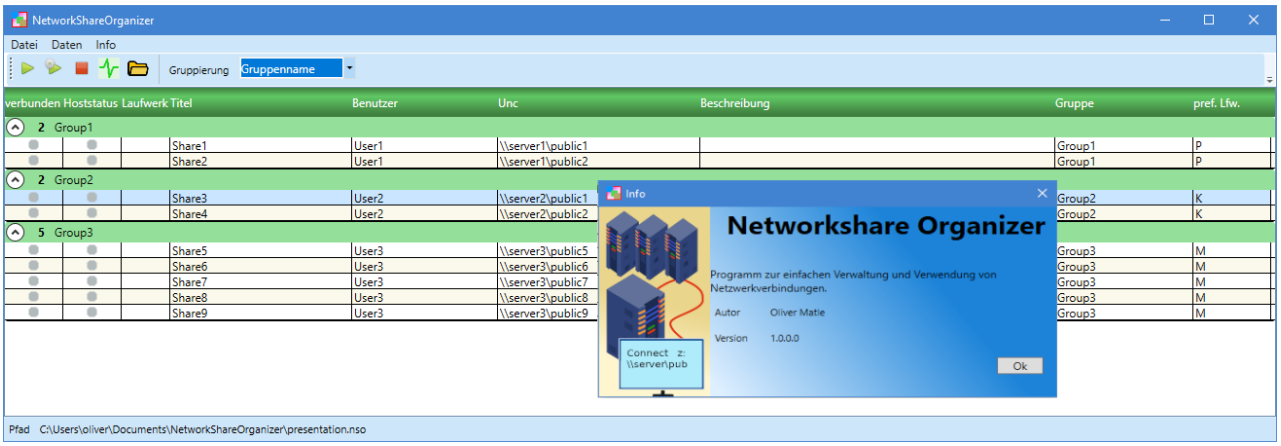
User Guide

NetworkShare Organizer

Version 1.0.0

Oliver Matle, November 2022



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Introduction

In this user manual I describe how to use the program NetworkShare Organizer. In order to be able to use the program quickly, I refer to the Quick Start chapter.

This text was translated with a translation program.

The use of the program is at your own risk. I developed the program in my free time because I need it for myself. The program is written with .Net C# and requires the corresponding runtime environment at least in version 5.

Why do you need the program?

To access a network share on a computer, you have to connect a network drive to it under Windows operating systems. This is usually done in two ways.

- A network drive is set up in the file manager.
- In the command prompt, the command "net use" is used.

The NetworkShare Organizer program facilitates these work steps.

Motivation

Why did I develop this program?

I work a lot with network drives because I have to manage many computers with different network shares. All network shares have different paths, different users and passwords and they should be able to be connected with changing drive letters.

Using the Windows network drive dialogs or the command prompt with the "net use" command seemed too cumbersome to me. With the multitude of my networks, paths and users, I would have always had to maintain a list that would also have contained the passwords in plain text.

I needed a program that would make it easier for me to manage all these parameters and set up and clear connections quickly and easily. This is how this NetworkShare Organizer program came about.

Where can I find the program?

I published the program on Github. Parts of the program code can also be viewed there:
https://github.com/Excogitatoris69/NetworkshareOrganizer

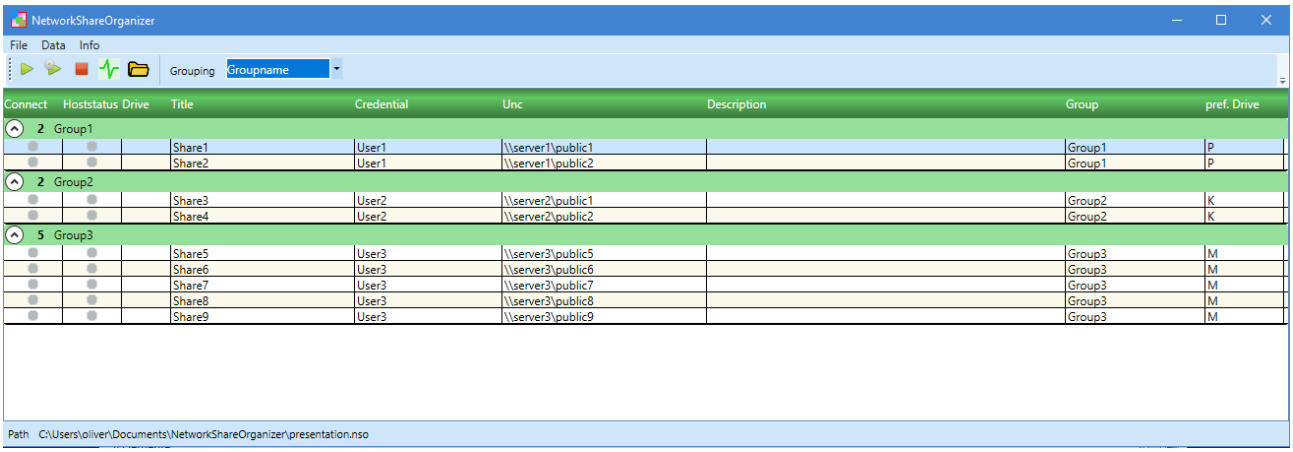
The user interface

The program essentially consists of a main window. All connections are displayed in a table in this window. All the necessary commands are quickly accessible in the toolbar in order to establish or disconnect connections. The displayed table entries can be sorted or grouped in many ways.

The menu contains additional commands relating to data and file management. Within the table, further commands can be executed via pop-up menu.

Main window

The table displays the data in different columns. The first two columns show the status of the connection and of the target server. A mapped share can be mapped to either a drive letter or \\, which is shown in the Drive column.



The other columns are explained in the following overview table.

Column	Description
Connect	Shows the connection status in the form of a colored LED. Possible colors are grey, yellow and green.
Hoststatus	Displays the accessibility status of the target computer in the form of a colored LED. Possible colors are grey, yellow and blue.
Drive	If a connection has been established, the drive letter (or a \\) by which the connection is known to Windows is displayed here.
Titel	Name of connection
Credential	Name of credential
Unc	Path to target computer
Description	Description of netshare
Group	Groupname
pref. Drive	Preferred drive letter

The path to the currently used database file is displayed in the status bar at the bottom of the main window.

Menu

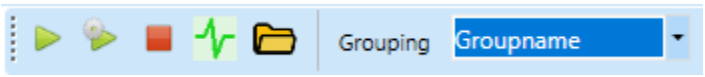
The File menu contains commands for managing database files. Here you can create a new database, open a DB and save an existing one under a new name. There is no save command because the program saves all data directly and automatically. The user does not have to worry about it. The settings of the program can also be found under this menu item.

The Data menu takes you to the management dialog for all connections. The master password can also be changed here.

An information dialog about the program itself is hidden under the Info menu.

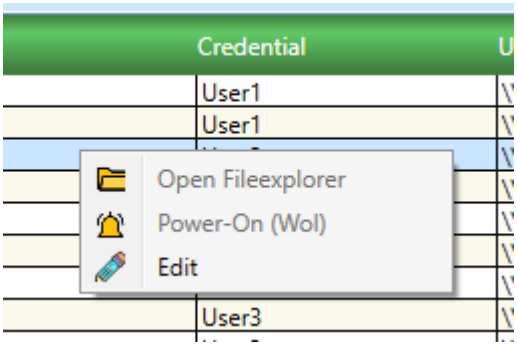
Toolbar

The most important commands for daily use are in the toolbar. Connections can be made and broken here. The status of the target server can be determined (ping). Connected networks can be opened directly in a file manager. You can also group the contents of the table.



Popupmenu

This menu, accessible by right-clicking within the table, offers commands for opening a connection in the file manager. Entries can be edited and the target servers can be switched on (wake on lan).



Manage Data

All connection data can be managed in a separate dialog window. It is called up under the menu item Data | data management.

A network connection consists of different components, the connection parameters, the groups and the users. These are grouped by tabs in the dialog window. The structure is largely identical in all tabs.

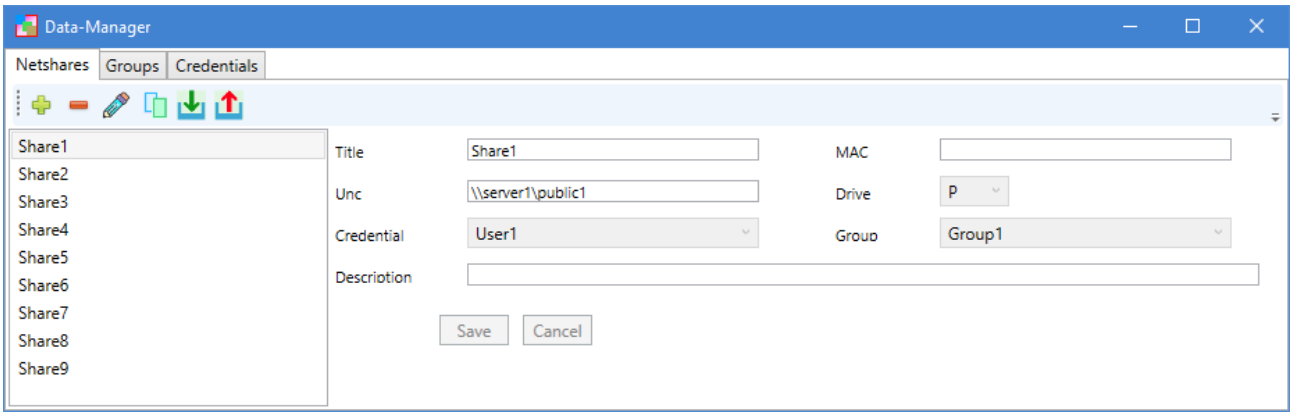
There is a toolbar with commands for creating, deleting and changing the data records. Records can be imported and exported. There is also a clone button for connections

On the left is a list of all entries and on the right the data is displayed.

If you want to edit an entry, you have to select it and switch to edit mode. This editing mode can be ended by clicking on Save or Cancel.

Netshares

The following overview table lists all properties and their meaning of a connection. Connections can be duplicated by cloning.

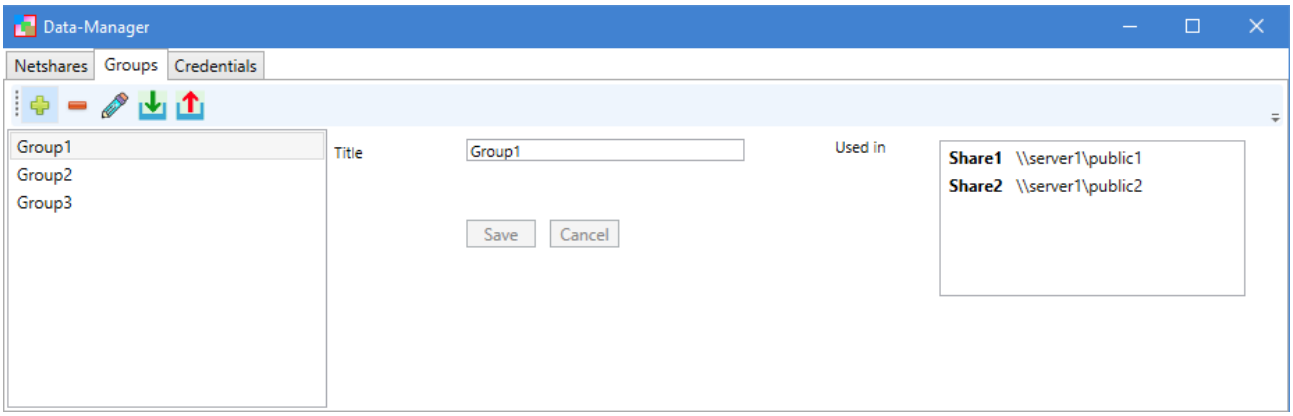


Field	Description
Titel	Any text. However, a title may only be used once.
Unc	Path to target computer
Credential	User to use. Selection list of all defined users.
Description	Description
MAC	MAC address to use with Wake on lan (Wol).
Drive	Preferred drive letter (or \\ or *)
Group	Group to use. Selection list of all defined groups.

Groups

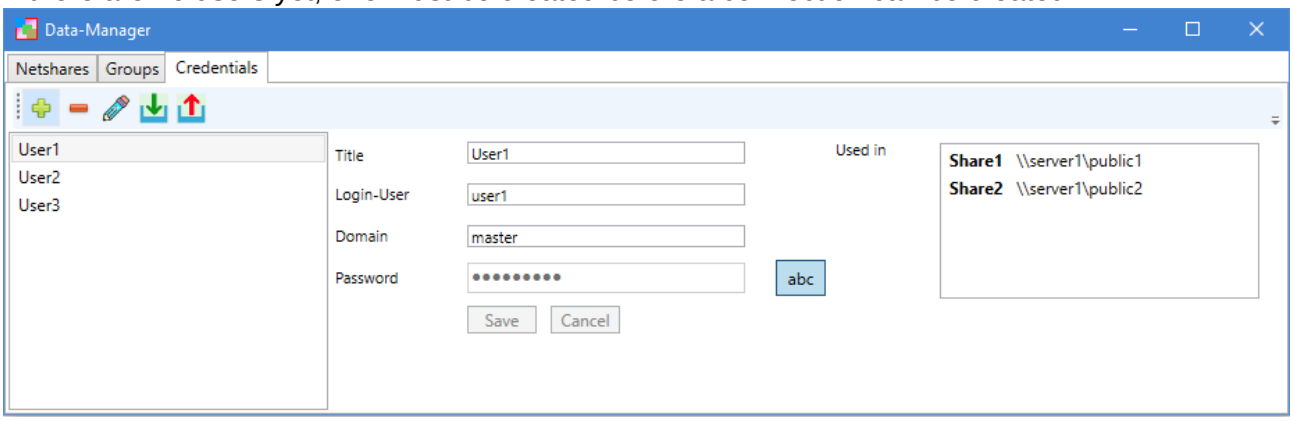
Connections can be managed in groups so that a meaningful overview is possible. However, the title can only be assigned once.

If there is no group yet, one must be created before a connection can be created. All connections contained in the respective group are listed in the right-hand list.



Credentials

If there are no users yet, one must be created before a connection can be created.



The following overview table lists all properties and what they mean for a user.

Field	Description
Titel	Any text. However, a title may only be used once.
Credential	Credential of target computer
Domane	Name of Domane.
Password	Passwort of target computer

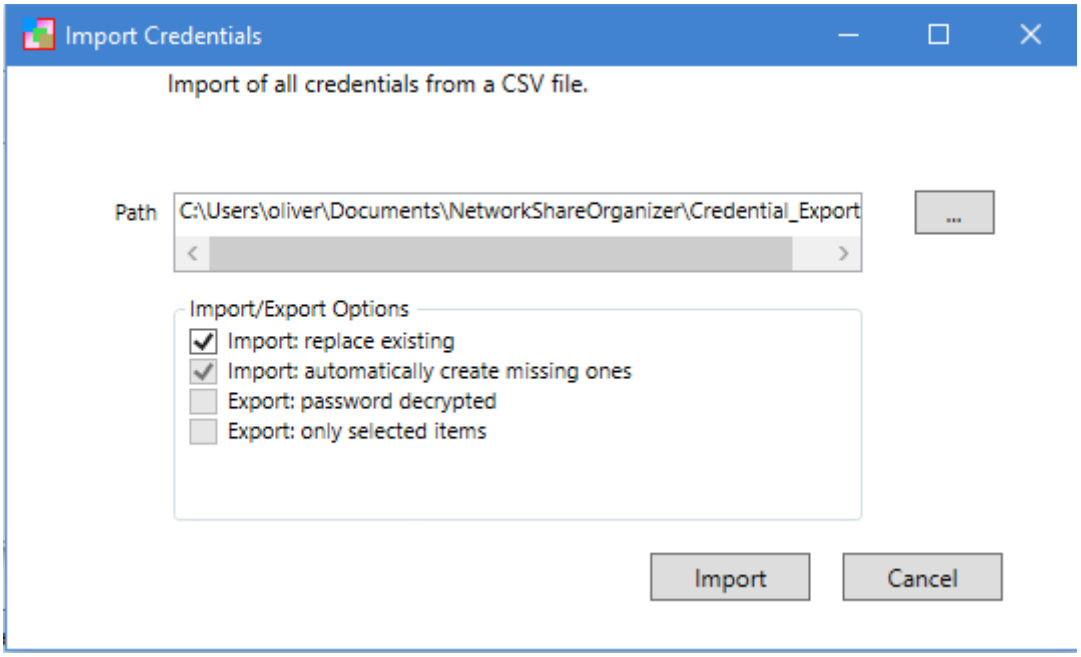
The list on the right shows all connections using this user.

The password field has a special behavior here. The password is always hidden. The abc or *** button can be used to switch between the password display. Changing the password is only possible in hidden display mode. If you click in the field, the content is deleted. It is not possible to change the field content, you have to enter the complete password again.

The issue of security and handling passwords is also important in this context. There is a separate chapter for this.

Import and Export

In all three categories, the data can also be imported and exported as a file. The format is CSV. See also the Technology chapter. In all cases, a file must first be selected. Various options can be set depending on the respective import/export process. The overview table provides information on this.



Option	Description
Import: Replace existing	If a record already exists, it will be replaced or it will not be imported.
Import: Create missings	When importing a connection, associated users or groups are automatically created if they do not exist.
Export: Decrypt passwort	Should the passwords be written in clear text to the export file?
Export: Only selected items	Only selected Should only the selected entry or everything be exported

Structure of the import/export CSV file

The three files for importing groups, users and connections are structured as follows.

Group

Field	Description
ID	A unique ID. This is assigned by the program and cannot be generated manually.
NAME	Name of group

Credential

Field	Description
ID	A unique ID. This is assigned by the program and cannot be generated manually.
TITLE	Title of credential
DOMAIN	Domaine (optional)
LOGINUSER	Username of target computer
PASSWORD	Password (encrypted/decrypted)
ENCRYPTED	Indicates whether the password was specified in encrypted form. Values: True or False

Netshares

Field	Description
ID	A unique ID. This is assigned by the program and cannot be generated manually.
TITLE	Title of netshare
UNC	Path to target computer
DESCRIPTION	Description
PREFDRIVE	Preferred drive letter (or * or \\)
MAC	Mac-Address
CREDENTIALTITLE	Title of credential
GROUPNAME	Name of group
CREDENTIALID	ID of credential
GROUPID	ID of group

It is not necessary to enter an ID to import a new data record. However, if an ID exists because the file was created by an export, the ID is useful because it can be used to create a reference to an existing data record.

For example, if you want to rename the group name of all groups, if you export the groups to an export file, change the names and leave the ID as it is, then all groups are renamed accordingly via the ID. However, if you delete the ID, these groups will be added again if they do not already exist. This procedure is analogous to the users and the connections.

When exporting the users, you can also optionally export the passwords in plain text. In this case, the ENCRYPTED field has the value False. When importing this file, these passwords are changed and encrypted again.

Connections are related to a group and to a user. If new connections are recorded in an import file and you also specify a group name and a user title that do not yet exist, then these objects are

optionally created automatically during the import. The missing information must be entered later. If an export file with connections was created and the IDs of groups and users exist, these are used.

In general, no duplicate connections, groups and users are created. The existing groups and users are always used whenever possible, provided they are specified either by their name or their ID.

Security

A lot of effort was put into the development of the program to ensure the security of the passwords. The data is all stored in plain text in one file. However, the password is then encrypted.

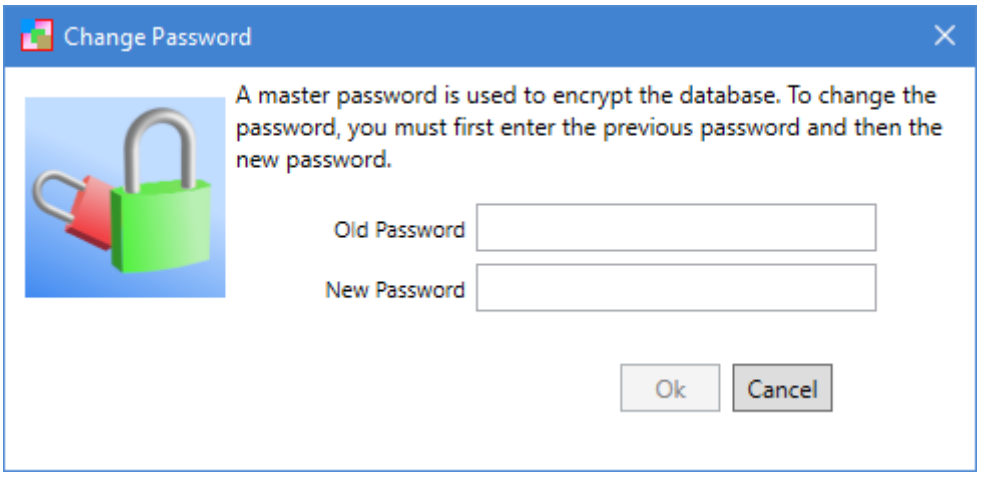
Decryption Success immediately before use when establishing a network connection. As long as no network connection is established or the password is displayed in plain text in the program window, it is only stored in highly encrypted form in the main memory.

Masterpassword

In addition to the passwords for the network shares, there is the master password. This encrypts all network passwords. When a new database is created or an existing one is opened, a master password is always requested. At this time, however, no network passwords are processed in any form in clear text in memory.

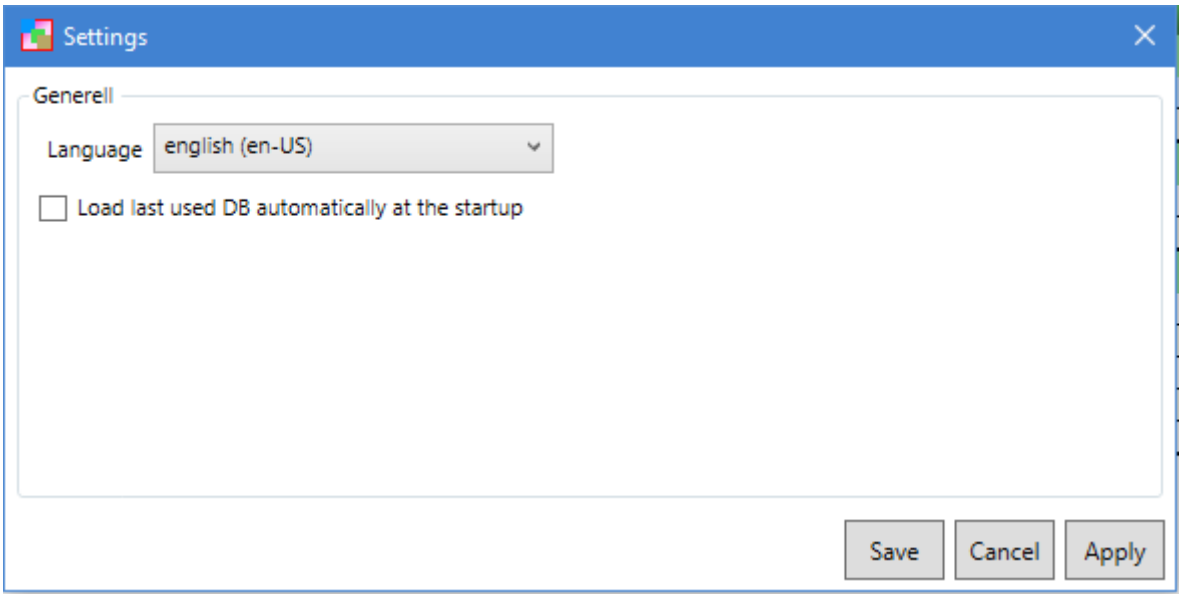
Change Masterpassword

The master password can be changed. The previous password must be entered first, followed by the new password.



Settings

In the File | Settings, some parameters of the program can be changed individually.



In addition to German, English can also be selected as the language for the program interface.

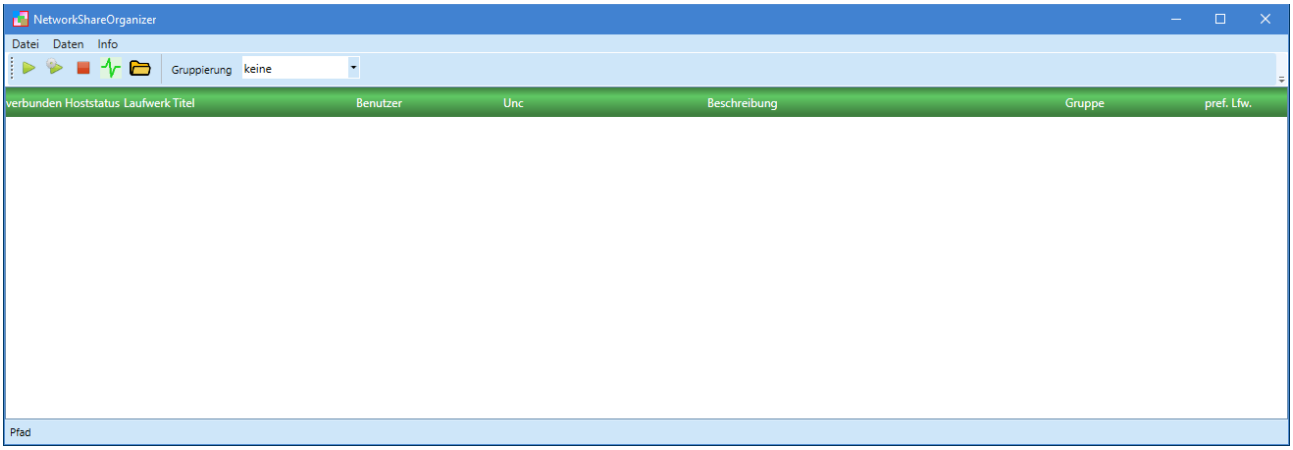
If you want to load a database when you start the program, check this box.

After restarting the program, the parameters are active.

Quick Start

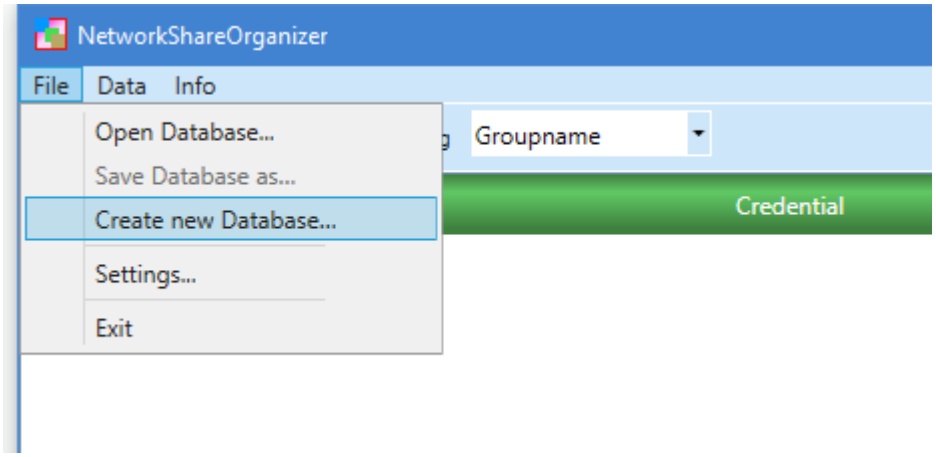
Here is a quick guide to get you started with the program as quickly as possible without having read the entire user manual.

After the first start of the program, the table with the remaining connections is empty.

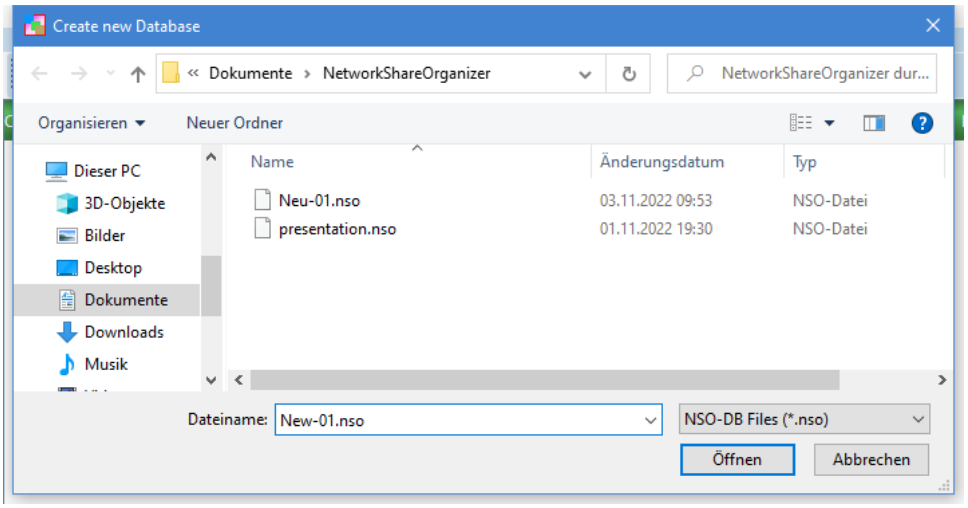


Here is a step-by-step guide.

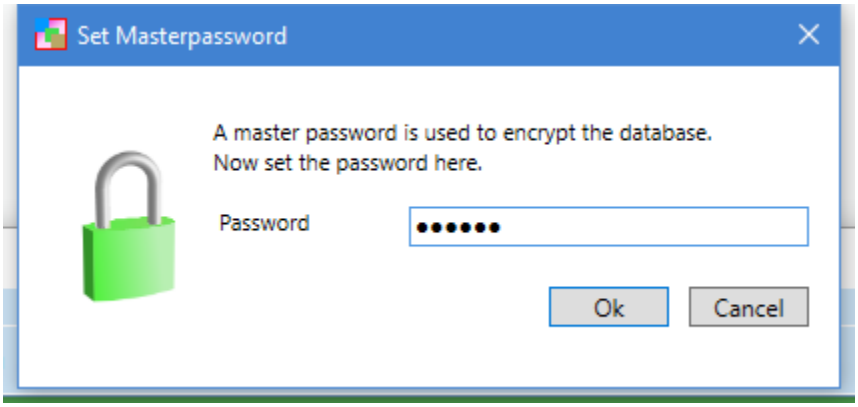
1. Create a new database. File menu | New database.



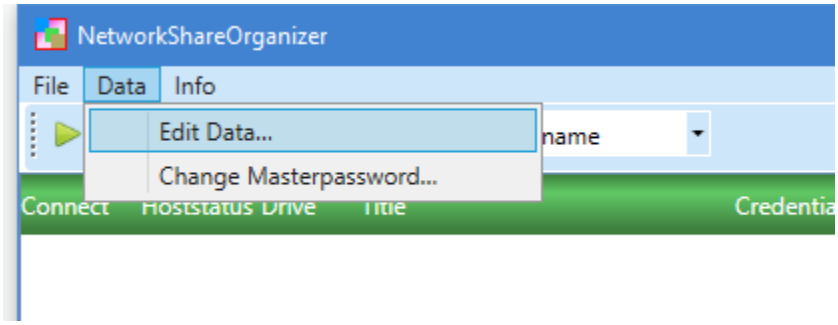
2. Select path to file and enter file name.



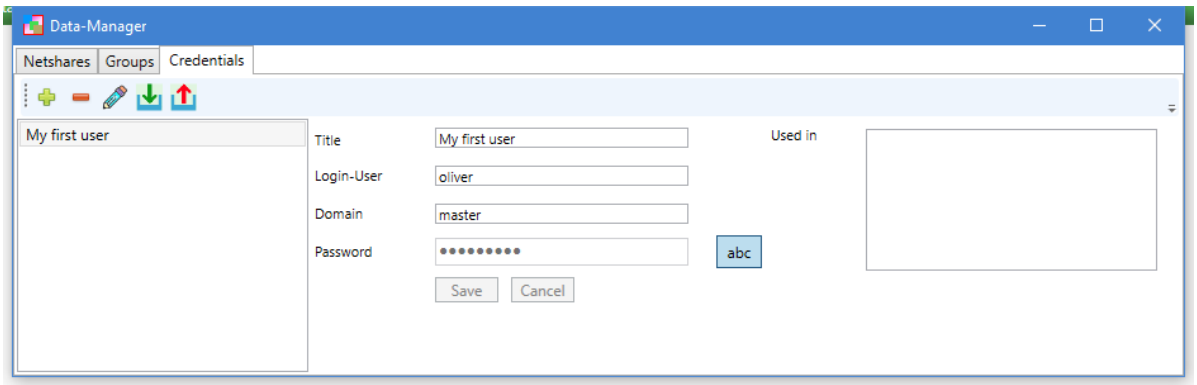
3. Set master password:



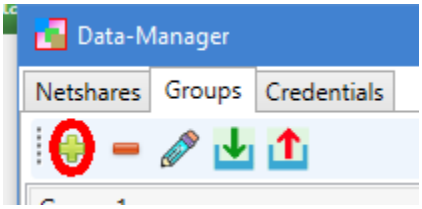
4. Open menu **Data | Edit Data**

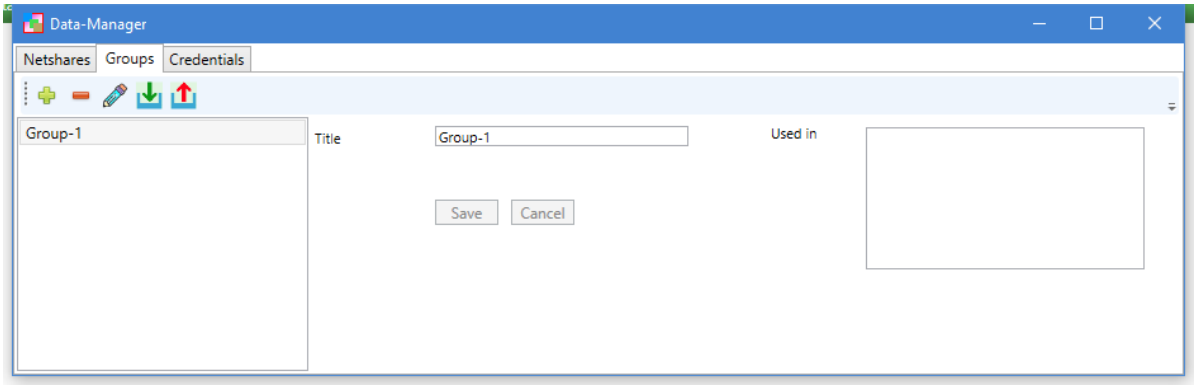


5. Add credential

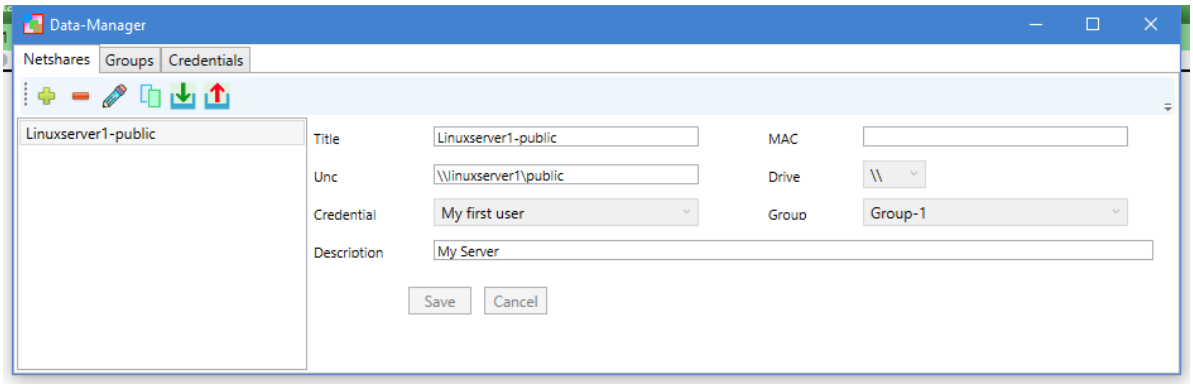


6. Add group

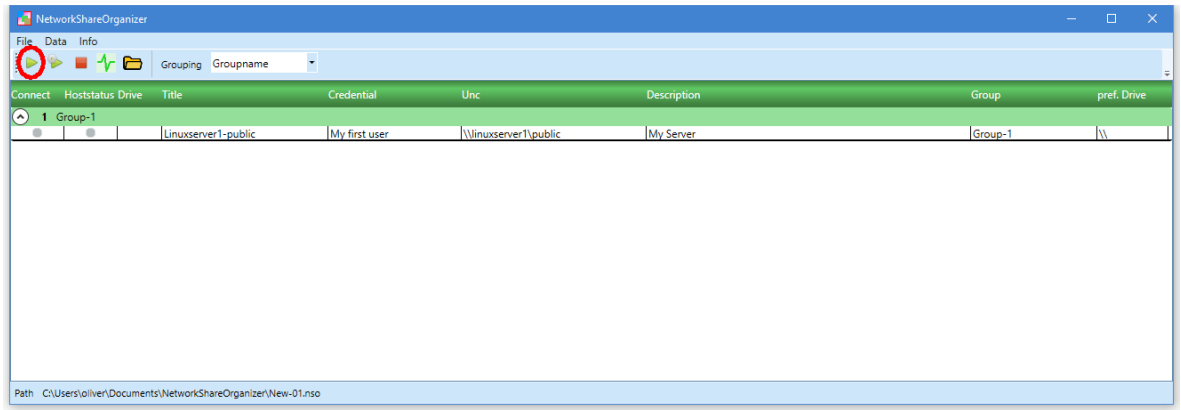




7. Add netshare connection



8. Open connection



In case of problems, it is advisable to read the user manual from the beginning.