



# **Use folder redirection to store data on a SMB server**

**ONTAP 9**

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# Use folder redirection to store data on a SMB server

## Use folder redirection to store data on a SMB server overview

ONTAP supports Microsoft folder redirection, which enables users or administrators to redirect the path of a local folder to a location on the CIFS server. It appears as if redirected folders are stored on the local Windows client, even though the data is stored on an SMB share.

Folder redirection is intended mostly for organizations that have already deployed home directories, and that want to maintain compatibility with their existing home directory environment.

- Documents, Desktop, and Start Menu are examples of folders that you can redirect.
- Users can redirect folders from their Windows client.
- Administrators can centrally configure and manage folder redirection by configuring GPOs in Active Directory.
- If administrators have configured roaming profiles, folder redirection enables administrators to divide user data from profile data.
- Administrators can use folder redirection and offline files together to redirect data storage for local folders to the CIFS server, while allowing users to cache the content locally.

### Related information

[Using offline files to allow caching of files for offline use](#)

[Using roaming profiles to store user profiles centrally on a CIFS server associated with the SVM](#)

## Requirements for using folder redirection

Before you can use Microsoft's folder redirection with your CIFS server, you need to know which versions of ONTAP and SMB and which Windows clients support the feature.

### ONTAP version requirements

ONTAP support Microsoft folder redirection.

### SMB protocol version requirements

For storage virtual machine (SVM), ONTAP supports Microsoft's folder redirection on all versions of SMB.

### Windows client requirements

Before a user can use Microsoft's folder redirection, the Windows client must support the feature.

For the latest information about which Windows clients support folder redirection, see the Interoperability Matrix.

## Configure folder redirection

You can configure folder redirection using the Windows Properties window. The advantage to using this method is that the Windows user can configure folder redirection without assistance from the SVM administrator.

### Steps

1. In Windows Explorer, right-click the folder that you want to redirect to a network share.
2. Click **Properties**.

Properties for the share you selected are displayed.

3. In the **Shortcut** tab, click **Target** and specify the path to the network location where you want to redirect the selected folder.

For example, if you want to redirect a folder to the `data` folder in a home directory that is mapped to `Q:`, specify `Q:\data` as the target.

4. Click **OK**.

For more information about configuring offline folders, consult the Microsoft TechNet Library.

### Related information

Microsoft TechNet Library: [technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/](https://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/)

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