

Windows Profile Versions

The format of a Windows Profile will vary depending mostly on what version of the Windows OS is being used. In order to use a profile on a particular computer, the version of that profile must match the version that the OS understands. This affects the ability to roam profiles. For example, if you try to use a profile that was created on Windows 10 (profile version 5), you cannot attach and use this on a Windows 7 machine that understands profiles that are in format version 2.

This is complicated a bit by the ability of several versions of Windows to support 2 different profile format versions depending on whether or not a patch is installed and a registry setting present.

Profile Version Table

Operating System Version	Profile Version
Windows XP and Windows Server 2003	1
Windows Vista and Windows Server 2008	2
Windows 7 and Windows Server 2008 R2	2
Windows 8 and Windows Server 2012	2
Windows 8 and Windows Server 2012 with patch (2887239) applied and registry setting present	3
Windows 8.1 and Windows Server 2012 R2	2
Windows 8.1 and Windows Server 2012 R2 with patch (2887595) applied and registry setting present	4
Windows 10	5
Windows 10 Anniversary Edition (1607) and Windows Server 2016	6

Registry Setting

The required registry setting to enable the use of the new profile version (when the appropriate patch is applied) is: (DWORD) `HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Services\ProfSvc\Parameters\UseProfilePathExtensionVersion = '1'`