

## How to assign a mandatory user profile in Windows XP

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### SUMMARY

This article describes how to assign a mandatory user profile in Windows XP.

**Note:** When a user with an assigned a mandatory profile logs off from a computer, any changes to the profile are lost.

### Open and Configure the User Profile Name Form

To complete these procedures successfully, log on as an administrator or as a member of the Administrators group. If your computer is connected to a network, you may be unable to complete this procedure due to network policy settings.

1. Click **Start** menu, click **Control Panel**, click **Performance and Maintenance**, and then click **Administrative Tools**.
2. Double-click **Computer Management**.
3. In the console tree, double-click **Computer Management**, double-click **System Tools**, double-click **Local Users and Groups**, and then double-click **Users**.
4. Right-click the user account that you want to modify, and then click **Properties**.
5. On the **Profile** tab, in the profile path, type the location of the profile that you want to assign in the following format

`\\ServerName\ProfilesShareName\UserProfileName`

where:

- *ServerName* is the name of the computer where the profiles are stored.
- *ProfilesShareName* is the share name where the profiles are stored.
- *UserProfileName* is the specific folder for this user profile.

### Configure the Network Folder

Properly configure the network folder that you specified in step 5 in the "Open and Configure the User Profile Name Form" section, in which you opened the user profile form:

1. Double-click the **Computer Management on the computer that will contain the user profile** folder.
2. Select **Shared Folders** to create a shared folder on the appropriate server
3. Grant full control to the Everyone group

### Assign a Mandatory User Profile

To assign a mandatory user profile, you must also copy a preconfigured user profile to the location that you specified in the last step opening the user profile form.

1. Click **Start**, click **Control Panel**, click **Performance and Maintenance**, and then click **System**.
2. On the **Advanced** tab, under **User Profiles**, click **Settings**.
3. Click the profile that you want to copy, and then click **Copy To**.
4. In the **Copy profile to** box, type or browse to the path of the folder that you specified in step 5 in the "Open and Configure the User Profile Name Form" section, and then click **OK**.
5. Confirm that the user that is specified under **Permitted to use** is the user who will be accessing this profile. If more than one user will be using the copied user profile, you need to select a group that contains all of these users, such as the Everyone group.
6. Click **OK**.
7. Rename Ntuser.dat to Ntuser.man.

### Troubleshooting

If users will only log on to Windows 2000- or Windows XP-based computers, the user profile path should point to a folder name and the path should not include either the .usr or .man extension. If the folder that you specify in the user profile path does not exist (in step 5 in the "Open and Configure the User Profile Name Form" section), it is automatically created the first time that the user logs on.

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### APPLIES TO

- Microsoft Windows XP Professional