

Copying user profile from one user account to another user account on the same computer ----- 3 challenges , 2 of them

# Copying user profile from one user account to another user account on the same computer ----- 3 challenges , 2 of them solved

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*Source:*

[http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.setup\\_deployment/2006-02/msg00455.htm](http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.setup_deployment/2006-02/msg00455.htm)

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Challenge 1 :

When I tried to copy the user profile of one administrator user account (let's call it A) in Windows XP home edition to another user account (let's call it B) , the advice given on the web is:

Create a new user account (let's call it C). Then restart computer.

Then log into C to effect the change. Then restart computer ( this may or may not be necessary , I don't remember). The log back into C to start the transfer from A to B . In account C,

Right click "My Computer" ---- > Properties ----- > Advanced ---- > User Profiles ---- > Settings .

Highlight A , click "Copy To" and then specify the destination path as C:\Documents and Settings\User Account Name.

I am told this is all I have to do.

If I do not follow the above procedure , I will find that "Copy To" is grayed out and I cannot do any copying.

OK, this grayed out challenge is solved.

But the next challenge is :

When I click "Copy To" , I get the message , "failed to set security on the destination profile".

The source of this challenge seems to be in account user A.

So I go into account A , I right click the owner folder ( at C:\Documents and Settings\Owner ) ----- > Properties ---- > Sharing ---- > "Make the folder private" (needs to uncheck this).

How this owner folder had that checkmark in the first place is probably when I set up user account A to stop others from having access to my computers when I am not around, I went to Start ---- > Control Panel ----- > Switch to Category View ---- > User Accounts"

And when I created a password, Windows asked me "Do you want to make your files and folders private?" and I clicked "Yes, Make Private"

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OK, uncheck that box in owner folder properties and also delete the passwords used by account A and B and this second challenge is solved. No more "failed to set security on the destination profile" message.

The next challenge is when A is being copied to B , I get messages such as

"Windows cannot copy file C:\Documents and Settings\Owner\Start Menu\Programs\Folder View\Visit Folder View Website.lnk to location C:\Documents and Settings\Surfing\Start Menu\Programs\Folder View\Visit Folder View Website.lnk. Possible causes of this error include network problems or insufficient security rights. If this problem persists, contact your network administrator.

DETAIL - The process cannot access the file because it is being used by another process. "

I am pretty sure it has nothing to do with Folder View per se. Because I tried to find out if this error message is consistent by creating user account D, E, F and tried to copy A to each of them and I get the same message the only difference being other programs mentioned instead of Folder View.

This means part of the profile is copied and other parts are not copied.

So far, I haven't found the solution yet.

So I cannot do anything with this particular computer in terms of copying user profile from A to B , both of which are administrator account type (as opposed to limited user account type).

May be I will not have any problem if both A and B are both limited user account.

To confirm this , I did the copying experiment on a freshly reformatted and reinstalled laptop. And I followed the procedure above and I have no problem copying the user profile from A to B , both of which are administrator accounts.

One thing I have learned is when in doubt and if I don't see the changes, just restart computer.

And when an administrator account is downgraded to limited user account, it would lose all the settings copied.

So a freshly reformatted and reinstalled laptop with only Windows XP Service Pack 2 and two other softwares installed have no problem copying user profile from account A to B.

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But a desktop computer with lots of softwares have problems copying user profile.

What gives? What am I missing?

By the way, this post was inspired by Ryan Nordman's

[http://groups.google.com/group/microsoft.public.windowsxp.setup\\_deployment/browse\\_thread/thread/78544fb259375](http://groups.google.com/group/microsoft.public.windowsxp.setup_deployment/browse_thread/thread/78544fb259375)

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