

Folder Redirect to NAS Intel SS4000-E

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I have a problem with Folder redirects that is a little wierd, and I was hoping for any input if possible.

We are trying to redirect all the user documents folder to a network access storage (Intel SS4000-E) unit. The problem is that the unit does not authenticate with the domain and it has its own user access list. The public folder even requires a password in order to log onto it.

Currently all of the user documents are directed to the active directory server under a home folder. The goal is to move all of these home folders to the NAS storage, in order to free up the space on the active directory server, and relieve the load somewhat.

We want to keep from having to add every user in the domain, to the user list on the NAS. We would like to have one user with full access to a home folder on the NAS, and have all the clients connect with that same user. (We are not worried about the security of users accessing other users)

I have tried creating a batch file to map the home share on the NAS to a drive letter, using that generic user name on the NAS. I was hoping this would open and save the connection to the share so users will not need to type in a password to connect to the NAS. This part works.

When I set the GPO to redirect the docs to the NAS though it doesn't take effect. This works when going through the windows server however. For some reason the GPO just won't direct to the network share. I am wondering if the client computer can't connect to the NAS it may error out and not take effect. If that is the case, I am wondering if the GPO redirect tries to take effect before the logon batch script maps the drive and authenticats. Does anybody know what happens first?

Also another option I am thinking about is the ability to map the NAS to a folder on the windows server and share out that folder from there, so the server will have the connection, and the users will be connecting to the server but still storing data on the NAS. I know windows can do this with physical drives through disk management (map to folder, under change drive letter) and was curious if there are any third party programs available to do this with network shares.

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Please advise if you have any input. If you have another option I haven't even mentioned please share that as well. Thanks!

Jeremy Dillinger