

Sharing files on a Windows XP-based PC with a Mac using OS X



Note: The below assumes you already have both your Mac and PC computers connected to a network (ethernet or wireless) and that they can ping one another.

Once you know your computers can "see" one another, one way to share files between the two is to enable file sharing on your PC then connect to it from your Mac. To begin looking into doing so, first check out the following Apple KB article: <http://docs.info.apple.com/article.html?artnum=106471>



The SMB/CIFS method shown there is used by, from the Mac OS X Finder, going to the Go menu, then selecting Connect to Server... You then need to type in "smb://Dell/SharedDocs" (without the quotes), where "Dell" is your computer's name, and "SharedDocs" is the volume or folder you are sharing on your PC.

To check the name of your PC right-click on My Computer, select Properties, then the Computer Name tab.



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[PC to Mac file sharing](#)

Instructions for sharing files on your Mac with your PC

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[SMB Connect](#)

[Error = -36](#)

Apple KBase article

[Error -43 When Copying Files to Windows Shared Volume](#)

Apple KBase article

[MacWindows](#)

Additional info.

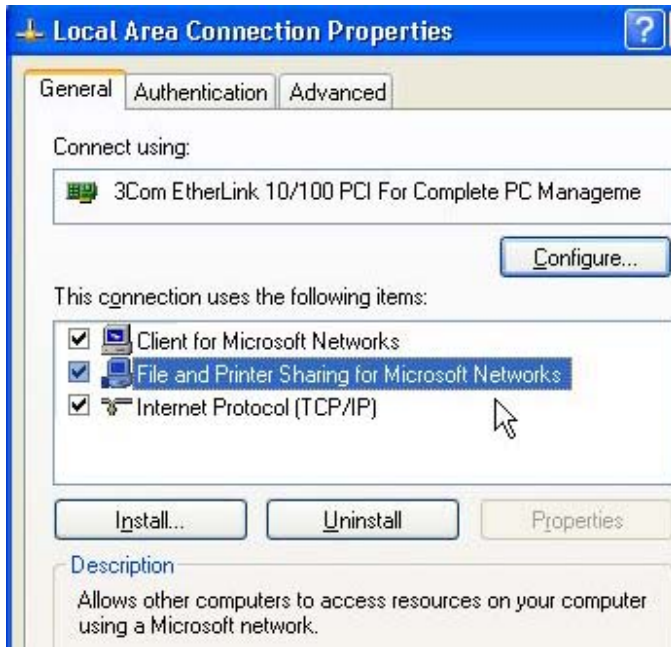
[Alternative Software](#)

Solutions

Note that you can also often connect to the PC using its IP address rather than its computer name.

When specifying the Computer Name of your PC, please note that only "standard" characters should be used (according to Microsoft these are letters A-Z, numbers 0-9, and hyphens) and that the name will need to be 15 characters or less.

According to an [Apple KBase article](#) you cannot natively auto-connect to SMB or NFS servers at login. However, you can do so by using a [free utility](#).



To turn on file sharing and share a volume or folder (a specific folder is more secure), go to the properties for your Local Area Network connection and make sure File and Printer Sharing for Microsoft Networks is installed and checked (active).

Then open Windows Explorer to browse your C: drive, find a folder you'd like to share, right-click on it, select Properties, go to the Sharing tab, and check the box to "Share this folder on the network." Now supply a Share name for that folder. Lastly, be sure to put a check in the box next to "Allow network users to change my files," then click OK.



You should now be able to log into your PC (specifically accessing that shared folder) from your Mac. Just enter the name and password that you use to log into your PC into the login window that appears when you use the SMB method of connecting from your Mac, and the shared folder should mount as a volume. To quickly access the PC share in the future, make an alias of the volume and save it somewhere on your Mac's HD. From then on just double-click that alias, enter your password (your name should already be entered), and the PC share/ folder will again mount on your Mac.



This is one method I use for sharing files between my Windows XP Professional-based Dell P4 and my Mac OS X-based B/W G3/400 via a DSL router/hub. Please keep in mind that you may run into some problems specific to your network and machine setup when trying to get your computers connected that could keep things from functioning properly. Be sure to check the extra tips and guides shown within the left frame of this page, as well as both the [Apple](#) and [Microsoft](#) knowledge bases for help in fixing the particular issues you need to resolve to get things working.

If you need additional assistance or would like to share your thoughts on this or any of my web pages, please visit my [forums](#). There you can post questions, view previously answered topics, as well as submit feedback regarding this site.

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