



Briefcase – Shared LDAP Folders

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1.0 Introduction

The UNICON Academus Briefcase Portlet may be configured to provide some or all portal users with access to a network file share location specified in their uPortal PersonDirectory information.

1.1 About Briefcase LDAP Folders

The uPortal PersonDirectory system is how the portal tracks and manages information about its users. Based on deployment decisions, this information may originate from within the uPortal Database, from (most commonly) LDAP attributes, or even from both sources. But no matter where this data ultimately comes from, if it can be accessed from the PersonDirectory information then the Briefcase Portlet can provide web-based access to these folders and files from right within the portal.

1.2 Additional Notes

With LDAP-based network folders, the Briefcase Portlet provides a powerful tool to portal administrators who are looking to create a more tightly-integrated campus. Administrators should understand up front, however, that all this power doesn't come without a price.

As of the time of this writing, the Briefcase Portlet can only access files and folders using the user account under which Tomcat is running. For files and folders that reside on another server, therefore, authority must be granted (most likely full access) to this user account to access the relevant areas of the file system on the other server. For some organizations this requirement may be deemed a security risk. Configuring this access is not an automated process and may vary depending on operating system. For further assistance with this option, please contact the Academus Support Desk.

2.0 Configuration

2.1 Creating Briefcase LDAP Folders

Note: The following instructions assume that users already have a network file system location associated with them through LDAP or another PersonDirs data source.

****Best practice: make a backup of the file before editing.**

The following steps can be used to create briefcase LDAP folders:

2.1.1 Open the Briefcase Portlet Configuration File for Edit

The configuration of the UNICON Academus Briefcase Portlet is managed in the '**briefcase-portlet.xml**' file located under:

```
<UNICON_ACADEMUS_INSTALLROOT>/unicon/Academus/portal-tomcat-  
a/webapps/AcademusApps/WEB-INF/classes/config
```

This is an XML file, and as such it can be adjusted in any text editor. Common text editors include Notepad, TextPad, and Vi.

2.1.2 Add a Drive Entry for LDAP Folders

You will need to create a `<drive>` element for LDAP folders access. Out of the box, `briefcase-portlet.xml` contains an example element embedded in a comment (i.e. between '`<!--`' and '`-->`' delimiters).

```
<drive handle="personalldap" max-upload="3145728" large-icon="largePersonal"  
  open-icon="folderopen" closed-icon="folderclosed" share-target="shared">  
  <label>Personal LDAP Folders</label>  
  <description>Your LDAP Personal Folders are where you can store your  
    documents, notes, photos, and more.</description>  
  <access-broker handle="personal-uattr"  
    impl="net.unicon.alchemist.access.userattribute.UserAttributeAccessBroker">  
    <user-attribute name="homeDirectory"  
      impl="net.unicon.academus.apps.briefcase.UserAttributeDirectory">  
      <access impl="net.unicon.academus.apps.briefcase.BriefcaseAccessType">  
        <type value="GRANT" handle="VIEW"/>  
        <type value="GRANT" handle="ADD"/>  
        <type value="GRANT" handle="DELETE"/>  
        <type value="GRANT" handle="EDIT"/>  
        <type value="GRANT" handle="SHARE"/>  
      </access>  
      <max-size>0</max-size>  
      <root-name>My Files 1</root-name>  
    </user-attribute>  
  </access-broker>  
</drive>
```

Simply “uncomment” this element to get started. The majority of this XML will be suitable as-is. Just like any other drive defined in the document, feel free to adjust the default values contained in it if that would better suit your needs. For example, you can change the label or description the drive will be given in the user interface. You can also limit access to Briefcase Portlet operations either by removing one or more `<type>` elements or changing the word “GRANT” to “DENY.” The `<max-size>` element specifies how large the folder may grow in MB (specify 0 for no limit). The `<root-name>` element specifies the name that will be given to the folder (viz. the one under the drive icon) in the user interface.

Probably the most significant configuration point for LDAP folders, however, is the ‘name’ attribute on the `<user-attribute>` element (highlighted above). This value identifies the PersonDirs user attribute that points to a file system location. You must ensure that uPortals **PersonDirs.xml** configuration file aliases this information under the same name. In other words, you can either configure PersonDirs to match what you put here, or adjust this value to match PersonDirs. (See step 2.1.3)

When the drive is configured properly, portal users will see a new top-level node in their briefcase from which they will be able to navigate the specified contents.

2.1.3 Configure uPortal PersonDirs

Open **PersonDirs.xml** located under:

```
<UNICON_ACADEMUS_INSTALLROOT>/unicon/Academus/portal-tomcat-a/webapps/portal/  
WEB-INF/classes/properties
```

You will need to add an attribute entry similar to the following:

```
<attribute>  
  <name>user_dir</name>  
  <alias>homeDirectory</alias>  
</attribute>
```

Place it within the PersonDirs data source whence the information originates (e.g. the LDAP data source). Consult uPortal documentation for more information.

2.1.4 Restart the Portal

You will need to restart the Academus Portal for your changes to take effect.