

Re: ROAMING PROFILES & OFFLINE FILES

"Lanwench [MVP – Exchange]" wrote:

mark–docendo <markdocendo@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

Can anyone throw any light on what has gone wrong – I have no experience with roaming profiles at all. I have inherited an installation that has both of the above and today logged on to two computers using the same logon at the same time (something I do all the time normally without RP's)

Don't do that if you have a roaming profile – see below.

Problem is Word now opens dead slow when using the users usual PC. If the user logs onto another pc all ok. and if log another user onto the offending PC word is fine. Problem seems to be made worse and hang word completely if opening anything from one particular directory on server. can anyone tell me what I did wrong. possible resolution. and is it easy to remove roaming profiles & offline files. THANKS MARK

Offline files are not related to roaming profiles – nor to folder redirection. I would disable offline files entirely if it were my network. Here's my boilerplate on roaming profiles – they can work very well if they're set up properly – but shouldn't be attempted if they aren't.

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! (that's on by default – disable it)
2. Make sure the share permissions on profiles\$ indicate everyone=full control. Set the NTFS security to administrators,

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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 not 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. Via group policy, redirect My Documents at the very least – to a subfolder of the user's home directory or user folder. Also consider redirecting Desktop & Application Data similarly..... so the user will have:

```
\\server\home$\%username%\My Documents,  
\\server\home$\%username%\Desktop,  
\\server\home$\%username%\Application Data.
```

Alternatively, just manually re-target My Documents to
\\server\home\$\%username% (this is not optimal, however!)

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

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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-B570-42470E2>

Roaming profile & folder redirection article –

http://www.windowsnetworking.com/articles_tutorials/Profile-Folder-Redirection-Windows-Server