

Re: How do I get roaming profiles to work??

for these users, so I added that for each of them. Probably should've done that first, but oh well.

What else do I need to do to get the roaming profiles to work? I want it to save desktop settings, star menu settings, and whatever else preferences these users change on their user.

Also if possible, if there's any way to make it possible for these users to login, and use Outlook, without having to create them as a user on the domain on every single computer first. Right now, the only way to get Outlook to work for them, is to set them up as administrator on every machine. I have not yet figured out how to get around that, but would really like to be able to just set them up on the computer, and then let them use whatever computer they want. We do have a license issue that means not all programs are on all computers, but we're hoping to get that rectified.

Here's my boilerplate on roaming profiles. Can't help you now with the user template, but you do not need to map a drive for My Documents or for profiles to work. You should not mix up your user data & your profile paths, and you should not map a drive to the profile share/folder.

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, 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.

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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 nuser.dat to nuser.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 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 –

Re: How do I get roaming profiles to work??

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

Ok ... I did all of this... now I only have 1 question left: I had to create a new GPO (called Roaming Users) to create the roaming profiles, because the current GPO set is a bit of a mess.

Wise decision – I always recommend setting up your own custom ones anyway.

But how do

I apply the GPO to the appropriate Security Group? I created a new security group (also named Roaming Users) as well, to avoid all users becoming roaming, when only some of them need to be. But I can't figure out how you apply the GPO to the SG.

Ah. Link the GPO to the MyBusiness OU in the GPMC. Don't muck around with security groups for this.