then wondering why his login was very slow across a 2Mb leased line. You also need to educate your users that storing documents on the desktop is a bad thing (or stop them doing it with file ACLs).
- * No consistency between workstations. I have always recommended putting effort into developing a workstation build process. The more automated the

better and the less the workstation is the result of the personal preferences of the techie who build the machine the better. If all the program shortcuts and locations are different between machines you can expect hiccups. If your environment has every version of Windows ever released then you can't expect to have a good time with profiles.

* Keeping the Office templates stored in c:\program files\microsoft office\templates. There are some ADM files in the Office Resource Kit. Use them. You might be surprised by the number of user preferences that are stored here.

As I mentioned above, roaming profiles go hand in hand with folder redirection. Don't even think about deploying roaming profiles without also deploying folder redirection.

If you have a lot of programs that store their user settings in HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE, then you are going to see problems when users roam. These problems are the fault of the software vendor. Don't let them tell you otherwise and don't let them tell you that the registry is the cause of the problem. It's their lack of understanding as programmers that is the problem. I still see far too many dumb software vendors storing user preferences here.

If you have a lot of slow WAN links in your environment you may not like user profiles.

A while ago, traditional roaming profiles were being portrayed as being passe. The story was that you could just redirect all the folders using roaming profiles to achieve the same effect. To my mind, that's just not true. You lose all the user settings that are stored in HKEY_CURRENT_USER. If your users are happy reconnecting Outlook to their Exchange mailbox when they log into a new machine for the first time then it may not be a problem. However, if you suspect that they will put a call into the helpdesk then simple file redirection without roaming profiles is probably not for you.

Also, be aware that some programs store files in the profile directory.

Of course, with properly-implemented roaming profiles and an automated workstation build (automation is more valuable for creating consistency than raw speed, in my opinion, although both are valuable) replacing a failed computer is generally as simple as just replacing the box and logging the new user in.

If the reason for failure is a hard disk failure then you have saved your user losing all his profile settings and possibly some of his documents.

Above all, though, you need to ensure your techies have a good understanding of profiles and things like the "User Shell Folders" registry key. Also, be aware that the "Local Settings" folder doesn't (or shouldn't) roam with the profile. Things like the Outlook Express mail store live in here. Other applications, especially those that store large user-specific files, may be putting things in here.

Hope this helps

Oli

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Scott Baldrige
Windows Server MVP, MCSE
"Mike Bazelon"
> Thanks for the reply.  The max logon load the server would get is only if
> all
> 28 workstaions log on at the same time.  The lab is a closed environment
> unto
> itself.  I can ping my server (which is also storing the profiles) by name
> and by IP with a normal response time.  I am not redirecting any other
> data.
>
> Thanks,
>
> Mike
>
> "NIC Student" wrote:
>
>> Hi Mike,
>>
>> A few thoughts:
>>
>> Is your file server busy with the logon load?  With only 28 workstations
>> I
>> doubt it, but I thought I'd ask.  It's not shared off a workstation or
>> something is it?  Have you also redirected other data at the same time?
>>
>> Can you ping the file server location where you redirected the profile?
>> Can
>> you ping by both name and ip?  Look for a name resolution issue..
>>
>> --
>> Scott Baldrige
>> Windows Server MVP, MCSE
>>
>>
>> "Mike Bazelon"
>> >I have recently setup a new 2003 standard server in a school with 28 XP
>> >Pro
>> > workstations.  I setup roaming profiles, but I am finding that logon is
>> > very
>> > slow.  I did check my DNS and my server name does appear with the right
>> > IP
>> > address.  The slowness only started after roaming profiles were
>> > introduced.
>> > Any suggestions???
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