

Re: User name assigned to a new profile!

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Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.general/2008-10/msg00711.html>

- *From:* "spamlet" <spam.morespam@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Fri, 3 Oct 2008 22:59:44 +0100
-

"Nepatsfan" <nepatsfan@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:uZh7k2IJHA.3936@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

"spamlet" <spam.morespam@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in
message
news:%23LL66%23yIJHA.3816@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

"spamlet"
<spam.morespam@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
wrote in message
news:OcbhzPxIJHA.3708@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Hi,

This seems a similar
problem to that noted by
Bea below: as yet
unanswered. (Is something
going around?)

Old Dell laptop, XPHome.

On logging out of one
profile and logging back on
in my normal
(administrator) one,
'userenv' in event log says a
'temporary'
profile
was substituted, and it
would disappear on logging
out. Not a bit of
it!

Now all I get after log on is

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the blue basic dell screen
and a
handful
of standard desktop icons.

Windows explorer shows
that my folders and files are
still there, but
I
cannot find any way to
reassociate them with my
user id, which now
seems
to be permanently
referenced to this unwanted
empty new one.

There are still NTUser.dat
and NTUser.dat.log files in
the 'real me'
folder, and the former is still
a good 6meg full of data.
The first
lines of these two files seem
to share a similar structure
and
relationship to those on my
pc profiles, yet they seem to
be being
ignored in the log on
process, even though I am
still getting in with
the same userid and
password!

The 4 userenv messages
went like this:

Unable to load registry: the
process cannot access the
file because
it
is being used by another
process for..... \ntuser.dat

Windows cannot load the
locally stored profile.
Possible causes of
this
error include insufficient
security rights or a corrupt

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local
profile.
Detail – The process cannot
access the file because it is
being used
by
another process.

Windows has backed up this
user's profile [WHERE?]
Windows will
automatically try to use the
backed up profile the next
time the user
logs on.

Windows cannot find the
local profile and is logging
you on with a
temporary profile. Changes
you make to this profile will
be lost when
you log off.

Well thanks a bunch!

I don't know my way round
Home very well, and can't
see how to bring
up
dialogues that would enable
me to take ownership of my
own folders
again. There seems to be no
'use simple file sharing' tick
box to
untick
and get a security tab
detailing the permissions
and inheritance
situation/ownership etc. And
when I try to change
attributes on my
real
files from read only – which
they all seem to have been
rebranded –
back
to normal, the change does
not stick (though they can
be deleted).

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Userpasswords and
userpasswords2 via run both
show 'only one' me, and
still as an administrator, but
I cannot see how to get it to
stop
using
the 'new profile' and go back
to the proper one!

Even more confusingly,
there is another user, who
just has a limited
account, but still signs in
with a user name and
password via ctrl
alt
del. Yet he does not get a
mention on user accounts at
all, in either
control panel or
userpasswords! He also used
to show up on the
welcome
screen but not now! Where
is his account?

A final odd thing is that
when I went to tried a
system restore, I
found
this had been turned off,
though I have no
recollection of having
done
this – and would consider it
madness to do so! When I
turned it on,
the
event log duly registered it,
but, looking right back
through the
log,
there is no entry to say it
was ever turned off!

Digging a little deeper, and
right clicking for the
properties sheet
of

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'the new me's' 'my documents', I find my whole new package is in a Temp folder c:\documents and settings\temp. If I just empty this, will my logon revert to the proper files?

Even then, I still would not know where the limited account user's details are and why they don't register in UA or userpasswords!

How can I go about getting my proper files reassociated with my user id, and having all of the users on the machine properly represented in the dialogues.

This one really does have me confused I am afraid. Any light that can be thrown on this would be very helpful, thank you.

Much obliged,

S

Right,
More digging and tinkering, I see that if I replace the NTUser.dat, and NTUser.dat.log in the new Temp identity, with copies of those from the old one, I then get my old screen picture, but only a few of the icons and folders normally on it. 'MyDocuments' is still the temp one...

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In order to take ownership of folders in a system running XP Home Edition you have to boot the computer into Safe Mode. Restart your laptop and keep hitting the F8 key until the Windows Advanced Options Menu is displayed. Use the up arrow to select Safe Mode. Hit Enter and log on with an account that is a member of the Administrators group. The built in Administrator account will do the job. You should now have access to the Security tab on the properties sheet of your old folders. From there you can take ownership and give your account Full Control permissions.

How to take ownership of a file or folder in Windows XP
<http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb:en-us:308421>

"Access is Denied" Error Message When You Try to Open a Folder
<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/810881>

As for your other issues, you may find that copying the ntuser.dat and ntuser.dat.log files leads to your experiencing the same problem with your new account. There's always the possibility that they were the source of your original problem.

Good luck

Nepatsfan

Hi Bea,
And many thanks to Nepatsfan: the lack of those security tabs on 'properties' in XPHome has caused a lot of head scratching in the past. I will now post your link in a very prominent place on my desktop! (And on paper...)

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I am not convinced that the problem is not a bug in the system itself, as I have found similar things happening on our XPPro desktop: on 'fast user switching' from one account to another, the second account's profile 'suddenly can't be found' and you have to pull the plug pretty damn quick before Outlook.pst gets trashed. (Thank heavens for Google Desktop search, which copies all your email into its index file!). On this occasion, the event log messages at first said that the profile could not be loaded *because it was in use by another*. As I have various networking and shared folders on my desktop, I wonder if they could be making the system think some part of the other user profile was already in use?

And Bea, curiously enough, after writing my own plea, I browsed through some of the others below it and ended up reading the thread on 'Cleaning up the windows registry' (Which: don't).

Following the links to discussion of why not to do this, on AumHa, I usefully learned more about the NTuser etc files (which up until now I had never come across). Included in how to repair the damage done by registry cleaners was this link to the MS Knowledgebase articles on how to get back your lost profile:
<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/555473>

AumHa also recommend something called ERUnt (download on their site) for regular backing up of the registry and the individual NTUser files. Read the relevant thread here:
<http://aumha.net/viewtopic.php?f=62&t=28099&st=0&sk=t&sd=a&sid=1a1e5e5b66cd4790a1f11595c>

After which you should understand more about NTUser and the other registry files. I downloaded the Erunt, but on a first read through it seems to require some setting up, if it is to work automatically, that is a bit techy for me...

And so to the profile. The KB articles say to create a new account, and then copy the old one into it via the my computer properties/advanced dialogue.

Having done this I am at an intermediate stage of a solution. Whereas,

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when
I just moved the NTUser.dat and NTUser.dat.log, files to the profile XP
had
created for me in the Temp folder, my profile remained the basic temp one
bar the fact that it had the right desktop picture, now that I have
copied
the old profile into a new one and deleted the temp folder, my new
profile
has most of my desktop files and folders, but not the picture...

Also, looking at the folder sizes of my various profiles and ex profiles
in
Docsandsets, I find that the newly 'restocked' one is some 500 meg
smaller
than the original! I have not looked far into this yet, but I assume it
is
because it is not yet associated with my email dbxs, and has lost the
Google
Earth cache (Of which I am only vaguely aware as to its purpose on my
m/c,
and what I will lose if I delete it or allow it to be deleted.)

I have now added folders to all the profiles on my m/cs in which to back
up
the NTUser and dat log files. Whether I remember to look for and back
them
up regularly is another matter... And even then there is the email, but
I
do use OE quick backup, and copy Outlook pst to a separate drive fairly
regularly. Seems this is yet another hint I should finally get around to
imaging my whole drives with Acronis!

Keep us posted on progress with your own profile problem. Any more tips
and
conclusions would be most interesting. I too will let you know how
things
pan out this end when I've had time for some more tinkering.

Cheers,
S

"Bea" <DeleteQueen@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:BA9FFC3E-0E2D-4FDD-886F-F6C961F3AFB3@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Hi S!

Haven't been really successful yet. I had this problem since Friday.
Being
jobless, I've been working on this for hours and hours.

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Thanks to the help of Nepatsfan and other posters, I was able to Get access of docs from the administrator profile, then copy it to another user. However I can only access them on safe mode, to do that I always have to create new profile.

I hope through the help of the the posters who are generous with their time and knowledge, this problem will be fixed for good.

thanks,
Bea

Hi Bea,

I've cut and pasted your bit down to the bottom here, as it gets rather confusing if we don't stick to the same pattern. (Most news groups like you to post at the bottom, but quite a few in ms public seem to post at the top these days. So whichever it is, just try to keep it going in the same direction once the thread has got under way.)

I am not entirely sure what your problem is or even whether you are using XPHome or Pro, but I have found it quite confusing coming to grips with the difference between profiles, accounts, and identities, and consequently with the sequence that one has to follow to set up a new account (or keep the old one) and get the right files into it.

Are you saying that you can't log on other than in safe mode, or that you can log on but are denied access to your files because they are now in a different profile to which your new account has no permission because it is not an administrator account? Also, was your old account actually the computer's built in Administrator, account or was it a separate one that you made, and thus is one of the AdministratorS plural as opposed to THE Administrator. If your old profile is only set to be accessed by THE Administrator, then you will need to add Administrators in the plural to its permissions table. Unfortunately, it can be quite confusing dealing with the various dialogues under the Security tab, and you may need someone to help you with them.

Anyhow, even if you do have the permissions it can still be confusing getting the profile attached to the right account. When you create a new account in Control Panel, it initially has no profile. When you log in to your new account the first time a set of folders is created for your profile, but with a hidden security code that uniquely associates them with that account. So even if you make another account with the same name and password, it won't be associated with the old profile folders, and instead, windows makes you a new profile with default settings. If you used the same name as your original account, without deleting your original, then the new one is given an extension number to distinguish it.

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That's what happened to me, and I got a bit of a list of extra default profiles before I twigged what was going on! By which time I had to have a good look at all the properties sheets size and files data to make sure which profiles belonged to which accounts and which to none at all...

So anyhow to cut a long story short, I've got things back in order now, and if your is not a more fiddly permissions issue, the same may work for you:

So sequence is:

In a spare admin account;

Rename original profile folder in MyComputer\C\Docs and Settings;

Delete any new profiles xp has made for you that have very little in (on my laptop these are all about 850k);

Log on in normal way with your original user name and password;

Log off when xp has finished building a new profile with your original profile's name;

Log back in to spare admin ac;

In docs and sets, empty the new profile folder completely (to get rid of some of the default links you may have removed in your real profile) so that it just leaves the empty profile folder with your name on;

Copy (not move, you may need them again) all the contents of your original but renamed folder, into the now empty new profile folder. If your ntuser.dat and ntuser.dat.log files are still serviceable, this should recreate your original profile.

A good sign that you are headed in the right direction is that this may take several minutes, depending on how much stuff is in your profile. In my case there were Google Earth cache files and Picassa photo database files which were 400Mb odd, which slowed the copying down rather.

(If you have one, also copy all the contents to a backup drive as well; then delete the original, if you are pushed for space. You will now appreciate its probably a good idea to keep a back up profile somewhere!)

I found that after I had done this everything worked OK except that my normal desktop picture did not come up on its own. In the main folder of my profile is a file marked 'theme'. Just clicking on this got it all loaded properly.

So that's it from my end. I still have one phantom account that I need to track down, but it is not, thankfully, mine!

And your right: this relatively simple process took days to suss out. You never stop learning with MS!

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Good luck,

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