Use roaming profiles to store user profiles centrally on a SMB server associated with the SVM

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Use roaming profiles to store user profiles centrally on a SMB server associated with the SVM

Use roaming profiles to store user profiles centrally on a SMB server associated with the SVM overview

ONTAP supports storing Windows roaming profiles on a CIFS server associated with the storage virtual machine (SVM). Configuring user roaming profiles provides advantages to the user such as automatic resource availability regardless of where the user logs in. Roaming profiles also simplify the administration and management of user profiles.

Roaming user profiles have the following advantages:

- Automatic resource availability

  A user's unique profile is automatically available when that user logs in to any computer on the network that is running Windows 8, Windows 7, Windows 2000, or Windows XP. Users do not need to create a profile on each computer they use on a network.

- Simplified computer replacement

  Because all of the user's profile information is maintained separately on the network, a user's profile can be easily downloaded onto a new, replacement computer. When the user logs in to the new computer for the first time, the server copy of the user's profile is copied to the new computer.

Related information

Using offline files to allow caching of files for offline use

Using folder redirection to store data on a CIFS server

Requirements for using roaming profiles

Before you can use Microsoft's roaming profiles with your CIFS server, you need to know which versions of ONTAP and SMB and which Windows clients support the feature.

ONTAP version requirements

ONTAP support roaming profiles.

SMB protocol version requirements

For storage virtual machine (SVM), ONTAP supports roaming profiles on all versions of SMB.

Windows client requirements

Before a user can use the roaming profiles, the Windows client must support the feature.

For the latest information about which Windows clients support roaming profiles, see the Interoperability Matrix.

NetApp Interoperability Matrix Tool

Configure roaming profiles

If you want to automatically make a user's profile available when that user logs on to any computer on the network, you can configure roaming profiles through the Active Directory Users and Computers MMC snap-in. If you are configuring roaming profiles on Windows Server 2012, you can use the Active Directory Administration Center.

Steps

1. On the Windows server, open the Active Directory Users and Computers MMC (or the Active Directory Administration Center on Windows 2012 and later servers).
2. Locate the user for which you want to configure a roaming profile.
3. Right-click the user and click **Properties**.
4. On the **Profile** tab, enter the profile path to the share where you want to store the user's roaming profile, followed by `%username%`.

   For example, a profile path might be the following: `\\vs1.example.com\profiles\%username%`. The first time a user logs in, `%username%` is replaced with the user's name.

   In the path `\\vs1.example.com\profiles\%username%`, `profiles` is the share name of a share on storage virtual machine (SVM) vs1 that has Full Control rights for Everyone.

5. Click **OK**.

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