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Google Earth 5.0 problem in school PC lab Options

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Cheryl Davis [View profile](#) [More options](#) Feb 18, 5:34 pm

Hi all,
 We installed Google Earth 5.0 on lab machines which are set for multiple student logins. Now our students can't use Google Earth because a directory can't be created for the multiple users. Only the installer (admin) can use it. We are running into the same problem as reported here:
<http://tinyurl.com/asc4sq>

Has anyone else had this problem and know of a workaround? We have effectively made it so that our students can't use Google Earth at school by installing Earth 5.0. We also cannot get the uninstall to work to go back to 4 and we have several Google Earth projects that classes are working on.

Appreciate any tips or help you can give us. We have sent the problem forward on the help forum.

Thanks,
 Cheryl
 Nor Cal

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Sarah Rolle [View profile](#) [More options](#) Feb 18, 7:47 pm

Cheryl-

I haven't delved into GE 5 yet, but have had this type of problem with other programs in our Mac lab. We gave everyone read/write permissions to the directory where the program want to create a directory. I don't know why the person who posted at the link below can't save .kmz files, but you might be able work around that by having students save .kmz files in a different location if that's possible. (Sorry I can't be more definitive; it's been a while since I've save .kmz files.)

Good Luck,
 Sarah

On Wed, Feb 18, 2009 at 5:34 PM, Cheryl Davis <cheryl.davis...@gmail.com>wrote:

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Jac de Haan [View profile](#) [More options](#) Feb 19, 8:54 am

We've had the same issue with every GE install. Sarah's solution is our workaround too, and we save kmz files to a shared network drive. Good luck!

On Feb 18, 2:34 pm, Cheryl Davis <cheryl.davis...@gmail.com> wrote:

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Cheryl Davis [View profile](#) [More options](#) Feb 19, 10:31 am

Thanks Jac and Sarah for your responses, Our situation with the install is that we can't even open up Google Earth 5.0 on the computers. The only person who can open the file is the Tech who did the install. When launching, Google Earth is looking for the directory of the account that did the install. Our Tech seems to think that there is some piece of code that needs to re-direct the file, that is missing. Worked fine in Google Earth 4. We are in the middle of a Google Earth project and not sure what to do.

Cheryl

On Feb 19, 5:54 am, Jac de Haan <signup...@gmail.com> wrote:

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David D [View profile](#) [More options](#) Feb 19, 8:50 pm

Hi Cheryl,

Some things you might want to try:

1. (Assuming Windows XP) - set folder view properties to show hidden files and folders then:

- a. Copy (don't Cut unless disk space is an issue) the Google Earth directory you will find at C:\Documents & Settings\Administrator (or whatever the tech's user name was that they installed under)\Local Settings\Application Data\Google\ *This directory contains the cache which can be up to 4G in a worst case scenario, but if nobody surfed Earth the cache should be negligible. If it is huge, you can remove the cache files 'dbcache.dat', etc. without any negative consequences prior to copying the directory to its alternate location below.
- b. Paste the entire copied GE directory into C:\Documents & Settings\Default User\Local Settings\Application Data\Google\
- c. Log in to the student account and hope it works. If not, you might try rebuilding the entire path under 'All Users', essentially create a folder called 'Local Settings' and inside that another called 'Application Data' and inside that one called 'Google' and then toss the GE directory from step 'a' in there.

Not sure if that will work, but it might. There is also a directory at "C:\Documents & Settings\(\username)\Application Data\Google\Google Earth" that might also need to be migrated to either the Default User or All Users directory too (in the corresponding path) as it contains the 'My Places' if you have premade placemark collections for your

students.

2. There may be a registry hack needed too.

Under the HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Google you will find a registry entry (folder) called 'GECCommonSettings' which contains the path to the application data. In theory it should be possible to do one of two things:

- a. Dig through the base entry to find the path mentioned above, then change it to reflect the Default User Google Earth folder from attempt #1 above.
- b. (definitely not preferred) Export the GECCommonSettings registry entry as a reg file, then when the student logs in have it install the registry entry so that it reads it in to the user's registry account. It should only need to be done once per account, so could be put in the StartUp folder at C:\Documents & Settings\All Users\Start Menu\Programs\StartUp\. If your student computers are pretty locked down, this will not be an option since basic user accounts usually are not allowed to alter the registry and will error out on the students when they start the computers up.

I know this might seem confusing and a little more info than you were looking for, but it is what I would try. My guess is that if anything is going to work it would be option 1 since I have had to deal with similar situations where data needed to be passed to multiple users and the trick usually worked (80% of the time anyway, the other 20% I ended up leaving dents in the walls where I banged my head against it over and over and over...).

Let us know what you discover!!

David

On Feb 18, 5:34 pm, Cheryl Davis <cheryl.davis...@gmail.com> wrote:

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