

Offline Files and Folders – MADNESS!

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- *From:* Timothy J. Trace <tim@xxxxxxxxxxxxx>
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Greetings,

I am having two issues with Offline Files and Folders (client-side caching). Can you assist?

The workstation is a Windows XP SP2 notebook which is not a domain member. The server(s) are Windows 2003 SP1 running on a native 2k3 AD. I use a local profile on the workstation. I've used Manage My Network Passwords to map an appropriate domain account to the local profile.

Multiple drive letters are mapped using Windows Explorer, Reconnect at Login is checked and alternate credentials are not specified in the Map Network Drives dialog. The drives are tagged "Make available offline."

On the servers, the shares are set to "Only the files and programs that users specify will be available offline."

2 of the mapped drives connect to shares on the domain controller. 1 of the mapped drives connects to a share on a member server.

My Documents, the Windows Desktop, Favorites, Document Templates, and the My <media> folders are redirected to one of the mapped drives via local login script. The registry values used are all under HKCU\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer\User Shell Folders .

User and machine scripts are set to run synchronously via local policy. The wait for the network at logon, and subfolders always available offline policies are enabled. The do not automatically make redirected folders available offline policy is disabled.

Everything appears to work fine most of the time. I can perform multiple disconnects/reconnects, and synchronizations, almost always without difficulty.

The first problem is that, with no trigger which I've been able to detect, I will suddenly lose access to files cached from the domain controller, after a seemingly random number of restarts when disconnected from the network.

That share is the user folder, and contains the redirected Windows Desktop folder, so the problem is easily detected when Explorer has finished loading, and the Windows Desktop is

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devoid of my icons and subfolders. Another key is that the Favorites menu in IE is blank.

Interestingly enough, I retain access to files which have been modified since the last synchronization, and to all of the files cached from the member server. But WINDOWS\CSC seems to be cleared of the unmodified files cached from the domain controller. I've checked the folder from a Windows PE boot, and it certainly appears as if those files have been deleted from the disk.

Any ideas on how to alleviate this problem?

The second problem is, that when the system boots in a disc