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11:56

How to Fix Temporary Profile in Windows 7

MAY 10, 2010 BY DINESH

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Sometimes [Windows 7 OS](#) may not read your correct user profile properly, instead, load with temporary profile which will look completely different. If you are not aware of temp profile or missed to see the pop-up message at bottom right side of the screen, then really you will be surprised to see completely different and new desktop without your files, folders, shortcut icons and any customized settings. This guide shows how to fix temporary profile issue on [Windows 7](#).

"You have been logged on with Temporary profile"- that's the famous message from [Windows 7](#). Even though this article was

published back in 2010, I'm rewriting this again on August 2012 with more information, inputs, related links and the experience I had on this issue for last two years in domain and workgroup environment.



Why Windows 7 Loads with Temporary Profile?

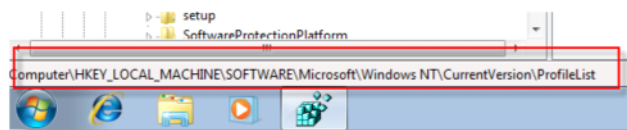
Obviously, your profile (the files and folders located under C:\Users\user_name) is corrupted. There is another chance which is a delay in reading your profile files due to [Antivirus scan](#) or something else during boot up. Usually after typing your user name and password Windows tries to read and load your profile, if it gets corrupted or delay in reading, Windows will load with temp profile to give temporary access on computer.

How to Fix Windows 7 Temp Issue on Workgroup and Domain Environment

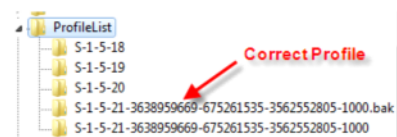
1) Before do anything, **restart the computer 2 or 3 times** to see whether it's going back to your old correct profile. Go to next step if this doesn't work.

2) Rename the temp profile registry and revert back the old registry settings for the correct profile. This method works most of the time for me in Workgroup and domain environment.

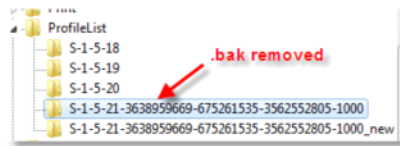
- Log in with temp profile.
- Start registry editor by typing **regedit** in find box of Windows 7.
- Navigate the following location.



d) You will see similar keys under profile list, but one with **.bak**, as shown below.



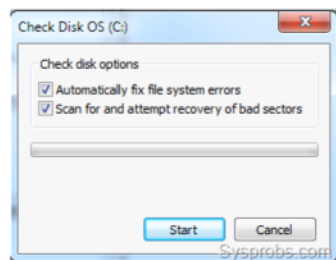
e) The key with .bak is for the correct old profile. Currently your Windows 7 computer logged in with fresh (temporary) profile with same key. So, rename the new profile key (which is not having .bak) and remove .bak from correct profile key. See below.



f) That's it. Log off and log in (or restart) with your user name and password. You must get your correct profile with icons and profile settings back in Windows 7, if you are lucky enough.

Still if Windows 7 computer loads with temporary profile and creates a registry key with .bak, that means user profile is really corrupted and Operating System is not reading it properly.

3) Few times this method worked for me, **repair the corrupted files**. Usually the corrupted 'Ntuser' files cause this issue. So, run the check disk for partition which is having user profile.



After restarting for check disk, if you see corrupted entries and repairing process inside your user profile folder, then you can hope for good news here. If it finds and repairs any files especially Ntuser files, you may get your old Windows 7 profile back.

If above steps do not help you out, then we need to create a new profile with new user name.

Basically we need to create a new user account, login with it and transfer the data from old user profile to new user profile. It is easy in workgroup environment as you can create new user name locally, but it is tricky in domain environment. Because, the existing user account is already there on domain [server](#) and nothing wrong with it. Also, creating a new different domain user account will cause issues on corporate emails, domain groups membership and shared permissions.

So, we need to treat both cases separately.

4) **Create new user name in non domain** (workgroup environment) from control panel or computer management. Make sure to add the new user to **administrators group**.

Login with new user name and start copying your old data from old profile. I normally copy below data,

- a) My Documents (Music, videos and downloads)
- b) Desktop
- c) Favorites
- d) Any outlook PST files (find more information about [location of PST files here](#))

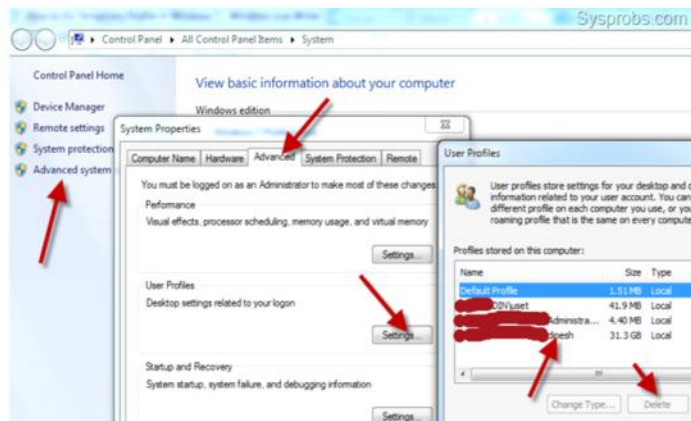
But Microsoft suggests to copy entire old user profile (**except 3 files**) [as shown in this official site link](#).

5) New user profile in domain environment.

Since we can't delete and create new domain user account for this purpose, we will play around with client computer only. Let's completely remove the user profile and re create again.

Copy the important user data (a to d in above step 4) or entire folders from corrupted profile to new location. Double-check that you have copied all required folders and files from old profile, because we are going to delete it now.

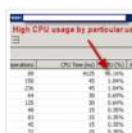
Go to **Advanced settings of System** as shown below, click on **Settings (user profiles)**, select the corrupted user profile which is not loading properly in Windows 7, then press **Delete** button. Delete button will be enabled only if you login with different user account.



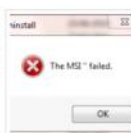
This will remove the entire user profile and related user SID from computer including the registry keys we talked about earlier. You can cross check the proper removal of user account (SID) by checking the **C:\Users** folder. Once it is remove properly, restart the computer and login with same user name (which was not loading earlier). The computer should create a new user profile as this is the first time the user is logging on. You need to copy back your old important data to new profile and set email outlook etc..if required.

I hope these tips help to fix temporary profile issue on Windows 7.

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Comments

Gary Longshaw says:

May 21, 2010 at 2:47 pm

Did exactly this, however the system simply created a third profile at logon and renamed the correct one to .bak again, now I have a *.new, a *.bak, and the new temporary one. I have tried everything, still cant get out of this temporary logon. Strange thing is, here is no apparent reason for it, computer has been fine till I switched it on this Morning, and Ive been in a temporary profile ever since....aaaaargghh!!!!

Jonathan says:

October 19, 2011 at 4:52 pm

Gary, same thing is happening to me. What was your solution?

Gary Longshaw says:

November 5, 2011 at 5:08 pm

Johnathan, I eventually bit the bullet, and accessed all the information from the original profile through the temp one, backed it all up to an external drive, then formatted and did a full clean install. At least I didnt lose anything, but it was a royal pain in the ass.

SnakeDoctor says:

December 1, 2011 at 5:17 pm

I was able to fix this problem recently with a domain joined computer. I simply deleted that registry entry (had his documents backed up to an external drive). Logged off from the admin account, logged in as his user, voila no temp profile message. For verification I saved a few files, ran some stuff and shutdown the machine. Logged back in and everything was fine.

Reformatting should be a last resort to these issues, sorry you had to go through it 😊

Marc says:

January 27, 2012 at 12:39 pm

My problem is a little different, now when you logon as some users we get a temp profile issue, but when we get to the registry there is no .bak profile, has someone there encountered this issue? Do you have a solution?
Tks for your help!

ionut says:

June 11, 2012 at 1:51 pm

in my first profile i dont have any pw and now it is necessary a user name and pw ...what i have to write ...i dont know it i dont had any pw pls help me ty

Mohammed says:

February 13, 2012 at 2:59 pm

I'm having d same problem but I don't know to get my informations at d original profile through the temp. One can u help plz ?

Ronald says:

June 10, 2012 at 12:14 pm

Instead of renaming the *.bak, simply delete it. Then logoff & login again. It should be fine. I have done it on two diff occasions. Worked fine for me.

Jon says:

June 10, 2012 at 9:53 pm

this worked for me, thank you for posting this! and thanks to the original uploader also.

thanks all 😊

TJO says:

July 15, 2010 at 12:19 pm

This does not permanently solve the problem. My system continues to log into temporary profile. This occurs regularly when switching users.

Ozan says:

January 8, 2012 at 9:43 am

The user name should be the same with your user folder. In "non .bak" one, you should correct the "ProfileImagePath".

For example if your username is "Jack", "ProfileImagePath" Should be "C:\Users\Jack".

Anonymous says:

September 16, 2010 at 5:27 pm

Add Step

7) There is a "State" and "RefCount" value set both to "0" (zero).

cp says:

September 20, 2010 at 11:51 am

dont work

Michael Belsky says:

October 12, 2010 at 3:54 pm

I belive I figured this out. I wish Microsoft would add this info the their KB about this issue.
<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/947215>

The fix is:

1. Login using another local administrator account. (Make one if there isnt another).
2. Remove the corrupted user from Users in control panel.
3. Move the corresponding folder from the Documents and Settings (XP) or Users folder (Vista and Windows7) to the desktop of the newly created admin user's desktop.
4. Open regedit and navigate to HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\ProfileList Find the key on the left that corresponds to the corrupted profile. Note the value of the string on the right called GUID. Delete all keys that list the corrupt user profile (.bak versions and regular).
5. THIS IS THE STEP THAT NEEDS TO BE ADDED TO KB:
Go up a few lines in regedit to HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\ProfileGuid.
6. Delete the key (keys?) within this ProfileGuid folder that match the value of the GUID string that you noted above.
7. Restart PC
8. Login as the temporarily created admin profile. Go to control panel and recreate the corrupted profile. (Make it an administrator at least temporarily so you'll be able to access the files we moved to the other admin's desktop if needed).
9. Logout and login as fixed user.
10. Copy any files from the temp admin's desktop where we copied the corrupted profiles data, into the appropriate places in the fixed profile. This includes My Documents, Favorites, Outlook data, and any other user data you need.
11. Once everything is working properly, you can remove the temp admin from control panel> Users and delete its folder.

MAKE SURE YOU HAVE ALL OF THE DATA YOU NEED BEFORE REMOVING THE TEMP ADMIN.

GL!

9. Logout and login as recreated user.

10.

Dinesh says:

October 13, 2010 at 10:20 am

@Michael Belsky,

Thanks for the good information.

ProfileGuid is new to me and I think it will fix the issue permanently since several users reported this method did not work for them. I will check your steps and update this post accordingly. Thanks again for your valuable information. I don't think Microsoft will change their KB, but I will.

Joe says:

June 15, 2011 at 4:48 pm

Thank you for this tutorial.

I just would like to know why my regedit doesnt have this
HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\ProfileGuid folder... and
same way GUID string inCurrentVersion\ProfileList folder is missing.. so I cant
complete all the procedure in this guide.

I attach a image where you can see it: <http://i55.tinypic.com/8zifr8.jpg>

Thank you so much in advance.

Joe

Joseph says:

January 19, 2012 at 9:00 pm

Thanks Michael,

Your tutorial helps fixing the issue. This is much simpler under the client/domain user since i do not have to save my client doc. All I have to do is to delete the client's profile and then go to the registry keys and follow your tutorial.

Regards,

Rick says:

February 21, 2012 at 2:17 pm

I removed all the ProfileList Users and logged back in. I can recreate a local user profile but not one for my domain. So now I can at least log into the workstation without the error message but I still have the same problem when logging into the network. I am running SBS2008R2 on the backend with ADDS. HELP!!!!

Matt W says:

May 2, 2012 at 5:24 pm

Yes, this is what did it for me as well, but since my client is in a domain, removing from Control Panel wasn't necessary, just deleting the keys with the problem user's SID under ProfileList key.

Michael Belsky says:

October 14, 2010 at 4:22 pm

Glad to share!

Stuart says:

November 18, 2010 at 10:42 am

I have this issue but i cannot delete the registry keys. It just says cannot delete them, unable to do this is safe mode either.

Any ideas? I think i may just reinstall from scratch....

Dinesh says:

November 18, 2010 at 3:29 pm

@Stuart,
Can you log in with other administrative user account and delete?

It should work.

Greg says:

December 2, 2010 at 7:50 pm

When logged in with the temporary profile it will not let you create another profile. So while MBs fix may work I can't get there from here.

Mr X says:

February 7, 2011 at 3:13 pm

This does work.

If you create a new account with admin rights you should be able to then use that account to delete the one that has the temporary profile. On this website you can find an image of the full error message to see if it matches your error message –

<http://www.mypchealth.co.uk/Win7Profile.php>

Miss Grateful says:

April 20, 2011 at 11:21 pm

Thanks a lot! This does the trick.

Zee says:

April 21, 2011 at 2:47 pm

My PC created a Locked Temp folder in the Users Folder. I went to the registry to try some of your suggestions. What solve the problem for me is.... Navigate to HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\ProfileList and change the profileimagepath in your profile key to the desired folder.

Mary Lou says:

May 21, 2011 at 9:12 pm

Worked for me – thank you!

Matt says:

May 25, 2011 at 4:34 am

This only worked for me when I removed all references to the GUID from the registry, but thanks for this information as it pointed me in the right direction.

windows7 tutorials says:

June 9, 2011 at 7:10 am

.-) Lovely Thank you for the information beautifully made! Just do not reveal ones own hassles to your colleagues...20% tend not to care at all plus the additional 80% are generally glad you suffer from them.

Rojo Don Poho says:

June 9, 2011 at 3:46 pm

Thank you Michael Belsky!
You saved my machine... I was just about to re-image the machine, because I was getting frustrated with the temporary profile thingy.

Donnie says:

June 23, 2011 at 11:47 pm

I seem to not have profile list because owner is the only one on my computer

Expert User says:

July 8, 2011 at 4:08 am

Simply delete the profile keys from the registry and then re login

Techrider says:

July 11, 2011 at 8:29 am

How do I create a new .bak key. I deleted .bak from the key name and deleted the corrupt key. However, now there is no .bak key. I would be in serious trouble if this happens again.

Joe says:

July 14, 2011 at 2:38 pm

Thank you for this tutorial.

I just would like to know why my regedit doesnt have this
HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\ProfileGuid folder... and same way GUID string inCurrentVersion\ProfileList folder is missing.. so I cant complete all the procedure in this guide.

I attach a image where you can see it: <http://i55.tinypic.com/8zifr8.jpg>

Thank you so much in advance.

Joe

Dik says:

[July 24, 2011 at 7:38 am](#)

Like Joe, I also do not have the ProfileGuid folder

Anslem Alexnader says:

[August 12, 2011 at 9:36 am](#)

This does'nt work at all.

As u dont have the permission to change ur own profile, and gives some error.

Anslem Alexander says:

[August 12, 2011 at 9:41 am](#)

It is better to take the backup of the profile and then login through admin and delete the profile form the path given and then login.

this will create a new profile.

(BUT DATA BACKUP IS COMPALSORY.)

Ethan says:

[August 17, 2011 at 9:44 pm](#)

Thank you!! When I first turned on and found all my icons and most of my programs were gone, I almost went insane. But it's fixed now and I don't have to reload all my iTunes music.

Thanks again

Egghatch says:

[August 18, 2011 at 4:07 pm](#)

This won't work for me. An error message pops up that says "Error renaming key." How can I fix that?

Andrew says:

[August 26, 2011 at 5:22 am](#)

Fantastic fix, thank you. I had the temp account problem for a domain account for our company's MD who couldnt get into his laptop. I logged in as domain admin account, ignored step 2 with it being a domain and not a local account. The regedit bits worked a treat, really saved the day for me, much appreciated.

NikkiG says:

[September 17, 2011 at 6:16 pm](#)

Fix at top worked for me first time. Didn't have to create another admin profile. Thanks a million!

Chupa says:

[September 20, 2011 at 8:20 pm](#)

Thought I should also add that this solution worked me right off the bat. +1

Stalin says:

[October 14, 2011 at 1:01 am](#)

its not working and I don't have a *.new, a *.bak, and the new temporary one. I have tried everything, still cant get out of this temporary log on.

Hurstez says:

[November 5, 2011 at 3:30 pm](#)

FRUSTRATING Bad News when half a dozen people furnished how-to repairs are and there are problems in the repairs. Of course the biggest mess is listed first

tiMMeH! says:

[November 24, 2011 at 7:58 pm](#)

I have found that creating a profile.V2 folder in the profile share fixes the problem.

Windows XP Profile: \\servername\profile

Windows 7 Profile: \\servername\profile.V2

Now you can leave the old Profile folder there in case the user needs to log on to an XP machine as well, but this is how I fixed the problem. I tried all the other suggestions here and it didn't work unfortunately.

Also note, you DON'T have to update the Profile path in Active Directory.

Wahid Amiri says:

[December 25, 2011 at 3:41 am](#)

Thanks from Michael Belsky, this solution worked fine. I want everybody to use Michael Belsky procedure which has positive result.

Thanks

Wahid

maverator says:

[December 27, 2011 at 7:00 pm](#)

Just like every other forum on the web where this problem is discussed, we get people saying "here is the fix", as if it is actually going to work, and then you get a handful of people saying it worked for them, and others who say it doesn't. How useless.

angelene says:

[December 29, 2011 at 8:29 am](#)

I tried Michael Belsky's fix. Created a new account and deleted the other one, bu the files did not go to the desktop and have now been lost – permanently I guess! Dont have a profile list or anything saying .bak?

Michael Belsky says:

[December 30, 2011 at 10:30 am](#)

Unfortunately you must backup the files you need in step 3 manually. This does not happen automatically. Did you check the location mentioned in step 3? Those files should still be there until you delete them manually. If you are asked while removing the user from Users in Control Panel if you want to delete the files, you should have answered "no". Then you back them up to the desktop of the newly created temp profile, then delete the folder from the corrupted profile.

I would edit my original post to make it more clear if I was able to.

Lebo Moloi says:

[January 23, 2012 at 12:54 am](#)

Tnks a lot, simple straight foward and it wks.

Ms SiKyunTae says:

[January 27, 2012 at 9:54 pm](#)

Thanks a lot about the information.....

It's really working^^

Thank very much^^

chestnutman says:

February 1, 2012 at 3:48 pm

Thank you so much for this guide! Worked perfectly! What would I have done without this..

Bill Brown says:

February 7, 2012 at 1:35 pm

I found this REALLY useful. It helped immensely and solved a problem for us. THANK YOU!

cly says:

March 2, 2012 at 11:03 pm

I fixed this issue by logging into the temp account, creating a new account with admin, then I Switched Users, deleted the temp account and everything worked fine.

Mohar Jha says:

March 5, 2012 at 8:57 am

Thank you Very Much, this solution worked fine. I want everybody to use this procedure which has positive result 😊

S Anwar says:

March 20, 2012 at 6:27 am

It works like magic 😊

Hank Arnold (MVP) says:

March 29, 2012 at 6:42 am

This was a really informative discussion. However, some posts talked about editing the registry. One of my biggest hot buttons is how we have started treating editing the registry as "just another routine activity". Very seldom these days do I see what I think is a critical and mandatory warning:

BEFORE EDITING THE REGISTRY BACK IT UP!! INCORRECT EDITING CAN CAUSE SERIOUS (AND POSSIBLY FATAL) DAMAGE!!!

Hank Arnold (MVP)

Don Gilcrease says:

April 6, 2012 at 9:52 am

I also do not have any HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\ProfileGuid key. So what does one do from there? I guess I'll try cly's (4 posts above) procedure.

And Hank, you guys at Microsoft – I assume the MVP means you work there – 1) can't seem to create a stable OS, and 2) provide any really useful information about how to fix, or at least work around the plethora of bugs. So, Microsoft having left us just hanging, we have to do what we can come up with to do Microsoft's job.

Jason says:

April 26, 2012 at 5:50 pm

Thanks! I followed instructions and everything is back to normal!

lacey says:

May 25, 2012 at 8:14 pm

if you do this procedue do you lose all files on your original account such as photos, work, music, downloads?

cly says:

May 26, 2012 at 11:13 am

now i cant log into my computer at all! any suggestions?

mitch says:

May 31, 2012 at 12:22 pm

Trying to create a "roaming-mandatory" profile for users and getting the temporary profile message as well. I have checked in the registry, and I do not have a .bak entry for the user (nor do I have any registry setting for the user) so I do not have a GUID that would relate to that user. The profile (mandatory.v2) resides on a server share. I have tried all steps listed in this article, but I am still having no luck getting this profile to work properly.

Halros says:

June 5, 2012 at 12:35 am

the thing is on my computer there is no .bak file!!! I dont know what is going on! I think its because of this one download thats really popular vindictus. If theres any other solutions let me know cuz im dieing without it/

Halros says:

June 5, 2012 at 8:42 am

Hellllp...

vasile says:

June 11, 2012 at 1:55 pm

when i had first profile i dont have any pw and now it want to write user name and pw???I DONT KNOW IT?ANY IDEA ?PLS HELP ME TY