

## 14. Enabling Portable Network Accounts

Do staff at your school have laptop computers that they use on the school network during the day, but take home each evening?

Or maybe administrative staff who use the same computer on their desk all day?

These particular scenarios are both examples of a situation that would benefit from the use of *portable network accounts*.

When a *portable network account* is enabled for a particular user, their network Home folder and their account login details are recreated on their local computer, and synchronised with their network Home folder when they are connected to the network.

This creates an environment where the network appears to “travel” with the user of a laptop. Admin staff using *portable network accounts* on desktop computers are isolated from the vagaries of the network performance of some applications.

When a user with a portable network account takes their *MacBook* home, they logon to the *MacBook* with the same username and password as they use on the network, and have access to all the documents, photos, and music that they have stored in their network Home folder.






This document describes the process to enable *portable network accounts* for individual teachers in your school.

Both server and client must be *Mac OS X v 10.4*

## 1. Configuring Portable Network Accounts

1.1. Logon to *WorkGroup Manager* as the **Directory Administrator**.

1.2. Click to select the account which is to become a *portable network account*.

 Herbert M (Staff)	40010038
 Smith F (Staff)	40010039
 Kalkowski Jordan	200010072
 Crampmiller Emily	200010074
 Fausset Chantelle	200010096

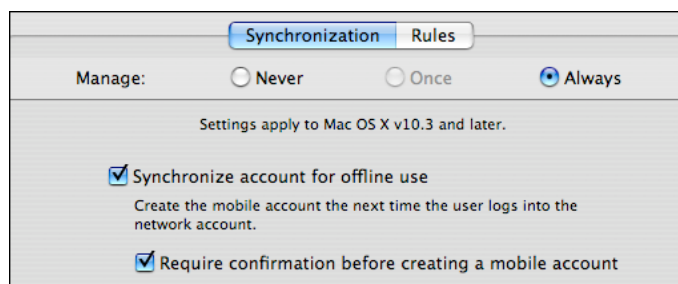
1.3. Click on the **Preferences** icon in the *WGM* toolbar.



1.4. Click on the **Mobility** icon in the **Preferences** window.



1.5. Click on the **Manage: Always** button.



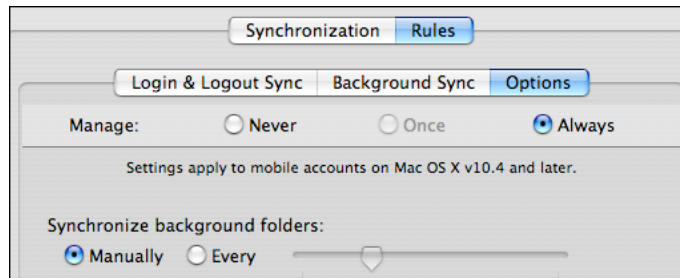
Tick the box to **Synchronise account for offline use**.

1.6. Click on the **Rules** button.

There are a number of options available for synchronising a *portable mobile account* with the server.

**Login & Logout Sync**, and **Background Sync** options are self-explanatory, and should be explored if those options suit the work patterns of the staff who will be using the accounts.

For maximum “control” (by the user) of the synchronising operation, choose the **Options** button, and click **Always** and **Manually**.



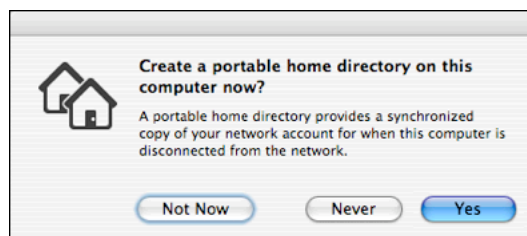
This will allow the teacher to choose a convenient time to synchronise their account with the server.

## 2. Logging in to a Portable Network Account

- 2.1. Connect the user's *MacBook* to the network, preferable via *Ethernet* for the first synchronisation.
- 2.2. Logon to the network in the usual way.



- 2.3. You will be asked whether or not you want to create a **portable home directory** on the computer. (The appearance of this message is dependent upon the default setting within the **Mobility** preference in *WorkGroup Manager*.)

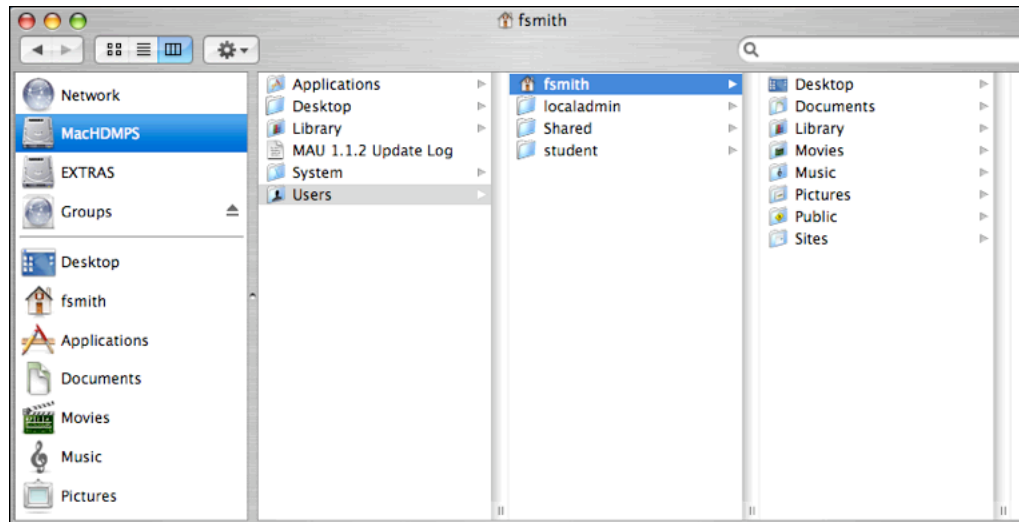


Click on **Yes**.

If, after synchronising your account with the server, you logon to another computer, you most likely would choose to **Not Now**, or **Never** synchronise the account when using that computer.

- 2.4. After a short period of time - depending on the size of your Home folder on the network - your account and network home folder will be re-created on the computer.

Check in the **Users** folder on the computer to see that a copy of your Home folder is now located on the computer.



### 3. Synchronising Your Portable Network Account

Your account synchronises files based on their creation date and time. It is important that your computer(s) date and time are correctly configured.

Only files contained within the standard Home folder subfolders (ie Desktop, Documents, Pictures, etc) will be synchronised.

Library cache folders containing, for example, *Safari* browsing caches, will not be synchronised.

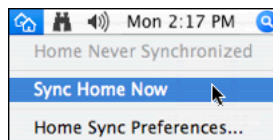
Managed preferences for the Dock may also not be transferred.

You should also wait some time before you undertake your first synchronisation, as the process will be confused when the dates of all your documents and folders are the same!

3.1. Click on the small “Houses” icon in the menu bar of your computer.



3.2. Choose **Sync Home Now** from the pop-down menu.



3.3. The Home folder synchronisation process will now commence.

You may be asked to identify which version of some document is the most recent version.

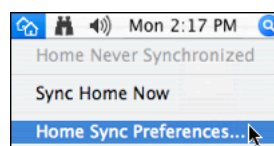
## 4. More configuration

### 4.1. Selective Folder Synchronisation

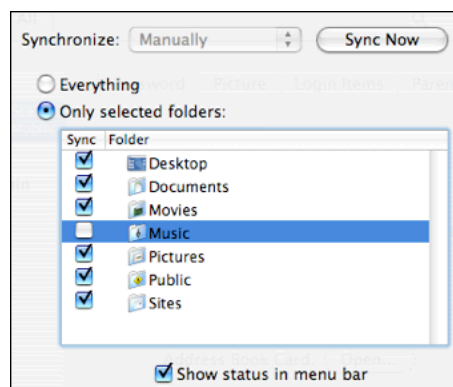
As a portable network account holder, you can adjust which particular folders are to be synchronised.

For example, you may have an extensive (large!) music collection on your laptop computer that you sync with your *iPod*, but do not want to transfer to the network server due to space restrictions.

- 4.1.1. Choose **Home Sync Preferences** from the synchronisation menu.



- 4.1.2. Select the folders which you want to be synchronised when you connect to the school network.



## 4.2. Providing Administrator Access

As a local account holder on a laptop computer, it may be helpful for that user to have administrative access to the computer, for configuration of the computer when not connected to the network.

4.2.1. Choose **System Preferences > Accounts** from the **Apple** menu.

4.2.2. Authenticate (by clicking on the padlock) and tick the box to **Allow user to administer this computer**.

