**USER PROFILE MANAGEMENT IN WINDOWS SYSTEM**

**Objectives**

* Understand the overall functioning of the security system on a Windows platform on a local machine (without connection to network resources).
* Grasp the concept and structure of user profiles.
* Comprehend the mechanisms of user and group management.

**Login**

Start the virtual machine with the Windows operating system. First, we will configure the system to enhance security during login.

1. Log in with the user created during the installation. This is the only enabled user at the moment. For security reasons, Windows configures the Administrator account as disabled.

2. Open the command prompt (cmd) and type the command "netplwiz." This command is used to open the user configuration window. Select the advanced options screen and in the "Secure login" section, check the option "***Require users to press Ctrl+Alt+Del.***" Once this is done, restart the system. How should users access the system now? What modification has been made?

| The new user need to press Ctrl+Alt+Del to logging in Windows |
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3- Log in again with your user. Once the user has been authenticated on the computer (i.e., provided correct username and password), Winlogon desktop is exited, and the switch to the applications desktop occurs. At this moment, the work session has started.

Winlogon remains available throughout the work session. We can activate it at any time by entering Ctrl+Alt+Del. When Winlogon is activated, everything on the current desktop, which is the applications desktop, disappears. This is entirely logical because there is a switch to Winlogon's private desktop. Let's try this.

4. When you enter the combination Ctrl+Alt+Del from your user account to go to the Winlogon desktop, what options does the system show you?

| Lock this computer  Switch User  Log off  Change a password  Start Task Manager |
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Access the "Start Task Manager" option and observe the Winlogon process.

User Profile

Windows 7 is a security-oriented system that allows for user management within the system. This involves providing a private storage space for each registered user in the system, as well as the ability for each user to configure their working environment in the system, i.e., their desktop, to their liking. This private storage space and configuration parameters constitute the user profile.

User profiles are stored in a folder called "Users," which, in our case, is located on the C: drive. Each profile is stored in a folder named after the profile owner's username.

5. Access the system with your administrator account. Create two user accounts named iso1 and iso2. To create the accounts, use the "Local Users and Groups" console with the command "lusrmgr.msc." Create the user accounts without a password, but require the user to change it at their next logon. What other accounts are currently on the system? Which ones are disabled?

| We have two accounts disabled   * Guest and Administrador |
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Login with each of the accounts. The first time a user logs in is when their profile is created, which is why it takes longer to log in the first time. Log out.

6. Log in with your administrator account and open the "Users" folder. Observe the names of the folders contained in it. The folders "user" (or the name of your user created during installation), iso1, iso2 contain the profiles of the corresponding users, and "Public" contains configuration information that is common to all users of the system.

Now, let's explore the purpose of the folders stored in a user's profile and configure the profile, providing specific characteristics to the working environment of this user. We'll use the user iso1 for this. Finally, we'll compare the working environment of iso1 with that of iso2, in whose profile we haven't made any modifications. This will demonstrate how the profile defines the particular working environment for each user.

Let's start by looking at the typical folders contained in a user's profile.

7. Open the iso1 folder and list the names of the folders located within it. Then close this folder. Did you have to enter your administrator password for this?

| No I didn’t use any password |
| --- |

One of those folders is "Documents." This folder is used as a private storage location for the user. The "Documents" option in the Start menu is a shortcut to this folder. Each user has their own "Documents" folder in their profile, providing a private storage space for each user. Let's place a file in the "Documents" folder of the user iso1.

8. Log in with the user iso1. Within their session, create a text file called "prueba.txt" on the desktop. Write something in it. Using the Start menu, open "Documents." Move "prueba.txt" to this folder and then close it. Now, open the "Users" folder, then iso1, and finally "My Documents." Observe how the file "prueba.txt" is in this folder.

Now, let's analyze the purpose of the Desktop folder. By default, every user's desktop has one element, the Recycle Bin. This element is defined in the system and is the only one the user finds when entering the system for the first time. However, the user can add as many objects as they want to their desktop. Typically, they will add shortcuts to folders or programs they use frequently. The desktop can even be used to temporarily store files. Everything added to the desktop is stored in the Desktop folder of the user's profile.

9. At this point, you have the "prueba.txt" file in "My Documents." Create a folder named "Prueba" in "My Documents" and move the "prueba.txt" file into it. Now, copy (copy, not move) the "Prueba" folder to the desktop. Create a shortcut to the "Prueba" folder and move it (move, not copy) to the desktop. Open the Desktop folder in your profile and check that the items you just moved to the desktop are there. Minimize the Desktop folder. Delete the "prueba.txt" file from the desktop. Restore the Desktop folder. Note that the "prueba.txt" file has disappeared from the Desktop folder.

In summary, the elements a user places on the desktop are stored in the Desktop folder of their profile.

The "Links" (Vínculos) folder is used to store shortcuts to objects frequently used by the user. The shortcuts stored in this folder are always available in all document browsing windows under the Favorites icon. What other shortcuts does the "Links" folder show by default?

| Desktop, Downloads, Recent Places |
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10. Create a shortcut to Notepad on the desktop. Then move it to the desktop. Open the "Links" folder in the iso1 profile and move the shortcut you just created to this folder.

Now open any other folder. Look at the left menu of this window and observe in the Favorites section the shortcut to Notepad.

Next, open the Internet Explorer browser and connect to the University of Cadiz's webpage. Add the page to favorites. Now open the "Favorites" folder in your profile and check that the link to the University page has been stored there. Click on it to open the browser, accessing the University's webpage directly.

Another important aspect of a user's profile is the configuration of the Start menu, particularly the program groups they will have access to from this menu. The configuration of this menu is stored in:

- "C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\Programs" --> For all users

- "C:\Users\your user\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\Programs" -->

Only for a specific user

The ProgramData folder is a hidden folder. To view it, you need to show hidden files and folders.

Considering the above, create a shortcut to the Calculator (calc.exe) that appears in the Start menu for the user iso1 and a shortcut to Paint (mspaint) that appears in the Start menu for all users. Both shortcuts will be under a folder named "Access" that you should create in the Start menu for all users.

Later, check the Start menu for each user and explain how you have configured it. Did you need special permissions to perform these tasks? Which ones?

| Yes, you need the Administrator password. |
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There may be some applications that a user frequently uses and wishes to have them as accessible as possible. The most accessible location is at the top of the All Programs menu. Currently, there are two shortcuts in this location, Default Programs, and Windows Update. The shortcuts that appear in this location are those located in the Start Menu folder.

11. Considering the above, perform the necessary operations to place a new shortcut to the Command Prompt above the existing shortcuts (Programs Default and Windows Update) in the All Programs menu.

Why do the shortcuts to Default Programs and Windows Update appear in this location in the All Programs menu if they are not in the Start Menu folder of the user iso1?

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