Windows Server 2008 R2 and roaming profiles on SAMBA

1. Introduction

A roaming user profile is a concept in the Microsoft Windows NT family of operating systems that allows a user with a computer joined to a Windows Server domain to log on to any computer on the same network and access their documents and have a consistent desktop experience, such as applications remembering toolbar positions and preferences, or the desktop appearance staying the same.

2. Testing environment

   a) Windows Server 2008 R2 with Active Directory Domain Service installed,
   b) DSS Boston2 (b5078) connected to ADS,
   c) Windows Server 2008 R2 connected to ADS.

3. Step by step guide

3.1. Setup DNS settings on DSS

Please type DNS server from ADS into DNS settings tab in SETUP -> network -> Interfaces
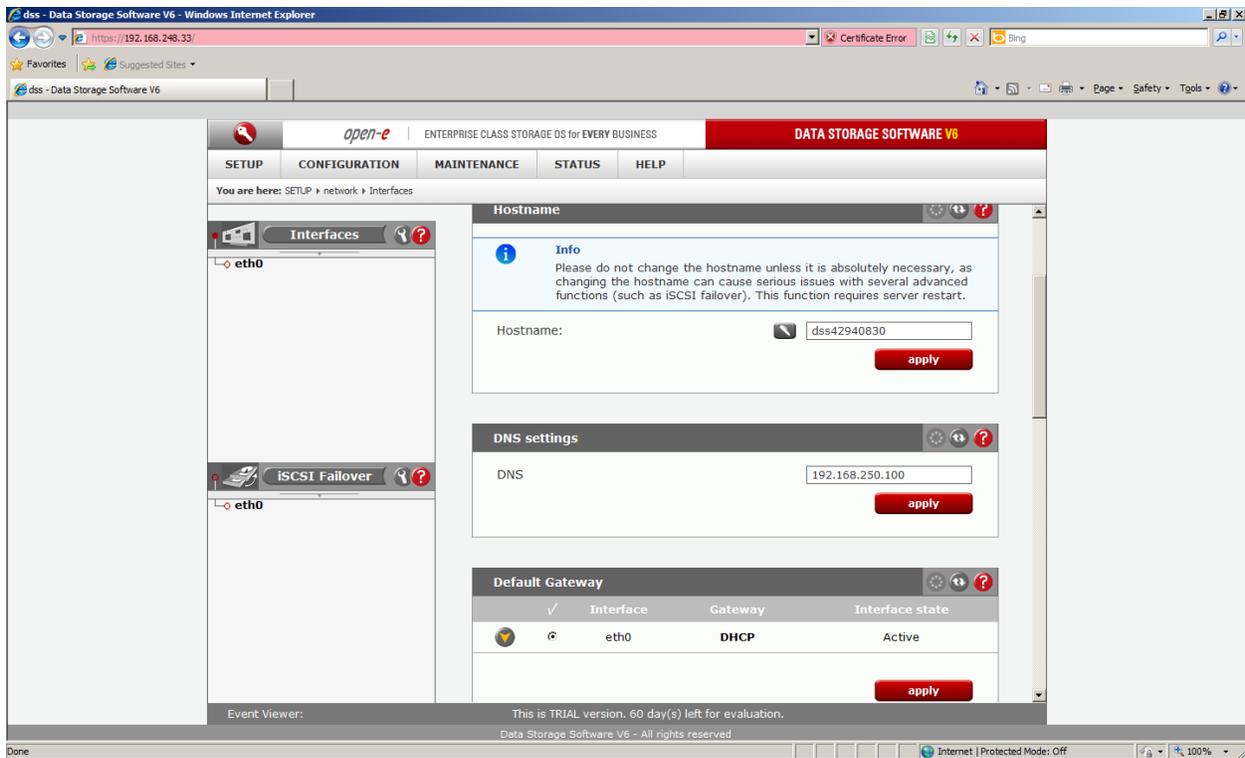
3.2. Connecting to ADS from DSS

Please choose Authentication method to Windows (ADS) and specify ADS credentials (eg. Realm, KDC IP, Name, Password) in CONFIGURATION -> NAS settings.

https://192.168.248.33/

Certificate Error | Bing

Favorites | Suggested Sites ▾

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| SETUP | CONFIGURATION | MAINTENANCE | STATUS | HELP |

You are here: CONFIGURATION ▸ NAS settings

Authentication method

○ Workgroup (internal LDAP)
○ Workgroup (external LDAP)
○ Windows (PDC)
◉ Windows (ADS)
○ Workgroup (NIS Server)

Realm: `NWTRADERS.MSFT`

KDC (ADS Server) IP: `192.168.250.100`

Administrator account:

    Name: `Administrator`

    Password: ``

☐ Allow trusted domains
☐ Erase TDB database

apply

NFS settings

☐ Use NFS

apply

Event Viewer: | This is TRIAL version. 60 day(s) left for evaluation.

Done | Internet | Protected Mode: Off | 100%

3.3. Changing Global SMB settings

Please deselect "Hide special folders" in SMB settings tab in CONFIGURATION -> NAS settings
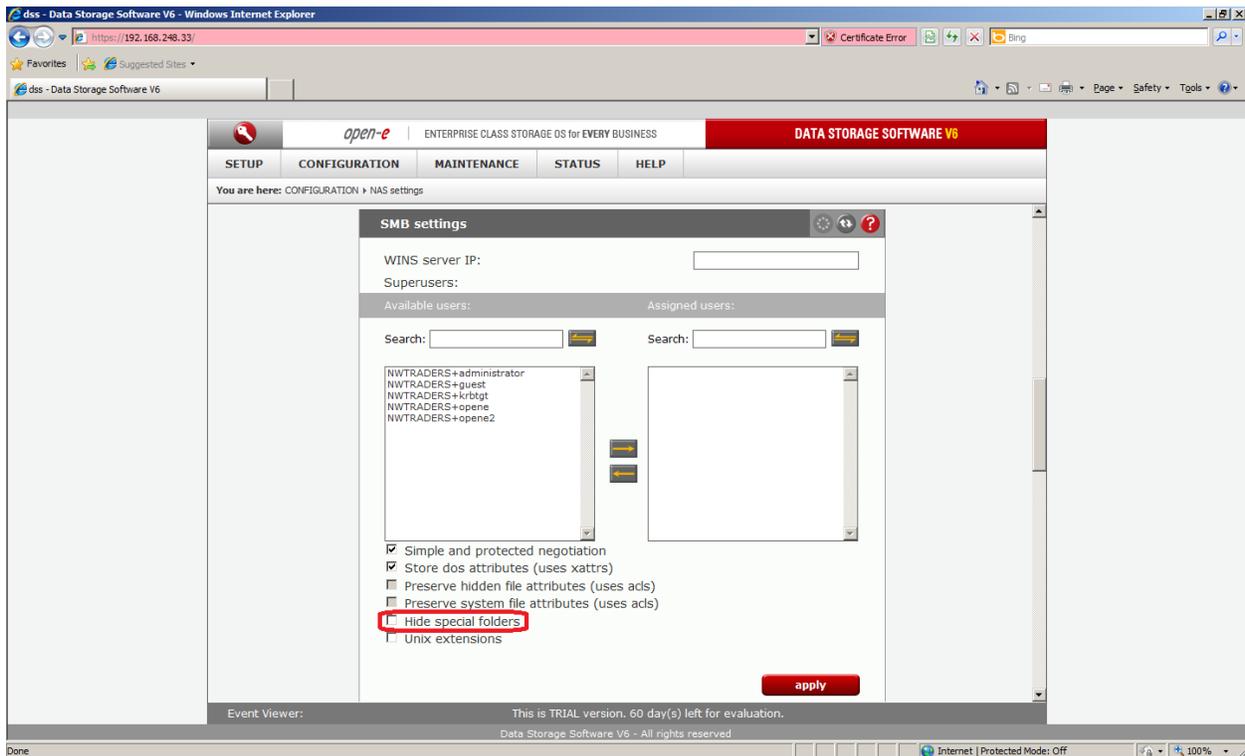

3.4. Creating new profile share

Please create new share (eg. profiles) in CONFIGURATION -> NAS resources -> Shares
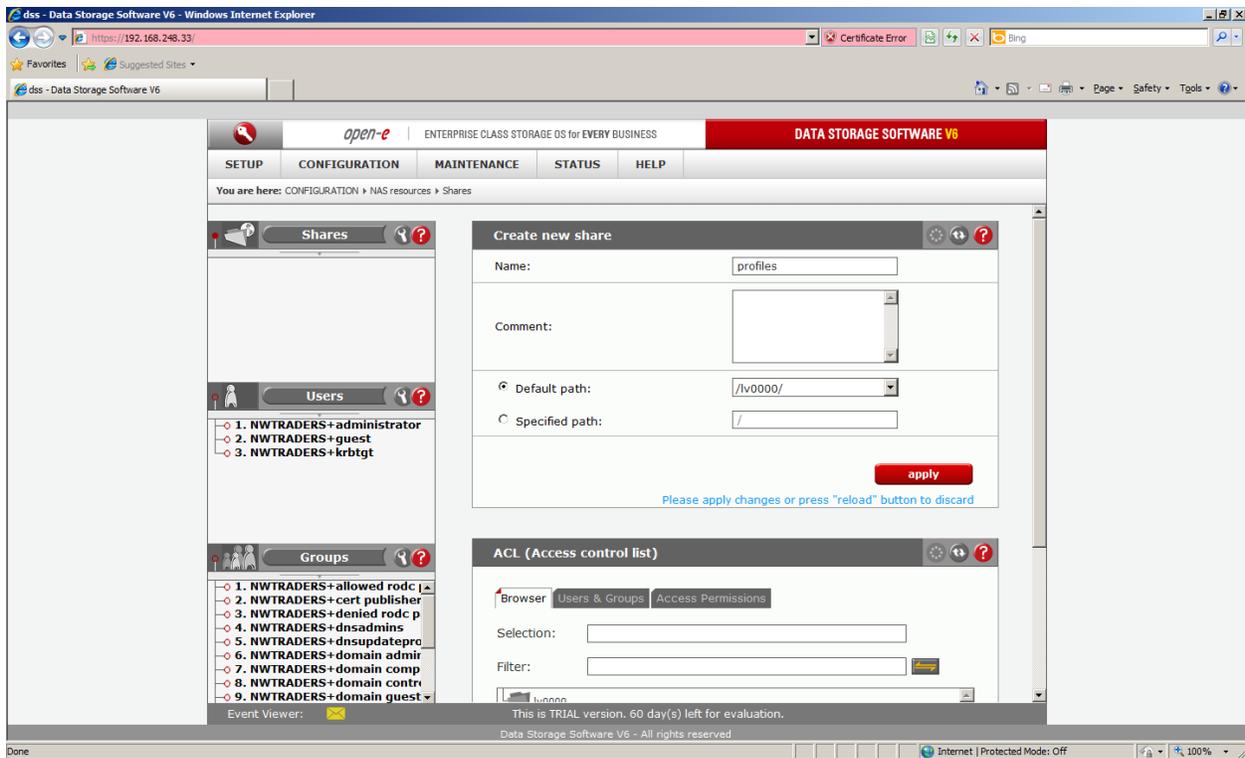
3.5. Changing SMB settings on share
Please deselect "Visible" option and change user access permissions to "Users with password" in SMB settings -> NAS resources -> Shares ->share_name (eg. profiles)
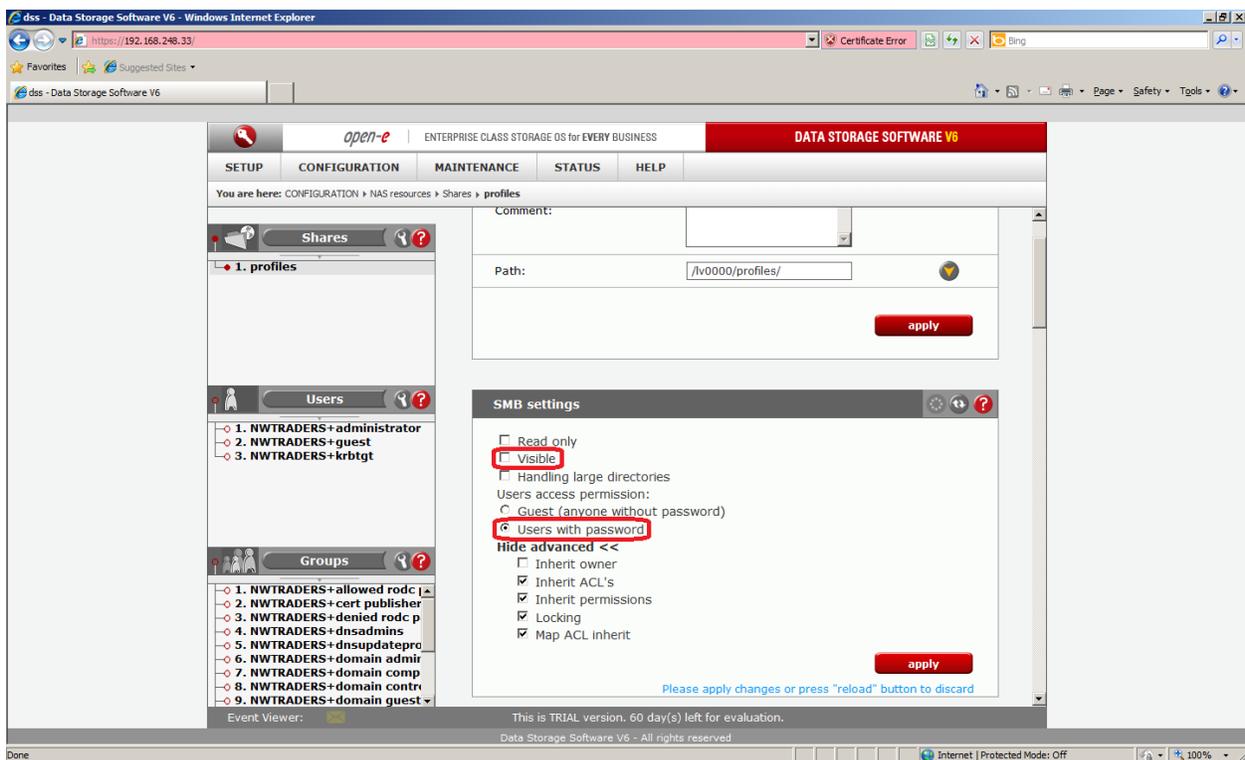
3.6. Changing group share access on share

Please add "domain users" and "domain admins" group to Granted access groups in Groups share access (SMB/FTP/AFP) in CONFIGURATION -> NAS resources -> shares ->

share_name (eg. profiles)
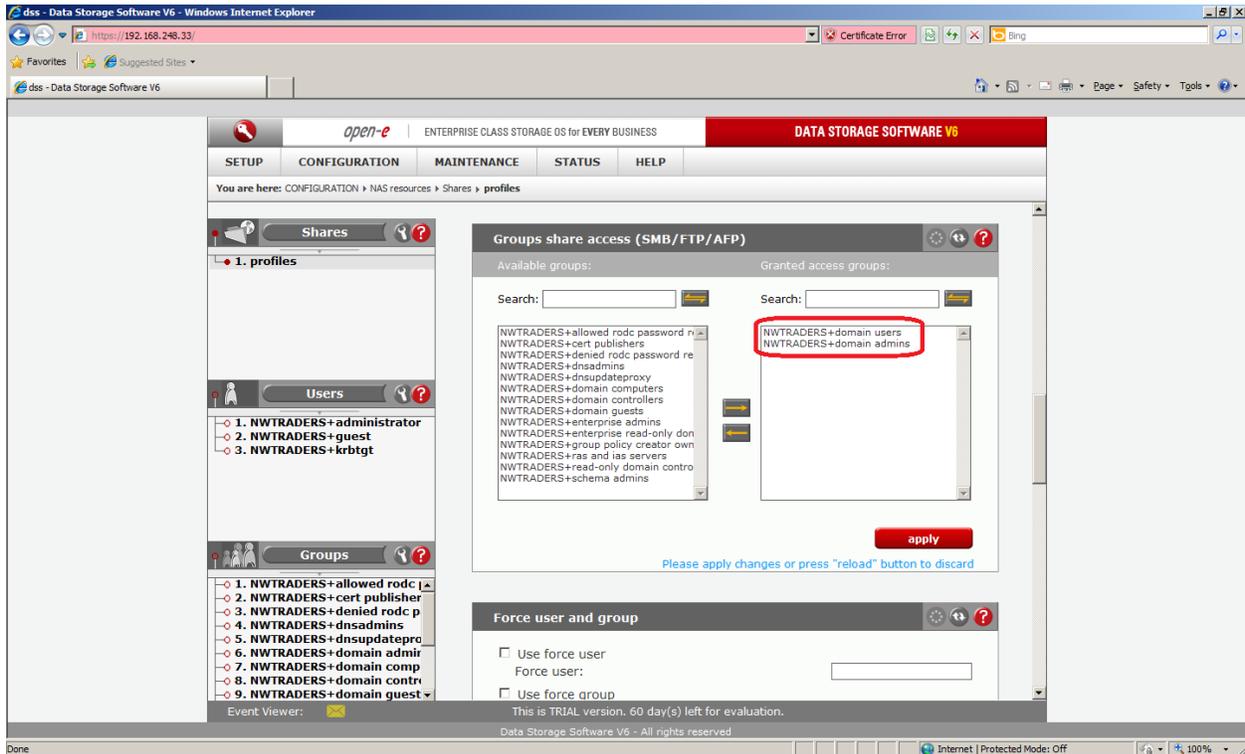
3.7. Creating new user on ADS

Please right-click into Active Directory Users and Computers window and choose New -> User.
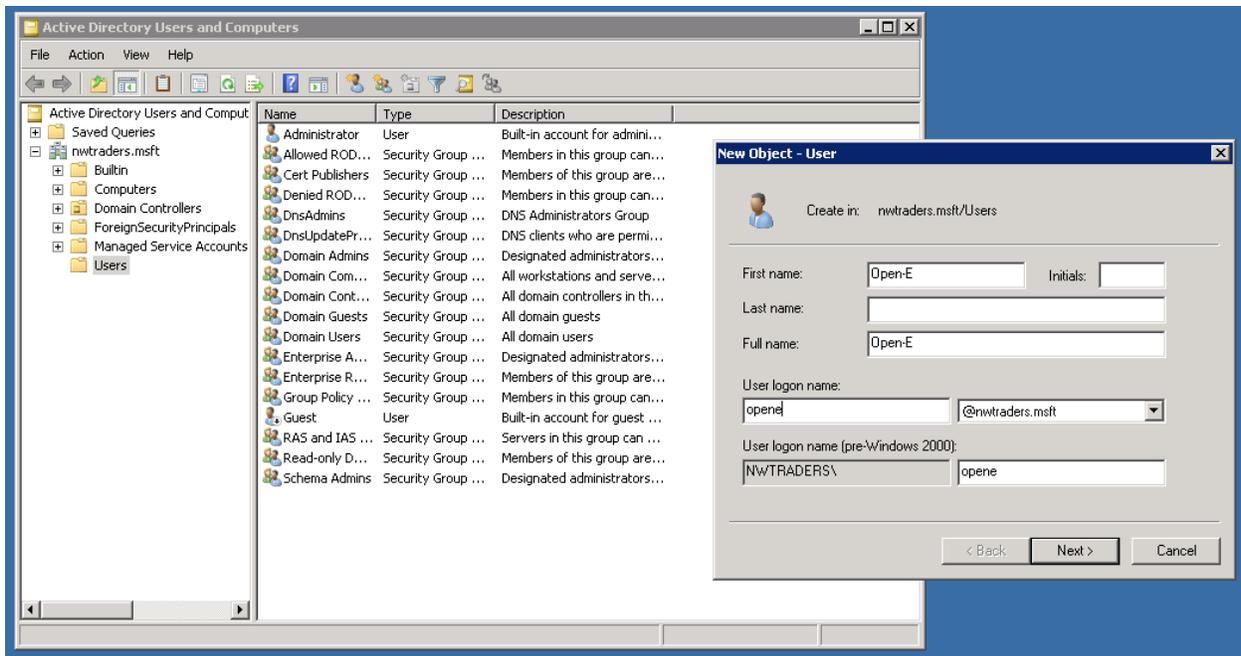
3.8. Activating mobile profile on ADS

Please right-click on previously created user and choose Properties. Click on Profile tab and specify path to DSS and share for profiles in Profile path (eg.
\\192.168.248.33\profiles\%USERNAME%)
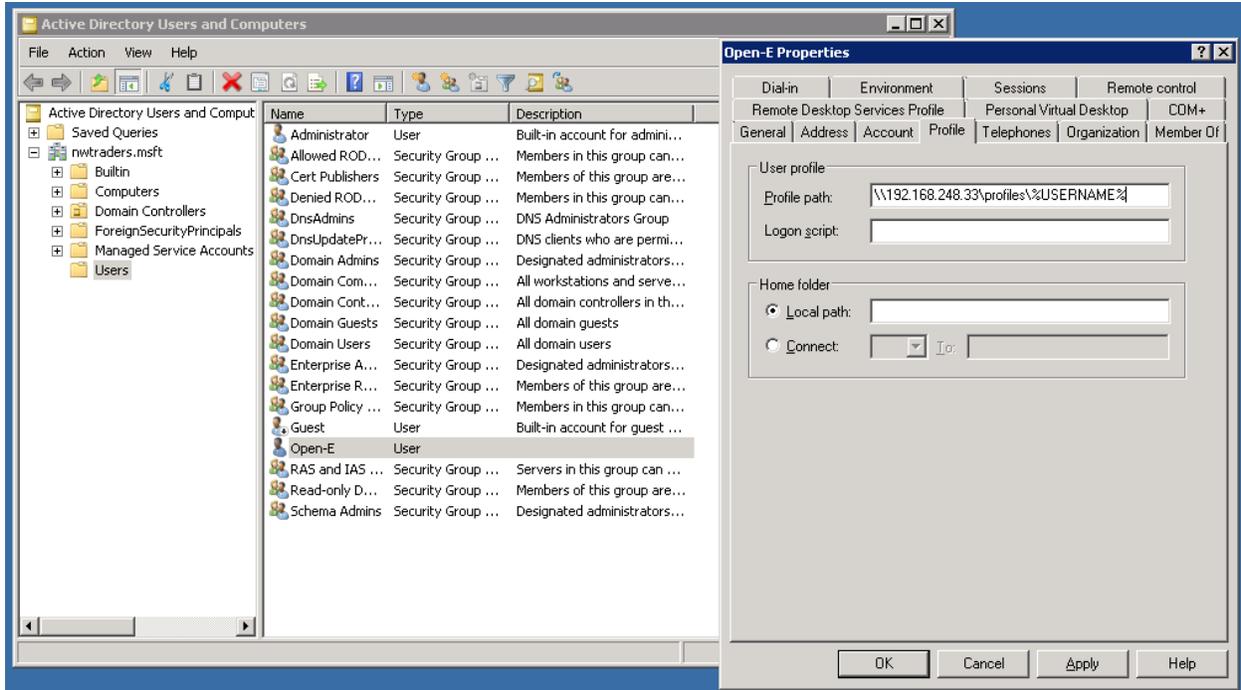
3.9. Setup network configuration on second Windows

On second Windows, please specify DNS server from ADS.
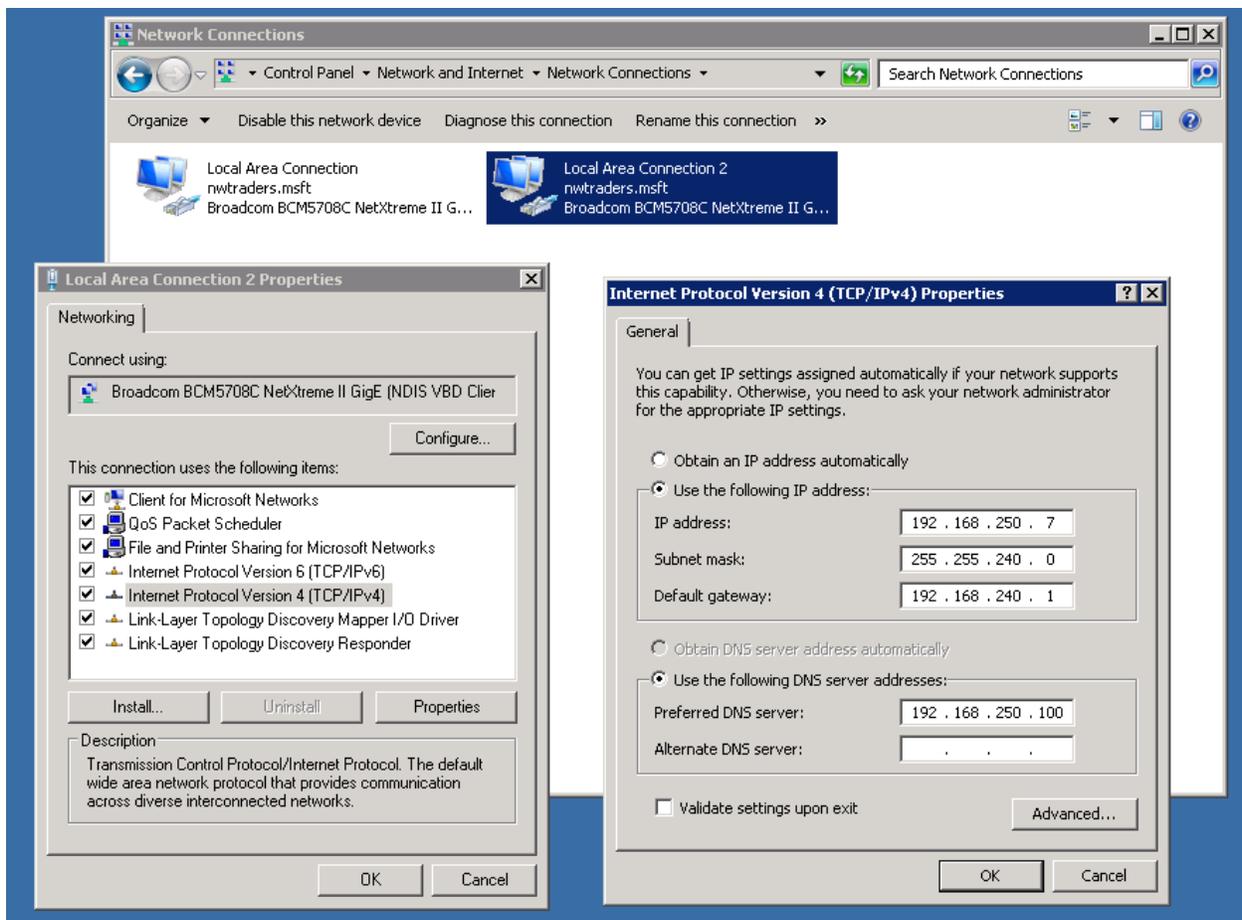
3.10. Connecting second Windows to ADS

Join second Windows to domain.
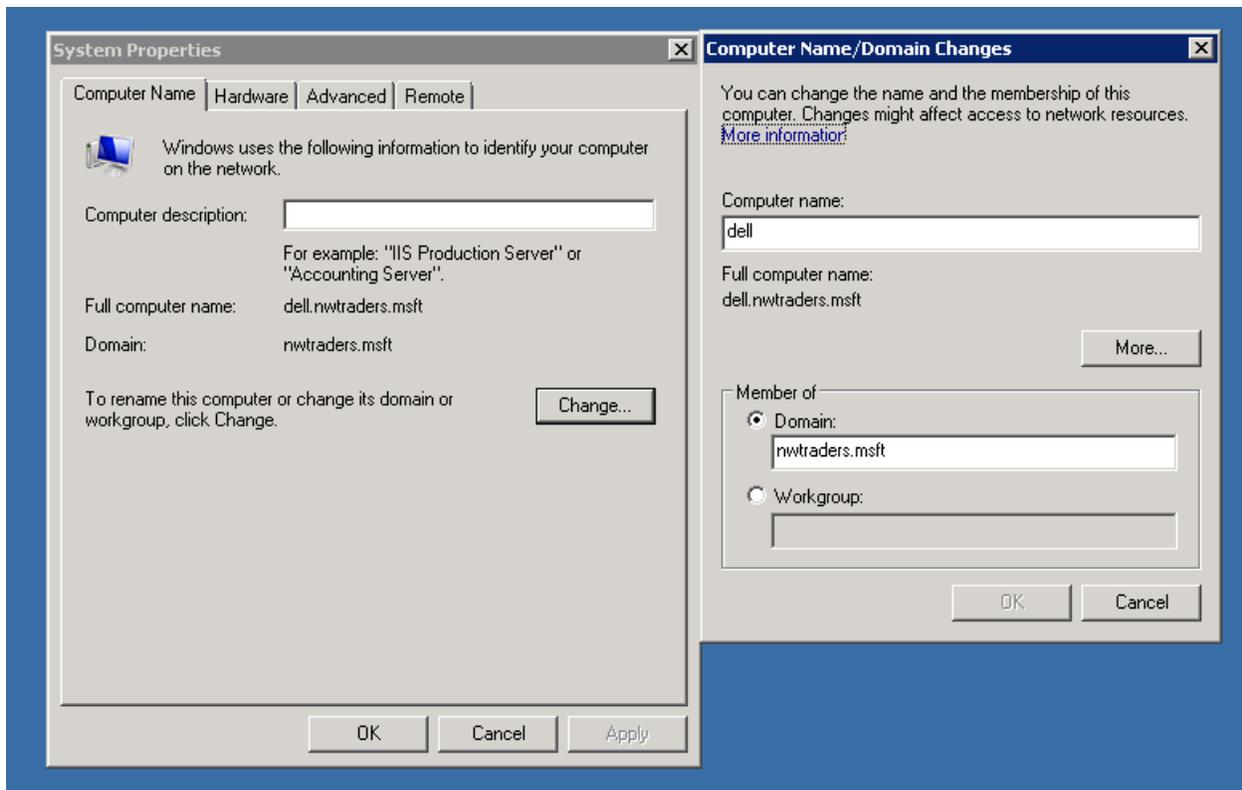
3.11. Configuring permissions on remote desktop

To permit connection from remote desktop, please add group Domain users in Remote Desktop Users Window
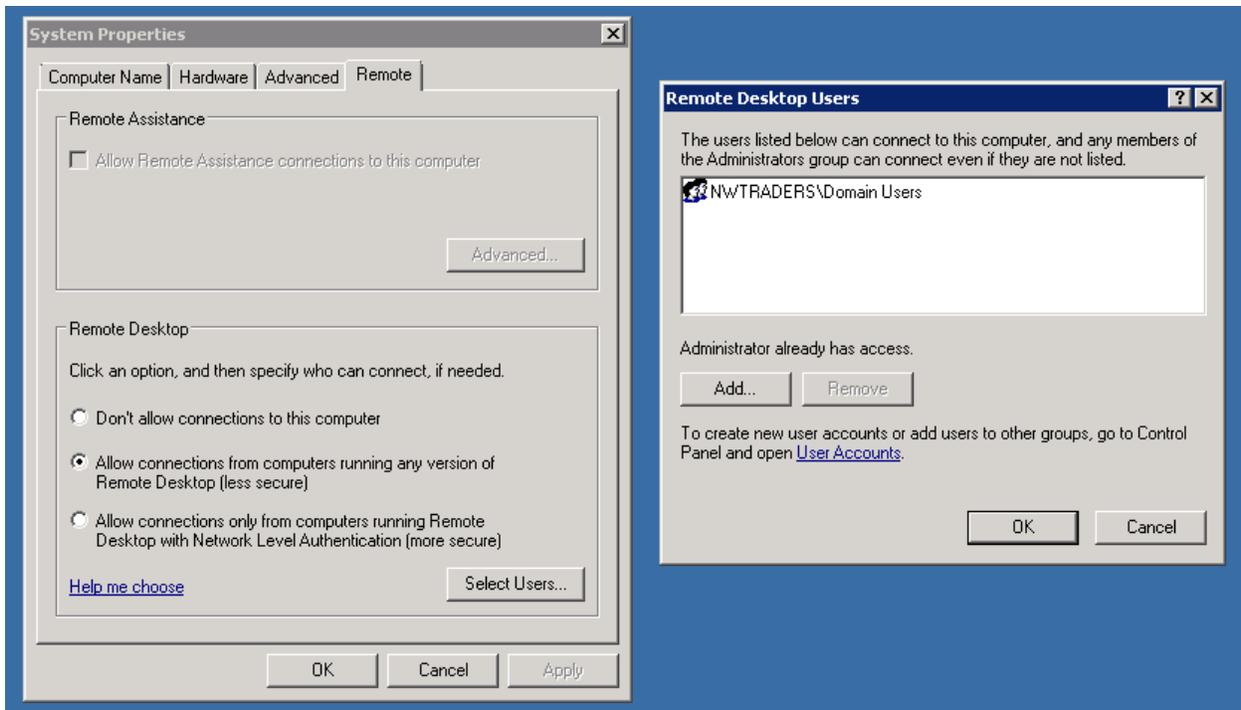
3.12. Login on mobile profile
Please use Remote Desktop Connection to Second Windows to test roaming profiles.
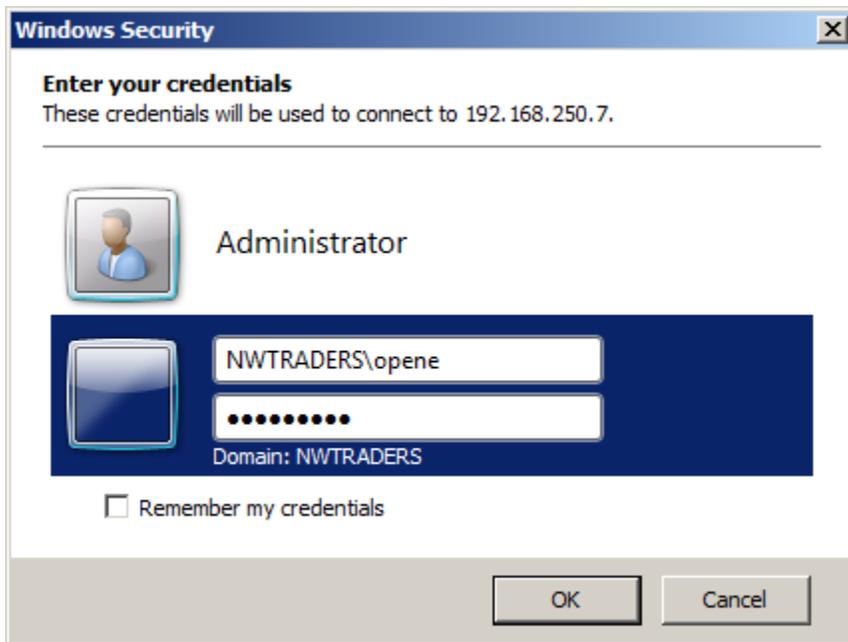
3.13. Preview files from profile on DSS
Logout from Remote Desktop Connection and check samba share with user profiles to ensure that roaming profiles are successfully saved (eg.

\\192.168.248.33\profiles\opene.V2)

opene.V2

Network ▸ 192.168.248.33 ▸ profiles ▸ opene.V2 ▸

Search opene.V2

Organize ▼   New folder

Favorites
- Desktop
- Downloads
- RecentPlaces

Libraries
- Documents
- Music
- Pictures
- Videos

Computer

Network

| Name	Date modified	Type	Size
AppData	2011-01-10 13:53	File folder	
Contacts	2011-01-10 13:53	File folder	
Desktop	2011-01-10 13:53	File folder	
Documents	2011-01-10 13:53	File folder	
Downloads	2011-01-10 13:53	File folder	
Favorites	2011-01-10 13:53	File folder	
Links	2011-01-10 13:53	File folder	
Music	2011-01-10 13:53	File folder	
Pictures	2011-01-10 13:53	File folder	
Saved Games	2011-01-10 13:53	File folder	
Searches	2011-01-10 13:53	File folder	
Videos	2011-01-10 13:53	File folder	
NTUSER.DAT	2011-01-10 13:53	DAT File	512 KB
ntuser	2011-01-10 13:53	Configuration settings	1 KB

14 items

4. Microsoft recommendations

To ensure optimum functionality use the following guidelines for setting Group Policy for roaming user profiles from Microsoft TechNet website:
Group Policy Recommendations for Roaming User Profiles