



## Re: Connecting a remote workstation to a domain

Re roaming profiles – implement them only if you are very careful with them!  
Your remote users should access profiles on their local DC (set the path in their ADUC properties). My boilerplate below may help. But note that you probably don't need roaming profiles at all, based on what you've written.

\*\*\*\*\*

### 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 – if this is an existing user with a profile you wish to keep, have them log in at their usual workstation 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. Do this *\*before\** the users' roaming profile folders are created – it isn't retroactive.

\*\*\*\*\*

### 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, which has major disadvantages),. Explain that the 'last one out wins' when it comes to uploading the final, changed copy of the profile. If you want to restrict multiple simultaneous network logins, look at LimitLogon (too much overhead for me), or this:

<http://www.jsifaq.com/SF/Tips/Tip.aspx?id=8768>

\*\*\*\*\*

Keep your profiles TINY. Via group policy, you should be redirecting 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 end up with:

\\server\users\%username%\My Documents,  
\\server\users\%username%\Desktop,

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\\server\users\%username%\Application Data.

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

You should use folder redirection even without roaming profiles, but it's especially critical if you \*are\* using them.

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.

\*\*\*\*\*

If you also have Terminal Services users, make sure you set up a different TS profile path for them in their ADUC properties – e.g.,  
\\server\tsprofiles\$\%username%

\*\*\*\*\*

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&display>

\*\*\*\*\*

Roaming profile & folder redirection article –

[http://www.windowsnetworking.com/articles\\_tutorials/Profile-Folder-Redirection-Windows-Server-2003.html](http://www.windowsnetworking.com/articles_tutorials/Profile-Folder-Redirection-Windows-Server-2003.html)

"Lanwench [MVP – Exchange]" wrote:

MF <MF@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

Thank for your response. Perhaps in the log run we can consider a Terminal Server to go with the SBS server. But to get around the current issue at hand, how can I accomplish the following on a remote XP Pro PC?;

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I can remotely join XP Pro computers at the remote office to the SBS 2003 Premium R2 server via the "Log in using a dial up connection" checkbox so that any user can logon remotely. However, I need to resolve certain things (the CEO's laptop trned out fine because I too it to the server's local network to log into it to acquire its profile which it cached and that lets the CEO log into the laptop with or without checking the "Log in using a dial up connection" checkbox, either way it loads her cached roaming profile then synchronizes with the server over the VPN);

1. I need the Outlook email to be set up automatically at first logon of each user at the remote office.
2. I need the local printers at the remote office to be set up automatically at first logon of each user at the remote office.
3. I need the XP Pro PCs in the remote office to retain and load cached copies of users' profiles at logon and synchronize My Documents/Offline Files, etc thereafter at logon/log off.
4. I basically need the server to set up remote computers similarly to how it does on local computers. I basically need all the remote office computers to work similarly to the CEO's laptop which she uses from CA.

Thanx.

You're really asking a lot of VPN connectivity here! If you had a remote network connected via a WAN link (with a local DC, ideally) you could accomplish what you wish with ease. But I doubt you'll have much luck if you expect your remote/VPN client-connected computers to behave at all as your LAN-connected ones do.

Another option is for you to pre-configure the computers while on your LAN and then ship them out to the remote users.

I agree with Merv – it sounds like you really need a terminal server in the main office.

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"Merv Porter [SBS-MVP]" wrote:

If you have more than a couple of remote workstations connecting to the SBS server via VPN, you really need to consider a Terminal Server in the main office.

--

Merv Porter [SBS-MVP]

=====

"MF"

<MF@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

wrote in message

[news:A395203A-B798-4F32-A5EC-3B2B539B1FE4@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:A395203A-B798-4F32-A5EC-3B2B539B1FE4@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

Hello All,

Thank for your help. I can remotely join XP Pro computers at the remote office to the SBS 2003 Premium R2 server via the "Log in using a dial up connection" checkbox so that any user can logon remotely. However, I need to resolve certain things (the CEO's laptop trned out fine because I too it to the server's local network to log into it to acquire its profile which it cached and that lets the CEO log into the laptop with or without checking the "Log in using a dial up connection" checkbox, either way it loads her cached roaming profile then synchronizes with the server

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over the VPN);

1. I need the Outlook email to be set up automatically at first logon of each user at the remote office.
2. I need the local printers at the remote office to be set up automatically at first logon of each user at the remote office.
3. I need the XP Pro PCs in the remote office to retain and load cached copies of users' profiles at logon and synchronize My Documents/Offline Files, etc thereafter at logon/log off.
4. I basically need the server to set up remote computers similarly to how it does on local computers. I basically need all the remote office computers to work similarly to the CEO's laptop which she uses from CA.

Thanx.

"MF" wrote:

Thanx  
Merv, you  
are the best.  
Windows  
wireless  
zero  
configuration  
tool did  
the job. And  
for the  
record, all

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Pre-logon  
features  
need to  
already  
have the  
wireless  
settings  
entered, I  
was in the  
middle of  
configuring  
the  
Intel  
application  
(just kinda  
addressing  
Philip on  
the Google  
groups  
link). Now  
the CEO is  
good to go;  
VPN logon  
works fine;  
wireless  
pre-logon  
is  
awesomely  
good, and I  
keep my job  
and  
perhaps get  
a raise ;^D

"Merv  
Porter  
[SBS-MVP]"  
wrote:

Maybe...

Pre-logon  
wireless  
connectivity

<http://groups.google.com/group/microsoft.public.windows.ne>

--

Merv  
Porter  
[SBS-MVP]

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=====  
"MF"  
<MF@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>  
wrote  
in  
message  
news:95516A04-53E4-44E2-B2D0-4942DB30B4C8@xxx

Yes,  
everyone  
on  
the  
server  
has  
a  
roaming  
profile.  
But  
after  
the  
dialogue  
box  
mentioned  
the  
roaming  
profile  
issue,  
I  
logged  
out  
and  
logged  
back  
in  
as  
local  
admin,  
then  
went  
to>  
right-clicked  
My  
Computer>  
Properties,  
Advanced  
tab>  
Settings  
(under  
User  
Profiles),

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then  
I  
highlighted  
her  
roaming  
profile  
and  
clicked  
the  
"Change  
Type"  
button  
to  
change  
it  
to  
local  
profile  
so  
that  
whenever  
whse  
logs  
in  
it  
loads  
a  
cached  
copy  
of  
her  
roaming  
profile  
instead  
of  
a  
temporary  
profile  
each  
time.  
So  
far  
this  
seems  
to  
do  
it.  
I  
will  
keep  
testing

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until  
otherwise  
(hopefully  
never  
otherwise).  
Now  
I  
am  
dealing  
with  
Pre-Logon  
connect  
feature  
so  
that  
she  
does  
not  
have  
to  
connect  
to  
an  
ethernet  
cable  
to  
get  
to  
the  
internet  
before  
she  
can  
log  
onto  
the  
server.  
Any  
ideas  
in  
that  
are  
will  
help  
as  
well,  
the  
WiFi  
card  
is  
an

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Intel  
3945ABG.

Thanx.

"Merv  
Porter  
[SBS-MVP]"  
wrote:

Is  
the  
CEO  
using  
a  
roaming  
profile?

--  
Merv  
Porter  
[SBS-MVP]

=====  
"MF"  
<MF@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>  
wrote  
in  
message  
[news:710329A1-DC6E-49BB-8B34-B7E1](mailto:news:710329A1-DC6E-49BB-8B34-B7E1)

I  
figured  
it  
out.  
Something  
told  
me  
that  
the  
dial  
up  
modem  
settings  
page  
that  
kept  
popping  
up

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when  
I  
try  
to  
log  
on  
with  
her  
credential  
was  
just  
prompting  
me  
to  
configure  
it.  
So  
I  
logged  
on  
as  
local  
admin,  
open  
Control  
Panel,  
then  
Phone  
and  
Modem.  
Then  
I  
configured  
the  
local  
area  
code  
(being  
the  
minimum  
entry)  
and  
Ok-ed  
out  
of  
there.  
My  
next  
dial-up  
logo  
on

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with  
the  
CEO's  
credential  
went  
through.  
While  
it  
logged  
in  
as  
expected  
now,  
it  
popped  
up  
a  
dialogue  
box  
that  
said  
it  
could  
not  
find  
the  
CEO's  
local  
profile  
and  
would  
load  
a  
temporary  
profile  
and  
no  
changes  
will  
be  
saved.  
That  
sucks  
because  
it  
will  
keep  
doing  
this  
each  
time

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she  
uses  
the  
dial-up  
logon  
process.  
Any  
ideas?

"Merv  
Porter  
[SBS-MVP]"  
wrote:

Can  
you  
log  
onto  
the  
laptop  
using  
her  
domain  
credentials,  
then  
create  
a  
new  
VPN  
for  
"All  
Users"  
to  
the  
SBS  
server  
(and  
using  
her  
domain  
credentials).  
Then  
log  
off  
and  
log  
back  
on  
again  
with

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her  
domain  
credentials  
and  
the  
"Log  
on  
using" ...?

---  
Merv  
Porter  
[SBS-MVP]

=====  
"MF"  
<MF@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx  
wrote  
in  
message  
<news:CF7F3E76-D806-470>

I  
have  
done  
this  
all  
day.  
I  
actually  
went  
to  
the  
office  
to  
log  
onto  
the  
server  
with  
her  
credentials  
to  
cache  
her  
profile.  
Before  
and  
after,  
I  
have

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created  
the  
VPN  
connection  
and  
tested  
with  
the  
same  
results  
from  
a  
remote  
location.  
Still  
no  
dice.  
(I'm  
pulling  
my  
hair  
now).

"Merv  
Porter  
[SBS-MVP]"  
wrote:

Log  
onto  
the  
laptop  
with  
her  
domain  
credentials  
without  
using  
the  
VPN  
at  
login,  
then  
log  
out  
and  
try  
the

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"log  
on  
using  
dialup  
connection

---  
Merv  
Porter  
[SBS-MVP]  
=====

"MF"  
<MF@xxxxx  
wrote  
in  
message  
[news:E3AC9](mailto:news:E3AC9)

Yes,  
she  
is  
logg  
on  
with  
her  
dom  
cred  
and  
she  
has  
mob  
user  
temp  
appl  
to  
her  
prof  
She  
has  
been  
usin  
VPN  
for  
over  
a  
year  
now  
but  
not  
in

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this  
man  
Her  
lapt  
had  
been  
corr  
so  
it  
had  
to  
be  
re-i  
Now  
I  
am  
facin  
this  
issue  
as  
she  
need  
to  
leav  
tom  
mor  
I  
am  
not  
sure  
wha  
else  
I  
am  
miss  
or  
leav  
out.  
This  
is  
a  
desp  
situa  
now  
as  
ever  
seco  
cour

Tha

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"Me  
Port  
[SB  
wrot

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