
MacIntosh Home Folders in Active Directory

Posted by Greg Fyn - 2008/08/13 18:54

Hi folks,

I have installed around 60 new iMacs in our school. I have been able to get them to authenticate against our 2003/2008 Active Directory, and the home directory shows up on the desktop alright; but the user can't save to their home folder...is there something special I have to do to make this work? Are there any special permissions I have to put on the share on the Windows side? I think I'm missing something...(and yeah it's probably an OSX server, but the school doesn't want to spend any more money on hardware this school year.) Any help would be appreciated!

Greg

Re:MacIntosh Home Folders in Active Directory

Posted by Greg Fyn - 2008/08/14 20:26

Okie folks! I figured it out...I don't quite know why this worked but it did... It did start with an ever so lucky me moment. Apple shipped us a free OSX server as a premium for our school's major purchase of Apple hardware this year so when we received it I was pretty excited to say the least. So here's my chance to give something back:

Yesterday set up a test active directory user and created a standard home directory/folder with the appropriate windows permissions.

The first thing I did was to add the server to Active directory as a client. To do this you want to set up whatever services you want the mac server to provide. To join active directory as a client I choose open directory as one of the services. Then I configured the service by changing the default Open Directory to Active Directory. It asked me for the local admin's user name and password then told me that the server was ready to be joined to Active directory using the Directory Services plug in....now here is where I screwed up. You must use the Directory Services plug-in using the button in the open directory settings NOT the directory services plug in from the /Applications/Utility folder. This cost me a reload of the Server because I didn't know how to back myself out of it. I repeated the process this time using the right place to do it. It asks you for the name you want the server to be; the AD domain name, and for you to authenticate with an administrative user name and password that exists in the active directory domain. Just for kicks I restarted the server. I then went to a client machine and used the directory services plug in to join it to the domain much in the same way you did the server. I made sure under the LDAP settings to be sure to force the home folder to mount on start-up and make sure that SMB is selected as the protocol. Another Dumb A## moment was that you need to leave the Mappings alone and any other settings. I couldn't log in to the domain when I checked the Mappings...honestly I have no idea why I checked them to begin with. On another machine I left all the other settings alone and voila, I was able to log in and the home folder was remapped to the AD home folder! On the one I screwed up, I couldn't log on as the test user, but could log on as another user and the home folder appeared the way it was supposed to as well. I don't know how to back out of this one either. To test I made a test file in OSX and saved it to the home folder. As we require users to be able to get at their office files whether they be on the PC or Mac, I logged on as the test user and sure enough the file was in the home folder. I would welcome any corrections or suggestions as to how to do this better. Because I am predominately a Windows network administrator this is all new territory for me and the amount of useful interoperability resources on the internet are scarce to say the least. When I'm done my project I'll take some screen-shots and post them on my website.

Greg Fyn
Prairie Wind PC's

Re:MacIntosh Home Folders in Active Directory

Posted by Greg Fyn - 2008/08/17 20:59

OK it mounts the folder but the permissions are still not working. It makes every folder except the documents folder on the server....I don't want to buy a third party solution like AdmitMac by Thursby or Centrix. Does anybody have any ideas on how to do this without third party software?
