

Re: Roaming profiles vs OffLine File Sync

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Lanwench, I would like more info on roaming users in SBS2003 can you help? I thought a roaming user meant simply logging off "system A" as user 1 and logging into "system B" as user 1. Is this not a roaming user? If not where do I get more info?

Thanks!

"Lanwench [MVP - Exchange]" wrote:

In news:ungWfCo4GHA.1848@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx,
Mark Semans <mark_semans@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx> typed:

I have my 1st SBS with 8 XP Pro clients. I originally set them up with profile and My Docs redirected to the server.

With Users usually only using 1 PC, my thought was to allow them to log into other machines, if a hardware failure occurred, until I could get the PC replaced (this is for our church, and I travel...).

Of course, I found if the server was not available, no body could log in.... The server is is for file backup and Exchange to share calendars (for resource scheduling).

Question is, how can I convert back to Off-line file sync (of My Doc's), or is there a better way to do this?
If the server is not available, I still want users to be able to login and use their PC

I have NOT converted anyone over to the Exchange server (they use Outlook directly to the ISP), but I am paranoid about adding a new profile and moving data (which was one way I was told).

Since I am a real newbie at this, I'm looking for some direction to point me in.....and maybe some good learning material also.....

Thanks alot!

Re: Roaming profiles vs OffLine File Sync

I love roaming profiles, and I love folder redirection. But I'm very wary of offline files – and I especially don't like them with roaming profiles. I suspect it will not work nicely for you as the workstation's offline file cache is, as far as I know, shared file space – and I think you'll end up with odd error messages when multiple domain users log in to the same workstation and try to sync.

Ultimately, the best way to ensure your users can get to their data, is to build a robust server with as much good & redundant hardware you can throw at it, and keep an eye on it via the built in monitoring tools.

Note that roaming profiles, even without offline files, are going to be a problem for you as you say they aren't yet using Exchange. The PST files won't roam, and MS doesn't support accessing PST files across a LAN / WAN connection. Many people *do* this anyway, but it is not recommended due to performance issues and potential data loss. Just bite the bullet and migrate them all to Exchange, and you won't have to deal with nasty PST files any more! You should get a lot of help during this process if you plan it thoroughly & post questions in here....

Re roaming profiles, here's my boilerplate on the topic.

General tips:

1. Set up a share on the server. For example – d:\profiles, shared as profiles\$ to make it hidden from browsing. Make sure this share is not set to allow offline files/caching!
2. Make sure the share permissions on profiles\$ indicate everyone=full control. Set the NTFS security to administrators, system, and users=full control.
3. In the users' ADUC properties, specify \\server\profiles\$\%username% in the profiles field
4. Have each user log into the domain once from their usual workstation (where their existing profile lives) and log out. The profile is now roaming.
5. If you want the administrators group to automatically have permissions to the profiles folders, you'll need to make the appropriate change in group policy. Look in computer configuration/administrative templates/system/user profiles – there's an option to add administrators group to the roaming profiles permissions.

Notes:

* Make sure users understand that they should never log into multiple computers at the same time when they have roaming profiles (unless you make the profiles mandatory by renaming ntuser.dat to ntuser.man so they can't change them). Explain that the last one out wins, when it comes to uploading the final, changed copy of the profile.

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* Keep your profiles TINY. Redirect My Documents; usually best done to the user's home directory on the server – either via group policy (folder redirection) or manually (far less advisable). If you aren't going to also redirect the desktop using policies, tell users that they are not to store any files on the desktop or you will beat them with a stick. Big profile=slow login/logout, and possible profile corruption.

* Note that user profiles are not compatible between different OS versions, even between W2k/XP. Keep all your computers. Keep your workstations as identical as possible – meaning, OS version is the same, SP level is the same, app load is (as much as possible) the same.

* Do not let people store any data locally – all data belongs on the server.

* The User Profile Hive Cleanup Utility should be running on all your computers. You can download it here:

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?familyid=1B286E6D-8912-4E18-B570-42470E2F3582&>