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Configuring Folder Redirection in Windows Server 2008 R2

| by OmegaIT — Categories: Microsoft, Server 2008 — Comments Off

Using Folder Redirection improves data availability by having user data stored on a server and not on the client machine. Backing up user data is simplified when the user data is stored on a network server, as well as, replacing computers. If a user's computer needs to be replaced, the data that a user requires can quickly be re-established on a replacement computer.

Configuring NTFS and Share Permissions

To get the best performance from Folder Redirection, it is recommended that you: create the root share on the server and let the system create the users' folders.

The following permissions should be applied to the parent folder:

Share Permissions:

- Everyone – Full Control
- Administrators – Full Control
- System – Full Control

NTFS Permissions:

- Everyone – This folder only
 - Traverse folder/execute file
 - List folder/read data
 - Read attributes
 - Create folders/append data
- CREATOR OWNER – Subfolders and Files Only
 - Full Control
- SYSTEM – This folder, subfolders and files
 - Full Control
- Domain Admins – This folder, subfolders and files
 - Full Control

Configuring the Root Share

Configuring the Share Permissions

- Create a folder that will be used to store the users' folders.
- Right-click that folder and select Properties.
- Click on the Sharing tab.
- Click on the Advanced Sharing button.
- Click on the check box to Share this folder.
- Click on the Permissions button.
- Set the following Share permissions:
 - Everyone – Full Control
 - Administrators – Full Control
 - System – Full Control
 - Click OK.

Configuring the NTFS Permissions

- Right-click the folder that will be used to store the users' folders.
- Select Properties
- Click on the Security tab.
- Click on the Advanced button.
- Click on the Change Permissions button.
- Uncheck the Include inheritable permissions from this object's parent check box.
- A Windows Security warning will pop up, click Remove.
- Set the following NTFS permissions:

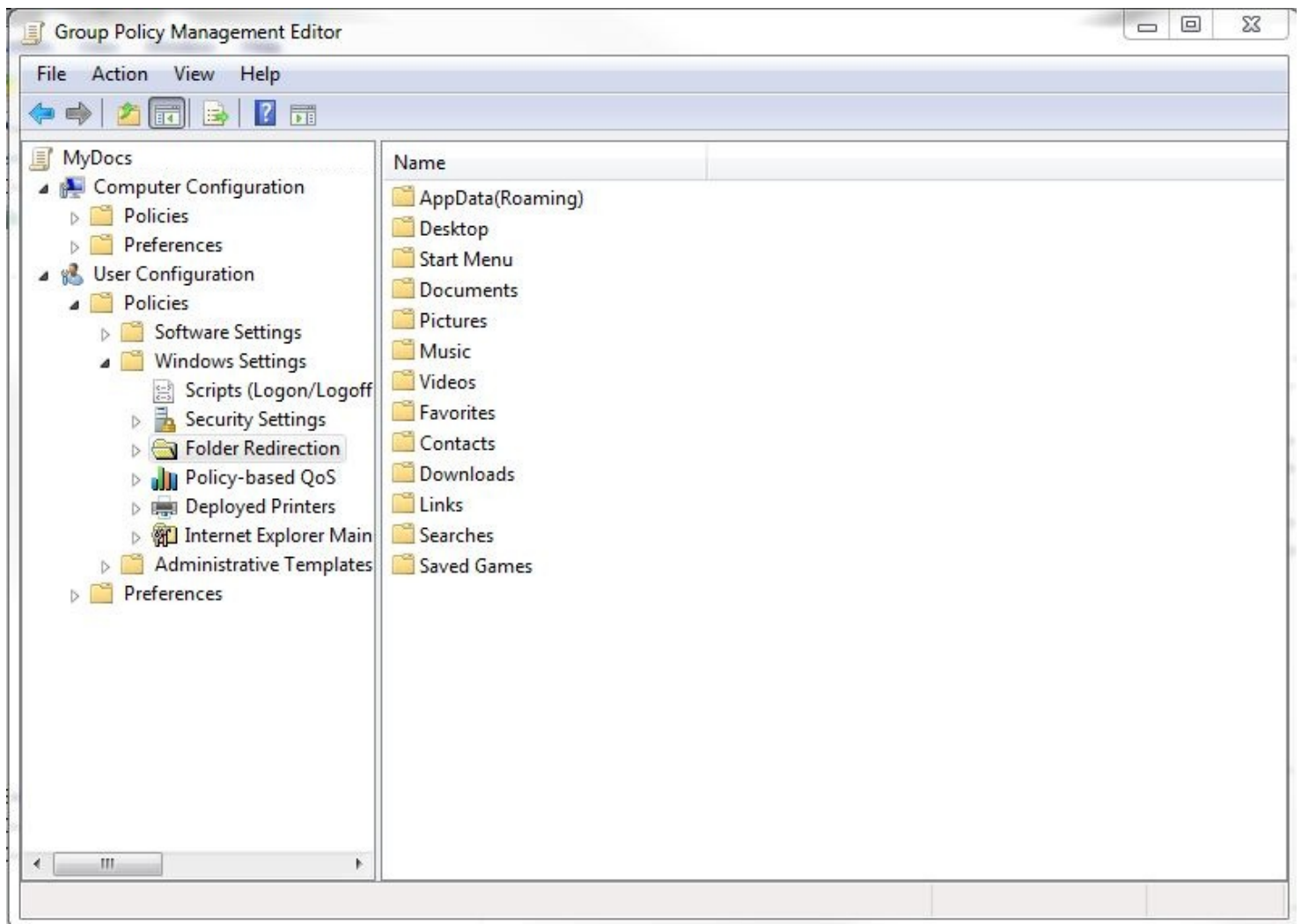
- Everyone – This folder only
 - Traverse folder/execute file
 - List folder/read data
 - Read attributes
 - Create folders/append data
- CREATOR OWNER – Subfolders and Files Only
 - Full Control
- SYSTEM – This folder, subfolders and files
 - Full Control
- Domain Admins – This folder, subfolders and files
 - Full Control
 - Click OK when complete

Configuring the Folder Redirection GPO Settings

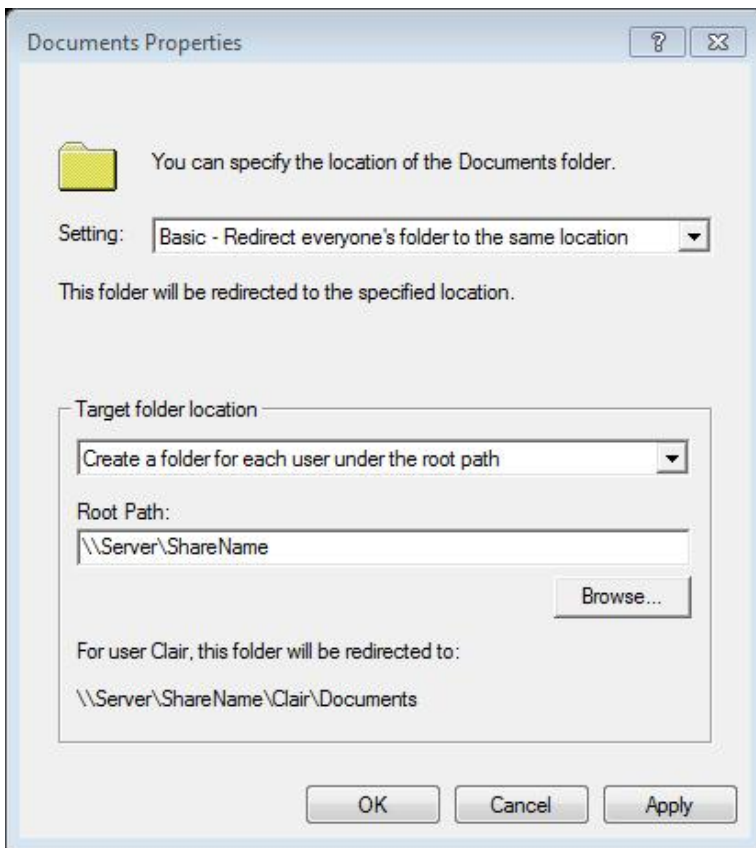
Since Folder Redirection is in the User Configuration portion of a GPO, one can create multiple policies and apply one to each distinct user population by filtering the security settings in the properties of the GPO. This allows administrators to redirect some users' folders to pre-configured directories, that the users do not have sufficient NTFS Permission to alter, and to redirect other users to folders that are self-maintained. In this example, I will show you how to redirect the 'My Documents' folder.

Redirecting My Documents

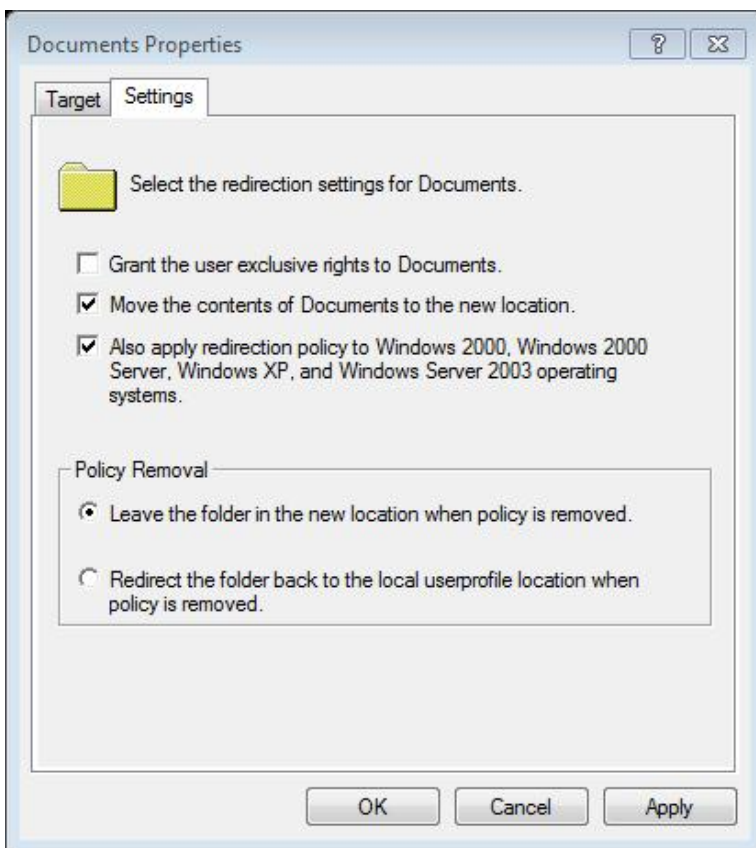
- Open or create a GPO that is linked to the site, domain, or OU that contains the users whose folders you want to redirect.
- Folder Redirection settings are located in User Configuration>Policies>Windows Settings>Folder Redirection. Shown below:



- Right-click the Documents folder and select Properties.
- The Documents Properties box opens. With this GPO, you can configure the folder to redirect to a specified location for all users, or specify different locations based on group membership.
 - To specify different locations, select Advanced in the Setting drop down, and then configure your groups and paths.
 - Select Basic under Setting, and select 'Create a folder for each user under the root path' under Target folder location.
 - Enter your Root Path as: \\Server\ShareName



- Click on the Settings tab.
- Uncheck 'Grant the user exclusive rights to Documents'.
- Check to also apply redirection to Windows 2000, Windows XP, and Windows Server 2003 operating systems.



- Click OK.

Other Folders

The above process can be used to redirect users' other folders to network shares. Keep in mind, some folders will only redirect if the <http://www.omegait.net/articles/configuring-folder-redirect-in-windows-server-2008-r2>

user is using Windows Server 2008 or Windows 7 operating systems (i.e. Favorites, Contacts, Downloads, etc.)

Notes

- The User Configuration Settings in Group Policy will take effect upon the first logon after the policy has been configured and replicated to the user's logon server.
- When the user logs on, the GPO will create a user folder named after the username and a documents folder (or the folder name of the folder you redirected) Example: \\Server\ServerName\Username\My Documents

Works Cited

Microsoft Corporation. (n.d.). *Configuring Folder Redirection*. Retrieved December 2010, from Microsoft Technet Library: [http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/cc786749\(WS.10\).aspx](http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/cc786749(WS.10).aspx)

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Rouse, P. (2007, August 22). *How To Configure Folder Redirection*. Retrieved December 2010, from VirtualizationAdmin.com: <http://www.virtualizationadmin.com/articles-tutorials/terminal-services/performance/configure-folder-redirectation.html>



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