

## Re: How do you all manage employee workstations? Looking for sugge

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.server.sbs/2006-03/msg00121.html>

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- *From:* Andrew Vital <[AndrewVital@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:AndrewVital@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Wed, 1 Mar 2006 05:29:41 -0800
- 

Thanks for all of those great suggestions... i've done some redirection of My Documents to user's Z:\ drive (server\users\username) but i haven't done all but i'll definitley look into using GP.

Regarding Roaming profiles, users rarely (if ever) log on to a workstation other then their own – bet that as it may, if i upgrade a "dead" computer from 2000 to XP would the user's profile still remain the same or would there have to be some sort of conversion? Also if a user logged into a 2k computer, then an xp, would thye be able to log into a 2k machine again?

Since we bought Office 2003 just over the summer i'm stuck with the OEMs. It was about 8k vs. 30k for the entire office, so it's tough to justify the 22k difference to management, and regardless it will likley be a few years before we upgrade office again, we were on 2k before and only upgraded to 2k3 because of a 3rd party system we purchased that would only integrate with office xp or higher.

What do you all do for the actual workstation OS loading, do you use Imaging software (I.e ghost) or what?

Thanks again! and ill also do some other research to become more familure with these suggestiosn.

– Andy

""Jenny wu [MSFT]"" wrote:

Hi Andy,

Thanks for using the SBS newsgroup. Also thanks for Jeff and Gregg's great input.

Yes, the suggestions of Jeff are good. I would like to give more detail information about how to process it. Hope it useful to you–).

I: Roaming user profiles enable users to log on to any computers in a

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domain while preserving their user profile settings.

314478 How to Create and Copy Roaming User Profiles in Windows XP  
<http://support.microsoft.com/?id=314478>

314886 Some Issues to Consider If Windows XP Users Have Roaming Profiles  
<http://support.microsoft.com/?id=314886>

324749 How To Create a Roaming User Profile in Windows Server 2003  
<http://support.microsoft.com/?id=324749>

II: Folder Redirection is a User group policy. This means that a user for whom you configure folder redirection must have a group policy linked to some folder structure where their user object is subordinate, such as a site, domain, or organizational unit.

When we enabled some folders' Folder Redirection, the folders content in client computer will be saved in one server box. And when we click the folder on workstations, we will be redirected to server box and open the files located the server box.

More detail information:  
Folder Redirection feature in Windows  
<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/232692/EN-US/>

III: Offline files: You can make network files available offline by storing shared files on your computer so that they are accessible when you are not connected to the network. If you do this, you can work with the files the same way that you work with them when you are connected to the network. When you reconnect to the network, changes that you made to the files are updated to the network.

How to use offline files in Windows XP  
<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/307853/EN-US/>

How To Configure Offline Files to Synchronize When a Particular Network Connection Becomes Active  
<http://support.microsoft.com/?id=312171>

IV. In domain environment, we can use group policies to manage and monitor workstations. You can take a look at the following articles to get brief understanding to group policy.

324036 HOW TO: Use Software Restriction Policies in Windows Server 2003  
<http://support.microsoft.com/?id=324036>

Software restriction policies (Step-by-step instructions on how to create new software restriction policies.)

<http://www.microsoft.com/resources/documentation/WindowsServ/2003/enterprise/proddocs/en-us/Default.asp?url=/resources/documentation/WindowsServ/2003/en>

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terprise/proddocs/en-us/Safer\_topnode.asp

323525 HOW TO: Restrict Users from Running Specific Windows Programs in Windows

<http://support.microsoft.com/?id=323525>

Run only allowed Windows applications

<http://www.microsoft.com/windows2000/techinfo/reskit/en-us/gp/206.asp>

Don't run specified Windows applications

<http://www.microsoft.com/windows2000/techinfo/reskit/en-us/gp/207.asp>

316353 How to configure a user account to use a roaming user profile in Windows Server 2003, Windows 2000 Server, or Windows NT 4.0

<http://support.microsoft.com/?id=316353>

231289 Using Group Policy Objects to Hide Specified Drives in My Computer for

<http://support.microsoft.com/?id=231289>

818465 HOW TO: Use Group Policy to Permit Users to Redirect and Play Audio in a

<http://support.microsoft.com/?id=818465>

Using Security Filtering to Apply GPOs to Selected Groups

<http://www.microsoft.com/technet/prodtechnol/windowsserver2003/library/DepKit/2618ebdf-e04d-4abe-bdeb-c7d893ee3c62.mspx>

HOW TO: Use Group Policy to Audit Registry Keys in Windows Server 2003

<http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb:en-us:324739>

How to Add Custom Registry Settings to Security Configuration Editor

<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/214752/EN-US/>

The whitepaper "Implementing Registry-Based Group Policy for Applications" explains how to write custom .ADM files. To view this whitepaper, please see the following Microsoft Web site:

<http://www.microsoft.com/technet/treeview/default.asp?url=/TechNet/prodtechnol/windows2000serv/deploy/regappgp.asp>

Articles for Group Policy:

<http://www.microsoft.com/technet/prodtechnol/windowsserver2003/library/ServerHelp/6eed436f-5b05-4eaa-9525-c0c429fcf9f6.mspx>

Group Policy Overview:

<http://www.microsoft.com/technet/prodtechnol/windowsserver2003/library/ServerHelp/6eed436f-5b05-4eaa-9525-c0c429fcf9f6.mspx>

Create or delete a Group Policy object

<http://www.microsoft.com/technet/prodtechnol/windowsserver2003/library/ServerHelp/4f8dd800-e0e3-44a6-8a4a-d3d34b245fe7.mspx>

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Troubleshooting Group Policy application problems  
<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/250842/EN-US/>

Hope above information helps! I am happy to be assistance of you and look forward to your reply!

Have a nice day!

Sincerely,

Jenny Wu  
Microsoft CSS Online Newsgroup Support  
Get Secure! – [www.microsoft.com/security](http://www.microsoft.com/security)

=====  
This newsgroup only focuses on SBS technical issues. If you have issues regarding other Microsoft products, you'd better post in the corresponding newsgroups so that they can be resolved in an efficient and timely manner.

You can locate the newsgroup here:

<http://www.microsoft.com/communities/newsgroups/en-us/default.aspx>

When opening a new thread via the web interface, we recommend you check the "Notify me of replies" box to receive e-mail notifications when there are any updates in your thread. When responding to posts via your newsreader, please "Reply to Group" so that others may learn and benefit from your issue.

Microsoft engineers can only focus on one issue per thread. Although we provide other information for your reference, we recommend you post different incidents in different threads to keep the thread clean. In doing so, it will ensure your issues are resolved in a timely manner.

For urgent issues, you may want to contact Microsoft CSS directly. Please check <http://support.microsoft.com> for regional support phone numbers.

Any input or comments in this thread are highly appreciated.

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Reply-To: "Gregg Hill" <bogus@xxxxxxxxxxx>  
From: "Gregg Hill" <bogus@xxxxxxxxxxx>  
References:  
<13D77723-0CB2-4D3A-83A1-DB8F640A92C4@xxxxxxxxxxx>

<u#LCL6OPGHA.648@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

Subject: Re: How do you all manage employee workstations? Looking for suggestio

Re: How do you all manage employee workstations? Looking for sugge

Date: Tue, 28 Feb 2006 21:41:05 -0800

Lines: 93

X-Priority: 3

X-MSMail-Priority: Normal

X-Newsreader: Microsoft Outlook Express 6.00.2900.2670

X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V6.00.2900.2670

X-RFC2646: Format=Flowed; Response

Message-ID: <OFwD9KPPGHA.532@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

Newsgroups: microsoft.public.windows.server.sbs

NNTP-Posting-Host: rrcs-67-52-120-182.west.biz.rr.com 67.52.120.182

Path:

TK2MSFTNGXA03.phx.gbl!TK2MSFTNGP08.phx.gbl!TK2MSFTNGP15.phx.gbl

Xref: TK2MSFTNGXA03.phx.gbl

microsoft.public.windows.server.sbs:248323

X-Tomcat-NG: microsoft.public.windows.server.sbs

Jeff,

All very good advice! To figure out misbehaving apps, I recommend Sysinternals' RegMon and FileMon. Let the OP Google those bad boys and

have

some fun with them.

Gregg Hill

"Jeff Vandervoort" <jeffv @ jrvsystems dot com> wrote in message [news:u%23LCL6OPGHA.648@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:u%23LCL6OPGHA.648@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

I can't imagine managing 10 PCs under these conditions, let alone 70!

Best

practices---

1. Do not allow users to save data to C:. Ever. On pain of death. Give them a deadline to move data to the server after which you use Group Policy to hide drive C:. This requires a lot of political finesse and/or buy-in from the boss, but it's essential. To sell it, they need to understand that their data is MORE secure on the server. Use NTFS to its fullest potential to make that happen. And if you're backing up data on

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workstations, stop, because it's making you what the shrinks call an "enabler".

2. Purchase a volume license for Office and stop buying PCs with OEM Office. Office installed with a volume license (via Group Policy...hands-free) does not require activation or any of your time.

Will

likely be more expensive, but cost-benefit analysis will likely show

it's

worth it.

3. Enable roaming profiles and folder redirection. This will capture Favorites and everything else of interest. Especially since you will no longer allow users to save to C:. Users will be able to log on to their computer or any other available computer and see exactly the same thing they'd see on their own.

4. Make your users members of ComputerName\Users and NOT ComputerName\Power Users or ComputerName\Administrators and you will seldom, if ever, have a machine "go South" unless it's caused by

hardware.

If you have permissions issues (you won't with Office, but maybe you run something else written to prehistoric standards, like AutoCAD, for example) that keep users from running an app, try to track down the problem and hack registry and/or file permissions until it runs. Methodology for doing this is far beyond the amount of time I'm willing

to

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devote on speculation that this is an issue for you, but post specific questions again in support boards for the software in question, or do a web/usenet search, and you may find an answer.

Good luck!

--  
Jeff Vandervoort  
JRVsystems

"Andrew Vital"  
<AndrewVital@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message  
[news:13D77723-0CB2-4D3A-83A1-DB8F640A92C4@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:13D77723-0CB2-4D3A-83A1-DB8F640A92C4@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

I've got about 70 workstations i'm responsible for – Mix of XP and 2k

on

a Domain with SBS2003. I'm looking for a way to minimize downtime (and

work

for me). Now when a computer goes south I usually backup their data (if the user isn't saving files to their network drive) & Favorites, swap it out

with

a loaner box (an older machine) and wipe / reinstall windows, install office, call microsoft to activate Office and someimes windows as it's already been activated and sometimes wont' activate via net – then install any other software – restore their data & favorites and swap it back out to their desk.

needless to say this is a PITA – nevermind if

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you have 1 or more to do

at

once. (and it seems as when one person's OS starts acting up others

have

to  
actup at the same time to give me more work).

I've contemplated Symantec Ghost, but know i'd have to setup a sysprep file and i'd still have to call microsoft to activate office and perhaps windows.

Also i'd have to keep images specific to machine types as some will

need

to  
have drivers configured for them.

I could go on... but are there any proven methods of doing this?

Thanks for any and all suggestions.  
Andy