

Re: SBS 2003 folder redirection, offline files, ..and more

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.server.sbs/2007-06/msg04665.html>

- *From:* "Dave Nickason [SBS MVP]" <gwdibble@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sat, 30 Jun 2007 15:15:10 -0400
-

I'd have bet against this and lost. To my surprise, it turns out that if you log into a shared PC with admin rights and go to Windows Explorer Folder Options -> Offline Files and click the button to view the files, you can see all the files that are cached on that PC, regardless of whose files they are. With normal user rights, you can only see the cached copies of your own files.

This makes sense, though, thinking about it. If the files were stored locally on the shared PC, local admins would have access to them, so in this case, the only difference that offline files makes is that files may be cached on a PC where they otherwise wouldn't exist. For example, my documents are redirected to the server. I just logged into a shared conference room laptop, so now the documents are cached there, whereas without redirection, they wouldn't have been.

In my case, this isn't an issue. All my users have normal non-admin rights except the business owner, who is a local admin on any PC he uses frequently.

"TravisF" <tdqh1922@xxxxxxxx> wrote in message
<news:1183213230.257066.254280@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

On Jun 30, 9:56 am, TravisF <tdqh1...@xxxxxxxx> wrote:

On Jun 29, 5:04 pm, "Les Connor [SBS MVP]" <les.con...@xxxxxxxx> wrote:

If the user is a local admin, and offline files is turned on, the files are viewable.

Re: SBS 2003 folder redirection, offline files, ..and more

—
Les Connor [SBS MVP]

"TravisF" <tdqh1...@xxxxxxxx> wrote in message

news:1183149604.216366.326020@xx

On Jun 29, 12:57 pm, "Les Connor [SBS MVP]" <les.con...@xxxxxxxx> wrote:

With some creative GPO configuration, you can set up off-line folders so they're only active when you log onto a specific computer (or computers), but not others.

I often have to do this in cases where we have older DOS based LOB applications that require users have admin rights on workstations, and a "boss" who likes to roam around the facility, logging onto various workstations, and who also has a laptop.

The challenge is to have my doc's redirection enabled for the desktops, without off line folders, and a synchronized copy of the "boss"

Re: SBS 2003 folder redirection, offline files, ..and more

documents
on
his laptop, but nowhere else
– as with local admin rights
his
documents –
once synced to a
workstation – are no longer
private ;-).

--
Les Connor [SBS MVP]

"TravisF"
<tdqh1...@xxxxxxxxxx>
wrote in message

news:1183134625.384440.136570@xx

On Jun 21,
3:58 pm,
"Dave
Nickason
[SBS
MVP]"
<gwdib...@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
wrote:

You
can
have
both
redirection
and
Home
Folders.
That's
what
I
do
–
I've
set

Re: SBS 2003 folder redirection, offline files, ..and more

up
a
different
location
for
the
documents
outside
of
the
home
folders.
A
few
of
my
users
use
the
home
folder
for
any
purpose
they
wish,
knowing
it's
backed
up
while
the
desktop
PC
is
not.
Most
don't
use
the
home
folders
so
a
lot
of
them
are
sitting
there
empty.

You
don't
need
a
drive
letter
for
redirection
–
it's
pretty
much
automatic
and
fully
configured
by
group
policy.

If
something
blows
up:
Right
now
my
docs
are
redirected
to
the
server
and
cached
on
my
local
PC
with
Offline
Files.
If
my
client
PC
blows

Re: SBS 2003 folder redirection, offline files, ..and more

up,
I
can
log
in
at
any
other
PC
in
the
office
and
see
the
server
copy
of
my
docs
–
redirection
will
be
set
up
on
that
PC
the
first
time
I
log
in
and
I'll
just
magically
see
my
docs
on
the
server.
If
the
server
blows
up,
I'll

Re: SBS 2003 folder redirection, offline files, ..and more

be
able
to
see
all
the
cached
copies
of
my
documents
that
are
stored
on
my
local
PC.
Although
I
would
not
want
to
rely
on
the
cached
copies
as
my
only
backup,
I
could
easily
restore
from
the
cache
on
this
PC
if
I
had
to.

Re: SBS 2003 folder redirection, offline files, ..and more

If
I
log
in
at
a
different
PC,
my
documents
will
cache
in
my
own
profile
on
that
PC.
That
can
be
a
minor
drawback
due
to
the
time
taken
by
the
first
sync
and
the
drive
space
used,
but
it's
a
minor
annoyance
and
you're
kind
of
stuck
with
it

Re: SBS 2003 folder redirection, offline files, ..and more

anyway,
as
the
policy
is
going
to
force
that
sync.
Users
of
shared
PCs
don't
have
access
to
each
other's
synced
files.
If
I
log
into
a
client
PC
that
I
don't
normally
use,
I
just
cancel
the
sync.
I'm
trying
to
develop
the
habit
of
using
the
local
admin
account

Re: SBS 2003 folder redirection, offline files, ..and more

for
routine
IT
chores
at
client
PCs
to
avoid
this
altogether.

Backup
works
fine,
although
I
never
gave
any
thought
to
why.
As
for
recovering
files,
the
users
can
do
that
themselves
with
shadow
copy.
If
you
need
access
for
the
Administrator
account,
you'll
have
to
take
ownership

Re: SBS 2003 folder redirection, offline files, ..and more

and
change
the
security
settings.
This
can
be
a
minor
pain
as
the
default
permissions
don't
even
let
the
administrator
see
the
size
or
number
of
files
in
the
users'
directories.

I'm
not
familiar
with
Netware,
but
I
drank
the
SBS
kool
aid
in
1998
and
never
looked

Re: SBS 2003 folder redirection, offline files, ..and more

back.
Once
you
roll
this
out,
you'll
see
that
there's
little
or
nothing
that
could
make
redirection
any
easier
than
it
is.
Besides,
a
little
complexity
is
good
for
job
security
:
-)
All
seriousness
aside,
my
current
SBS
box
has
been
running
since
Feb
'06
without
a
single
moment
of

Re: SBS 2003 folder redirection, offline files, ..and more

unplanned
down
time.
I'm
willing
to
put
up
with
a
little
complexity
for
that
level
of
bulletproof-ness
(what's
the
correct
term
for
the
state
of
being
bulletproof,
anyway?).

"TravisF"
<tdqh1...@xxxxxxxx>
wrote
in
message

news:1182453125.636799.108120@xx

Ok
I
hope
this
is
not
too
stupid

Re: SBS 2003 folder redirection, offline files, ..and more

of
me
to
ask.
Am
about
to
setup
a
new
sbs
03
server.
I've
worked
lots
with
pcs,
general
networking
,
Netware
server
etc.
Not
many
w2k03
servers.

I
am
familiar
with
folder
redir,
offline
files
etc.

I'd
like
to
utilize
this
for
all
(15

Re: SBS 2003 folder redirection, offline files, ..and more

or
so)
of
my
pc
users.

I'm
used
to
the
old
way
of
doing
network
data
storage
creating
a
Home
folder,
mapping
a
common
drive
letter
for
each
user
in
a
system
logon
script
so
each
user
sees
U:
drive
as
their
respective
home
personal
data
area.
U:\Larry

Re: SBS 2003 folder redirection, offline files, ..and more

etc.
That
and
we
used
to
have
them
responsible
for
copying
their
own
data
.
Can
you
imagine
!!

Anyway
the
folder
redir
/
offline
files
combo
looks
much
better
to
me.
The
way
I
see
it,
they
don't
even
need
a
drive
letter
mapped,
correct?...since
the
whole

Re: SBS 2003 folder redirection, offline files, ..and more

thing
is
transparent
anyway?

Well
what
if
their
pc
or
notebook
blows
up
and
they
HAVE
to
get
their
data
now
–
well
again
(in
the
old
days)
they
would
go
to
another
machine,
logon
as
themselves,
get
their
data
off
their
U
drive...yes
I
know..
IF
they

Re: SBS 2003 folder redirection, offline files, ..and more

backed
it
up!

Ok
so
what
happens
now
if
they
do
this
with
folder
redir
/
offline
enabled
–
they
go
to
another
machine
,
logon..
won't
it
try
to
sync
the
new
machine's
"my
documents"
with
that
on
the
server?
I
don't
want
that
to
happen
–

Re: SBS 2003 folder redirection, offline files, ..and more

just
need
them
to
get
at
their
files...in
this
case...off
the
server.
I
want
to
have
it
as
automatic
as
possible
–
cause
otherwise
they
will
forget
if
its
set
to
manual
then
they
will
scream
where's
my
documents
when
its
deleted.....
you
know...

As
well....regarding
backup...this
excerpt

Re: SBS 2003 folder redirection, offline files, ..and more

from
<http://technet2.microsoft.com/windowsserver/en/libra>

"Grant
the
user
exclusive
rights
to
My
Documents.
If
selected,
this
sets
the
NTFS
security
descriptor
for
the
%username%
folder
to
Full
Control
for
the
user
and
local
system
only;
this
means
that
administrators
and
other
users
do
not
have
access
rights
to
the
folder.
This

Re: SBS 2003 folder redirection, offline files, ..and more

option
is
enabled
by
default.
Note:
Changing
this
option
after
the
policy
has
been
applied
to
some
users
will
only
effect
new
users
receiving
the
policy."

I'm
wondering
will
a
backup
application
have
trouble
with
this
if..."administrators
and
other
users
do
not
have
access
rights
to
the
folder".

Of course we don't want other users to even be able to read others documents so yes the user must have exclusivity that way. But administrators should be able to "see" everything .
What if we have to recover a deleted document or folder?

Man
I

Re: SBS 2003 folder redirection, offline files, ..and more

miss
Netware's
(NWadmin)
simplicity
sometimes...
(sniff)...

Thanks;
Travis–
Hide
quoted
text
–

–
Show
quoted
text
–

Thanks for
the replies
here.
Ok right.
The folder
redirection /
offline files
is working
on my
sbs
03 server
very good.
But am I
getting this
right from
what you
are saying?
For
instance,
when I
logon onto
my own pc,
my
documents
is

Re: SBS 2003 folder redirection, offline files, ..and more

redirected
to the server
and cached
on the pc.
Great. Now
if I go to
another pc
and login
with the
same id, the
"my
documents"
on my
profile on
THAT pc
will get
redirected
on the
server.
Won't it
overwrite
the "my
documents"
from my
own pc? I
don't want
that to
happen.
That seems
kinda
dumb. I'd
like a way
so that
only my
documents
on my pc
are
redirected
regardless if
I login
elsewhere.
Or
for other
clients of
course who
know
nothing of
this activity.

Re: SBS 2003 folder redirection, offline files, ..and more

Thanks;
Travis–
Hide quoted
text –

– Show quoted text –

That doesn't seem to be the case.
If userB logs on after userA, userB does not see a "my doc" under \docs and settings belonging to userA – even if he's (userB) administrator.
So it must cache it elsewhere and encrypt it? I did not use efs.
Logged in as userB , I searched (even hidden files) and I can find files belonging to userA which I know where there. This is a good thing.

Thanks;
Travis

That would make sense however it still isn't the case.
Viewable where? under \docs and settings? There's definitely no userA \docs and setting (i.e. userA's documents) there when logged in as userB. I had the domain userB id made part of local administrator's group.
Wouldn't that also make sense since \docs and settings are redirected? So the question is where on the pc are the cached files?
This is just using sbs 03's wizard to redirect my documents. No other gpo's, nor efs applied.

As mentioned I searched all of C: including hidden files and found none of userA's docs.
I wonder is this a case of users' having an exclusive permission on those files. Maybe sbs does this by default.
I hope this is in fact the case. I'd like it to work just like this.

I will double check next chance after weekend.
T

Re: SBS 2003 folder redirection, offline files, ..and more

Les – see the Dave Nikason post here.

http://groups.google.ca/group/microsoft.public.windows.server.sbs/browse_thread/thread/7cc03ebb70678f37/e