

Vista Error : “*Your user profile was not loaded correctly*” – The Solution

When to use this document

Whenever you get the following error message when logging in to Windows Vista :

Your user profile was not loaded correctly. You have been logged on with a temporary profile. Changes that you make to this profile will be lost when you log off. Please see the event log for details or contact your administrator

When does this occur

In our experience this problem occurs typically when you delete a user’s profile through Windows Explorer or through **Control Panel \ System \ Advanced System Settings \ SETTINGS button against User Profiles.**

In most cases that we have seen the PC in question is connected to a domain network.

In other cases the problem occurs after leaving the PC unattended on the logon screen for a long time

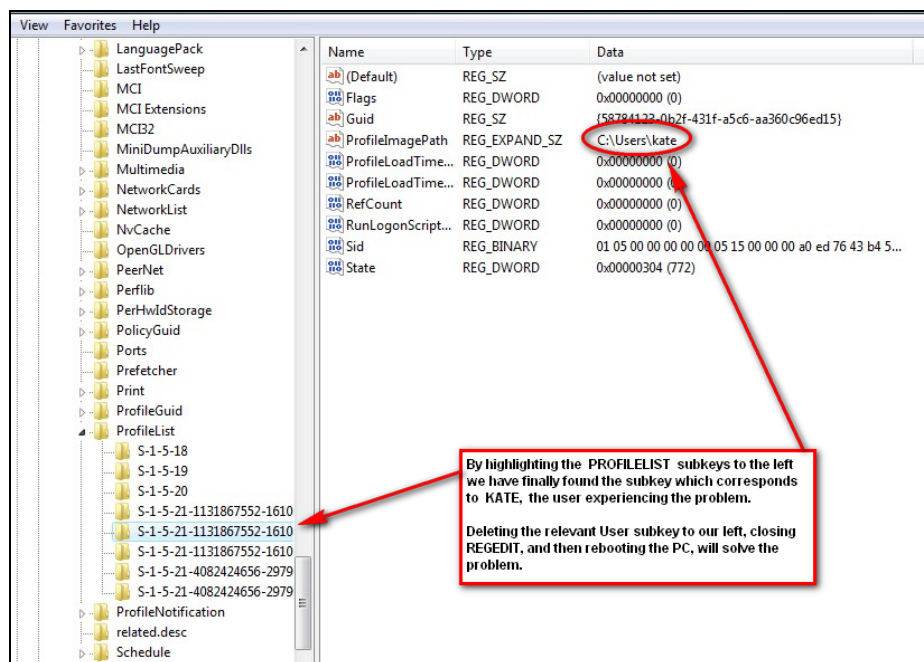
And sometimes there is simply no rhyme nor reason : Vista simply felt like it !

The solution

The problem occurs because a user profile has become corrupted in Windows Vista. Microsoft mentions “*accidental deletion*” but “*accidental deletion*” was not in all the cases that we have come across this problem.

To resolve the problem :

- Login as **Administrator** or any user with Administrator privileges.
- Using Windows Explorer, look inside **C:\Users** and backup any user folder that you do not want to lose (remember, the **Documents, Music, Pictures** folders for each user all reside under that user's folder in **C:\Users** so the best strategy might be to backup the entire user's folder).
- Start the **Registry Editor** ("Start \ Run \ Type *Regedit*").
- Locate the following registry key :
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\ProfileList
- Next, highlight each of the subkeys below **ProfileList**, one by one till you find the profile belonging to the user who was experiencing the problem, as shown below :



- Once you have found the relevant subkey for the user in question, **delete that subkey (the one starting with S-1-5-.....)**.
- Close the *Windows Registry Editor*.
- Restart Windows Vista.

- **That's it. You're done.** That user should no longer experience the *"User profile was not loaded correctly"* error.

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