

## Amending settings for 2Simple programs across all machines in a network

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Most 2Simple program settings are stored in simple ini files in the same folder as the program, ie C:\Program Files\2Simple Software\ProgramName. See [www.2simple.com/support](http://www.2simple.com/support) > [Technical Questions > Settings Files](#) for a more complete listing. Once you have made the changes in the teacher options on one machine and exited the program, the changes will be saved to this ini file which can then be copied to all the other machines in the network. Here are some ways you could do this: (You will probably need to be logged in as administrator for these to work)

### 1) Navigate to each C drive manually

If you do not have many computers, you can navigate to the C drive of each machine (if it has been shared), by typing into the windows explorer address bar `\\computername\c\`. After you have navigated to the correct folder you can simply paste the ini file in the desired location, without having to physically go to each computer.

### 2) Use a batch file

If you have many computers this is a very useful technique to copy a file to each of them. Create a batch file (this is a text file with a .bat extension instead of .txt – to change the file extension you might need to amend your folder settings so you can view file extensions for known file types ). Add lines to the file like the following:

```
xcopy "c:\path-to-ini-file\name.ini" "\\computer-name-1\c$\path-to\local-folder-name" /C /Y
xcopy "c:\path-to-ini-file\name.ini" "\\computer-name-2\c$\path-to\local-folder-name" /C /Y
xcopy "c:\path-to-ini-file\name.ini" "\\computer-name-3\c$\path-to\local-folder-name" /C /Y
pause
```

This will copy the chosen ini file from the local computer to each destination computer you specify.

- “xcopy” is a windows command – you can find more about it by searching online. For example, see <http://www.microsoft.com/resources/documentation/windows/xp/all/proddocs/en-us/xcopy.mspx?mfr=true> .
- Before running the batch file, make sure the ini file you’ll be copying has the correct settings.
- All computers that you want to copy to need to be turned on.
- You don’t need to specify the name of the ini file in the destination path
- The /c and /y parameters indicate:
  - o /c : Ignore errors.
  - o /y : Suppress prompting to confirm that you want to overwrite an existing file.
- Adding “pause” at the end of the batch file will allow you to view if there have been any failures.
- To save you having to type out every line in the batch file, you could try the following – open a command prompt by clicking start > run and type “net view >>list.txt”. This should generate a list of all computers on the network and save it in a file named list.txt. Open this file and paste the contents into a spreadsheet program such as Excel, and use a formula to automatically create each line of your batch file, for example if column A contains the computer names, B1 could be =“xcopy ""c:\path-to-ini-file\name.ini"" "" & A1 & ""c\$\path-to\local-folder-name"" /C /Y”. Copy and paste column B to your batch file and run it.
- Any batch file should be tested thoroughly before being deployed to all machines. The method described here will overwrite the local ini file.

### 3) Use Group Policy

Some technicians create their own MSIs which contain only the ini file/s, which have been modified as desired. They then deploy the MSI across the network in the usual way, through a GPO. There are a number of free software packages available which could be used to make MSIs.

Alternatively, you can create a batch file similar to the one described above and deploy it via GPO. *(Note that we have not tested this method ourselves and the steps provided here are for guidance only.)* The batch file would contain the following line :

```
xcopy "\\server-name\path-to-ini-file\name.ini" "c:\program-files\local-folder-name" /C /Y
```

Now create a new group policy item: Navigate to Computer Configuration > Windows Settings > Scripts > Startup. Click on Show files and then copy the batch file you created to the area to store it. Click 'Add' and select the batch file. Attach the new group policy item to the Organisational Unit.

#### **4) Login Scripts**

Some technicians use login scripts to accomplish this, but some technical knowledge is required.

#### **5) Server only install**

For some of our programs it is possible to install the software on the server only and create shortcuts to the server copy from the local machines. One of the advantages of this is that there is only 1 ini file which needs to be changed - the one that is located on the server - and this ini file then applies to everyone. However this setup method is not recommended for all programs and does involve some extra steps on each machine. See [www.2simple.com/support](http://www.2simple.com/support) > [Networks](#) for more details.

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