

# Re: Roaming Profile

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- *From:* Scott <Scott@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* Wed, 29 Aug 2007 08:02:03 -0700
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Thank you for your reply. Yes, I was confused, specifically between steps 3 and 4 of your procedure. I know nothing changes at the workstation. I was concerned that if you initially set up the profile path at the server, then logged in at the workstation, there would not yet be a profile on the server for the workstation to load. I now see that I'm thinking too much. Thank you!

"Lanwench [MVP - Exchange]" wrote:

Scott <Scott@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

I'm confused on the "timing" of setting roaming profiles. If I set the profile path *\*before\** a user logs in, isn't the XP workstation looking for something that is not there? Wouldn't the requirement be to set to roaming *\*after\** a user logs in?

Thanks.

Hmm - I think you may be a bit confused. You don't actually change anything on the workstation at all, for a roaming profile to work - before or after login.

If a user logs into the domain and there's a profile path defined in ADUC for him, his profile is a roaming profile.

The only thing you could change on the workstation is whether that cached profile is something you want to be updated or not - you can change that cached copy to a "local" profile, so new logins/logouts won't affect it. I sometimes do this on a laptop if I don't want the user's desktop to be modified by laptop-specific stuff.

Here's my boilerplate on roaming profiles -

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!

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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.

\* Keep your profiles TINY. Redirect My Documents at the very least; 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&>