

## Get Your Windows System to Boot in a Flash with a New User Profile

With the Tips & Tricks given in this article you will be able to:

- ✓ Make your re-boots much faster by getting rid of unnecessary baggage,
- ✓ Easily repair a faulty user account,
- ✓ Transfer your current setup to a new user profile.

Tips & Tricks

Does it feel like your computer takes forever to boot up? And when it has started, is working with Windows sluggish, and your installed applications slow? You might have tried some basic optimisation steps, such as cleaning up the startup folder and defragmenting your hard drive, but without any success.

If so, it is likely that your user profile is at fault. An overloaded or possibly even damaged user profile puts the brakes on the Windows boot process, and can affect the speed of Windows in normal operation too.

**My Tip:** Create a new user profile. A new profile can reduce your boot times by up to half in some cases, and will fix any problems with your profile. I'll show you how to do so, while retaining your important settings, in this article.

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## How Windows Uses Your Profile

### Your personal storage folders

When you log into your PC, Windows loads up your desktop. This can take a while, and while you are waiting Windows is reading and activating the settings from your user profile. The user profile is automatically created when you first set up your account, and added to with more settings every time you make a change to your configuration.

All of your user interface settings are stored in your user profile. Options such as your desktop colour scheme and background picture are included, as are your default network and printer settings.

### How to use the user profile

The benefits of this system are easy to see: if you have more than one person using your PC, each person can customise the configuration to their own needs and set up the work environment just as they want. User profiles also allow you to separate access permissions between users, so that one person cannot read another person's files. It's almost as if each user has their own PC.

### Spot user profile errors

Because so much important information is stored in your user profile, problems with the profile can have serious consequences. For example, you may find that you no longer have access to your programs and data, or in the worst case cannot even log on to your PC.

But don't despair. You can restore a broken user profile in just a few steps, without losing your documents, desktop settings, and other important information.

## How the New Profile Trick Works

### Replace your old user profile...

After Windows has been freshly installed, it runs in a faster and stable manner. However, an older Windows installation is easy to spot, since it will take a lot longer to start up than a fresh

installation. Tuning tools will not help in lots of cases, and you can spend a lot of time trying to speed things up only to find it has no effect. If you've tried everything you can think of but still find your Windows is running slowly or there are other inexplicable problems with your system, I recommend creating a new Windows profile. It only takes a few minutes of your time and you can usually speed up your system.

As soon as you log into Windows for the first time, the operating system will create all of the profile files that you need. You can take advantage of this in order to correct profile errors. If you create a new account on your system and then log into it, Windows will create all of the necessary files. You can then copy across just the data that you need from your old profile.

...with a new one

## Create a New User Profile

The steps required to create a new profile depend on which version of Windows you use.

If you use Windows 10, proceed as follows:

Follow steps for the right version  
Windows 10

1. Press **(Windows)** + **(R)**, type control and click **OK**.
2. In the Control Panel, set the **View by** drop-down list to **Large icons** in the top right-hand corner, then click on **User Accounts**.
3. Click on **Manage another account**.
4. Below the existing user accounts, select **Add a new user in PC settings**.
5. Under **Other people**, click on **Add someone else to this PC**. Click the **I don't have this person's sign-in information** option followed by a click on the **Add a user without a Microsoft account** option.



6. Enter your name and create a password for the account. You can also add a security question to allow you to recover your password if you forget it.

Enter your name...

Who's going to use this PC?

Stefan

Make it secure.

.....

.....

In case you forget your password

What was your first pet's name?

Your answer

...password

...and security question

*Enter your user account details and set a secure password to protect the account*

7. Click on Next and follow the remaining wizard steps to set up the account.

## Windows 8.1



If you use Windows 8.1 proceed as follows:

1. Press **Windows** + **X** and click **Control Panel**.
2. In the Control Panel, set the **View** by drop-down list to **Large icons** in the top right-hand corner, then click on **User Accounts**.

3. Click on **Manage another account**.
4. Select **Create a new account**.
5. Enter a username and password for the new account.
6. Click **OK** to create the account.

If you have Windows 7, proceed as follows:

Windows 7



1. Click **Start > Control Panel**.
2. In the Control Panel, set the **View by** drop-down list to **Large icons** in the top right-hand corner, then click on **User Accounts**.
3. Next, click on **Manage user accounts** or **Manage another account**.
4. Click on **Create a new account**.
5. Enter a username and password for the new account.
6. Click **Create account** to create the account.

## How Multiple User Profile Folders Develop

When you log onto your computer for the first time, Windows automatically creates a user profile in the default location: **C:\Users\<username>** and uses your username as the name for the new profile folder.

Open your profile in Explorer

If an old profile folder exists with the same username, Windows chooses another name for the new folder so that each profile folder has a unique name. As such, there can be multiple profile folders for the same user. The following rules govern how Windows assigns names to user folders:

Rule	Name of the profile folder
Username folder does not exist	Username
Username folder already exists	Username.Computer name
Username.Computername already exists	Username.Computer name.000
Username.Computername.000 folder already exists	Windows uses the next number, i.e. Username.Computer name.001 etc.

### Compare the date and time

You can more easily work out which profile folder is which by checking the date and time that the folder was created. This also gives you important clues when you are looking for folders that contain corrupt settings.

## Re-boot Windows with Your Newly Created Profile Folder

### Your first test

When you re-boot your PC, choose your new profile and log on. You'll see that the process is much faster, since your new profile does not have all of the bloated settings and files associated with your old profile.

## How to Transfer Your Old Settings to Your New User Profile

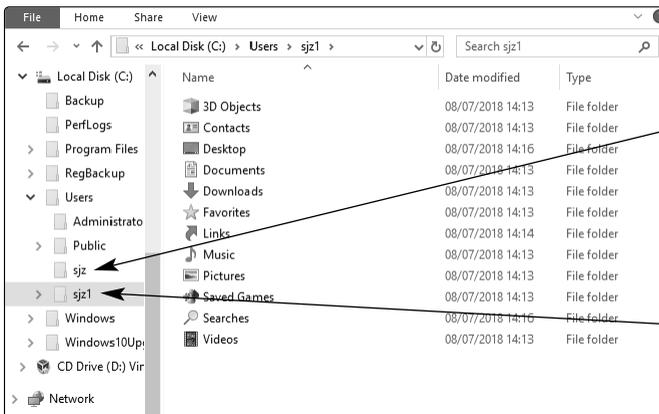
### Where have my icons gone?

You'll notice that your PC boots into your new user account much more quickly. Unfortunately, the new account won't include any of your data or desktop icons, or your Libraries or settings.

You can copy your most important data to the new account as follows:



1. Open Windows Explorer (File Explorer in Windows 10) by pressing **(W)** + **(E)**.
2. Click on **This PC** (Windows 10/8.1) or **Computer** (Windows 7) then click double-click on the **C:** drive.
3. Double-click on the **Users** folder. Here, you should see at least two subfolders, one with the name of your old user account and one with the name of your new account.
4. Open the folder for your old user account. You'll find all of the settings and files associated with your old account stored in various subfolders.



Copy the content of your old profile...

...into the new user profile

*Copy the files from the old user profile into the new one*

5. Open the **Desktop** folder, for example. Select all of the files and folders within the subfolder and press the key combination **(Ctrl)** + **(C)** to copy them to the clipboard.

6. Swap to the same subfolder in the new profile directory, e.g. the **Desktop** folder. Press the **(Ctrl) + (V)** key combination to paste the files from the clipboard to this new folder. This will effectively restore your old desktop.
7. Repeat the steps to copy the contents of the other subfolders from your old profile to your new profile.

## Guard Against Storage Bottlenecks on Your Hard Drive

### Keep an eye on your profile size

In your user profile folder, you'll also find some default folders such as **Pictures** and **Documents**. If these folders get too big, it can lead to problems in your hard drive, especially if you have split your drive into small, fixed size partitions. If you store your profiles on the **C:** drive, they will be saved alongside the **Windows** folder and you can quickly run out of space.

You can get around this problem by moving your **Documents** folder onto another hard drive partition, if you have one.

To do so, simply right-click on **Documents** in your user profile folder then select **Properties** from the pop-up menu. Next, click on the **Location** tab, then choose a new location for your documents folder. You will then need to copy over any data in your current **Documents** folder to the new folder you configure.

### Summary

With the steps in this article, you can successfully cure profile errors and make your system more responsive. Use this trick if **Windows** persistently runs slowly and you experience random crashes.