

## How to Join a Computer to a Domain

When you need a computer to be granted access to a server or group of devices you must join the computer to the associated domain. A domain is the static address represented as a string of a server, host service, and organization. A domain allows the owner/host centralized management of devices and security.

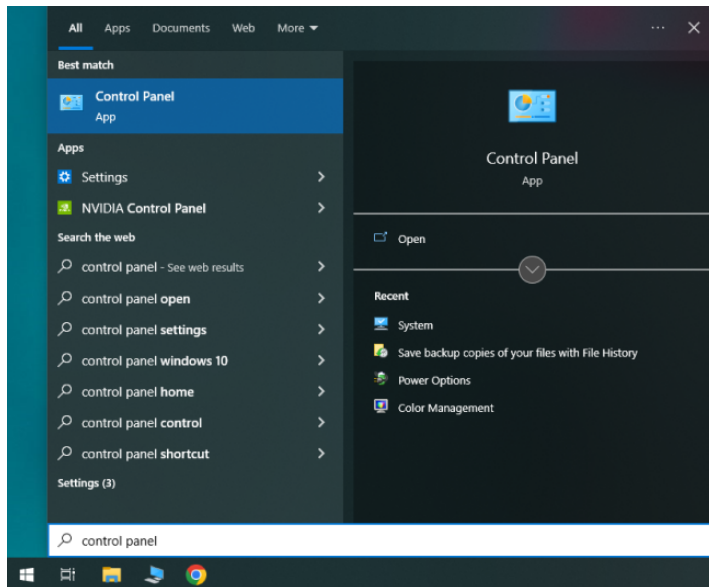
To join a computer to a domain in Windows 10 the user will need the domain name, user computer name and a password provided by the domain controller; these will allow the computer to be joined to the specified domain. This guide will cover the Windows 10 built-in GUI that eases this process. Once joined to a domain the computer and user has the benefit of central authentication, which with a single login allows the joined computer access to services and programs allowed by the domain controller.

When joining a computer to a domain, mind the following requirements and limitations:

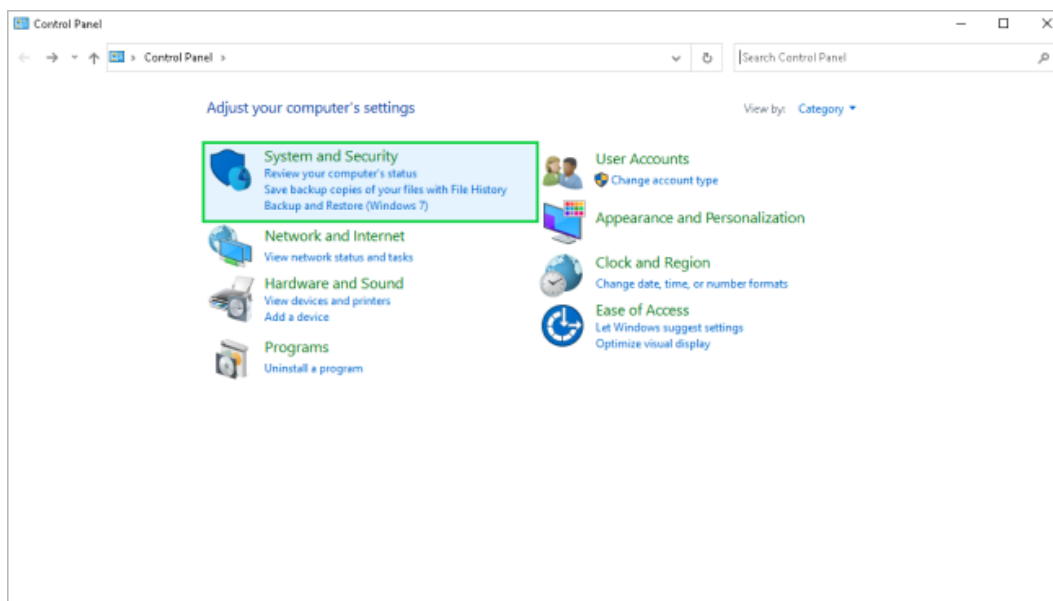
- You must be using Windows 10 Pro/Enterprise/Education editions to join the computer to a domain.
- User computer name and password credentials must have been added to the domain Active Directory by the domain controller.
- Internet Access on both the host device and user device.
- You will need to restart your computer to finalize this procedure.

To join a computer to a domain:

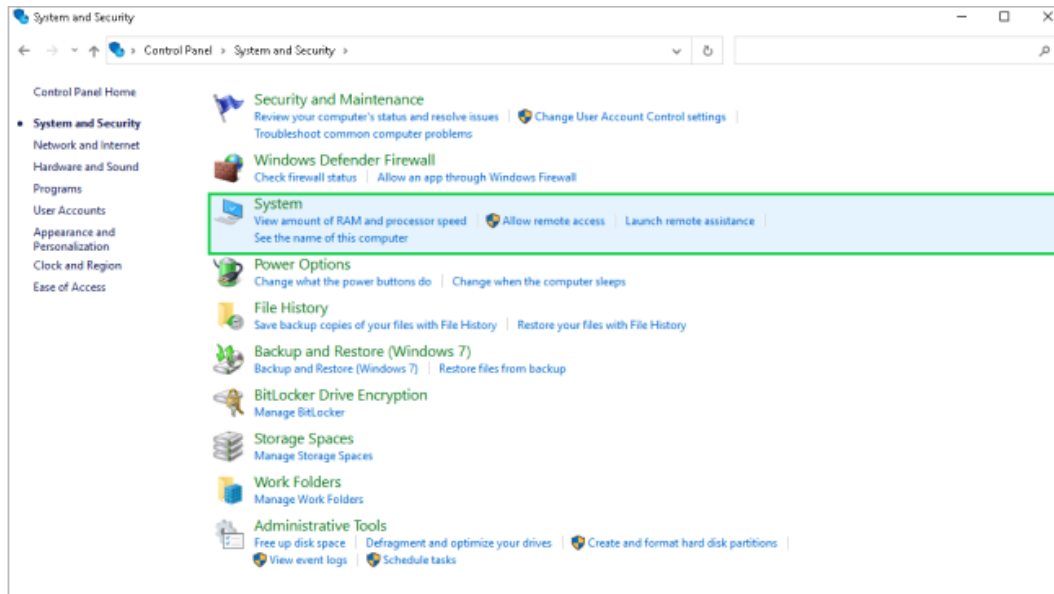
1. Open the **Start Menu** and type control panel press enter key or click the app that appears in the start menu as there is an automatic search function there is no need to use a search bar.



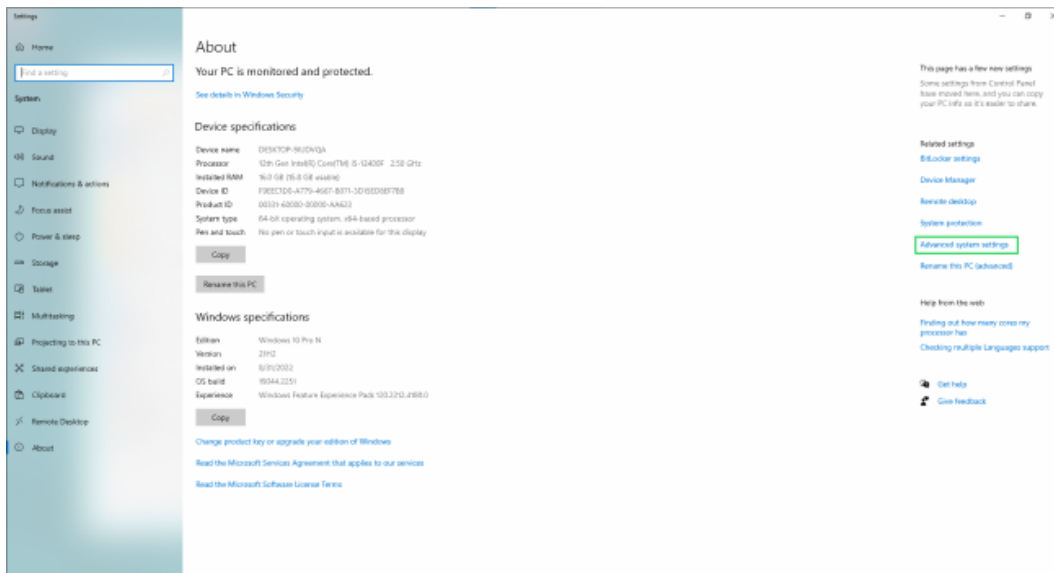
2. In the **Control Panel** click **System and Security**.



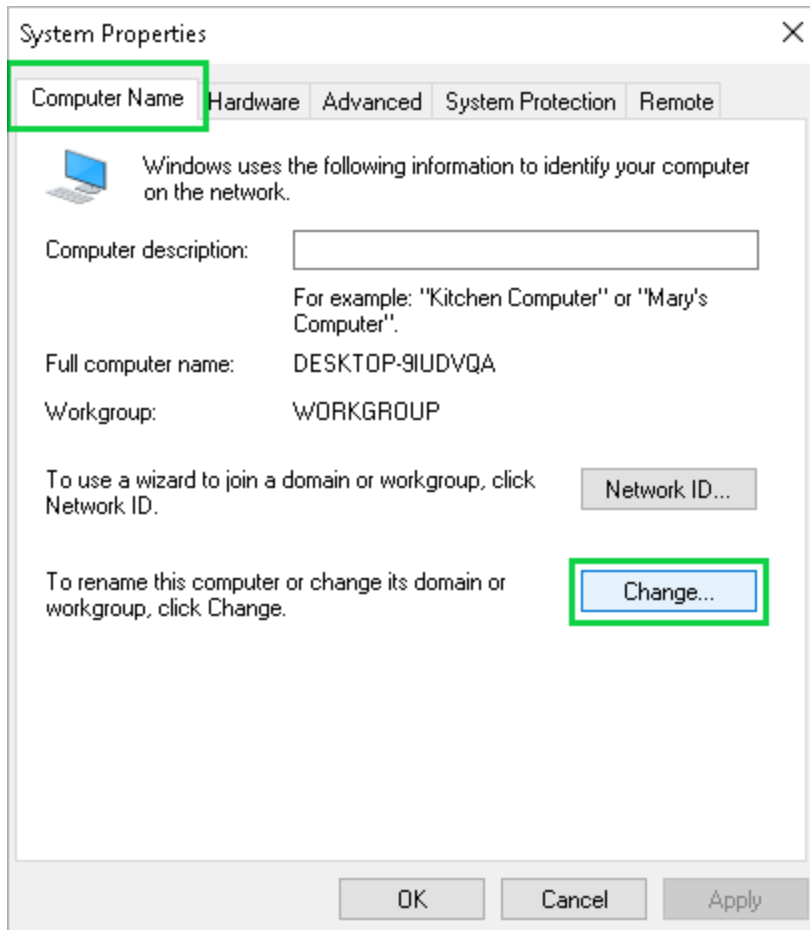
3. In the **System and Security** pane click **System**.



4. In the **About** window find **Related Settings** list and click **Advanced System Settings**.



5. In the **System Properties** dialog box select the tab **Computer Name**>**Change**.



6. In the **Computer Name/Domain Changes** dialog box click **Domain** selection circle under **Member of**. Type the domain name provided to you exactly then click **Ok**.

**IMPORTANT**

You may need to change your computer name to match the login credentials provided to you by the domain controller.

Computer Name/Domain Changes

You can change the name and the membership of this computer. Changes might affect access to network resources.

Computer name:  
DESKTOP-9IUDVQA

Full computer name:  
DESKTOP-9IUDVQA

More...

Member of

☒ Domain:  
ExampleDomainName

☐ Workgroup:  
WORKGROUP

OK Cancel

7. The **Windows Security** prompt window will appear asking for the *user name* and *password* credentials provided to or created by you to access the domain. Enter this data and click **Ok**.

Windows Security

Computer Name/Domain Changes

Enter the name and password of an account with permission to join the domain.

User name

Password

OK Cancel

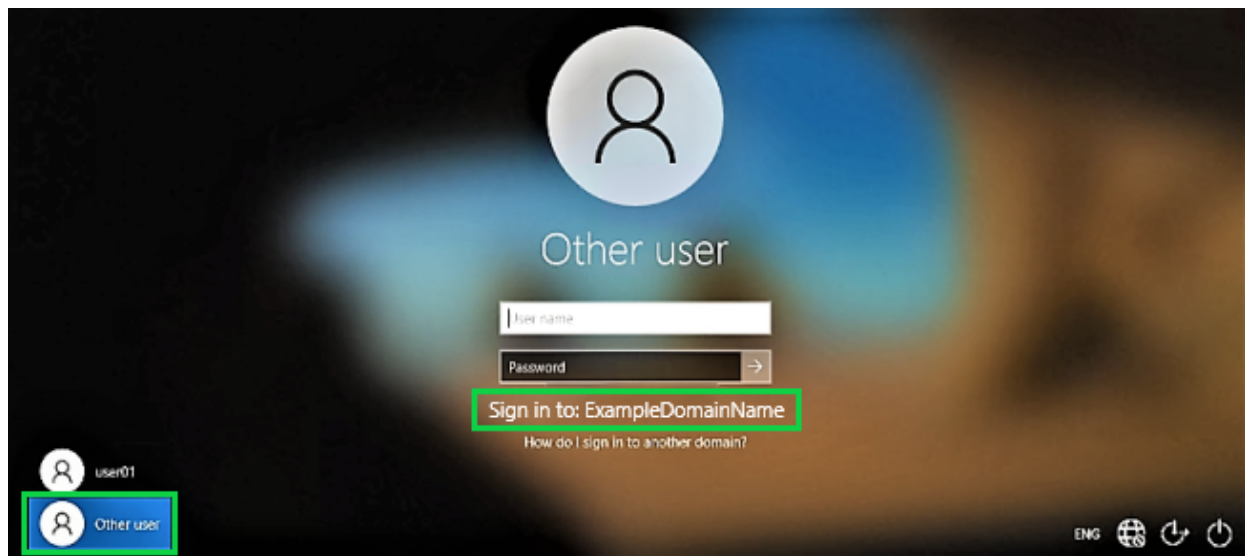
8. If authentication is successful you will see a box welcoming you to the domain.



9. Click **Ok** in the new prompt window warning the user they must restart the computer to apply these changes. Your computer will not restart immediately.
10. Close the **System Properties** pane.
11. In the end you will be asked to restart the computer now or later. Restart the computer for changes to take effect.

To verify whether the computer is joined to a domain, perform the following steps:

1. At the user log on screen click **Other User**. Notice, **sign in to: ExampleDomainName** now present. Enter the *user name* and *password* you used to connect to the domain and log in.



2. [Optional] You may also verify that the computer is joined to a domain through the command prompt once logged in.
  - a. Press [windows key+R]. In the **Run** dialog box type cmd press enter.

- b. In the command prompt type: `systeminfo | findstr /B "Domain"` press enter.
- c. The output of this command shows you the current USERDOMAIN.

#### Related Topics

- [Troubleshooting Common Errors that Occur when Trying to Join a Windows-based Domain](#)
- [How to Add a Local Computer to a Domain](#)