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How To Enable Remote Access To Administrative Shares in Windows 10

30th July, 2015 Tommy Stephansen 4 Comments



Windows 10 is awesome. Administrative shares are too. This is a quick how to for enabling remote access to admin shares in Windows 10 (also works with Windows 8.1 and older)

This is how you can enable remote access to administrative shares in Windows 10.

(This guide applies to Windows 8.x, 7 and Vista too – only the screenshots are a bit different.)

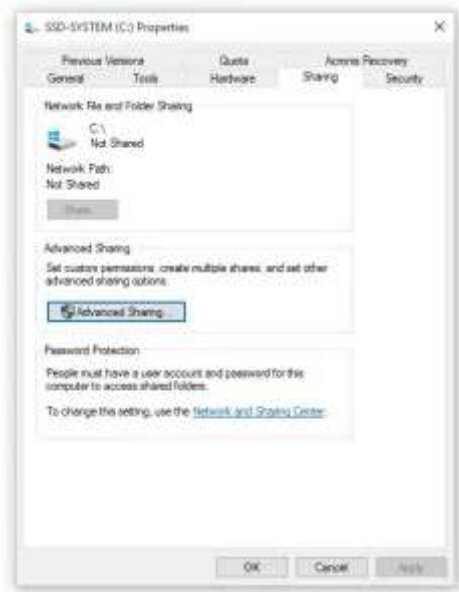
The issue:

Administrative shares are default shares of all the disk drives on a Windows computer. These allow access to the root disks remotely.

If you try to connect to administrative shares (for instance C\$ or D\$) on a remote computer running a newer version of Windows than Windows XP, you will not be able to.



You may need to enable Advanced Sharing. Right-click any disk drive using File Explorer and click "Properties". Then click "Advanced Sharing" and turn on file sharing when it asks if you want to enable it. (Don't share the disk drive, just close the dialog box.)



Tommy here :-)

If this article was helpful to you and you want to show your appreciation, please feel free to send me a tip/donation:



Now, at this point, you can connect to a remote share (i.e \\SERVERNAME\\c\$) but get prompted to enter a username and password.

If you enter the username and password of the local account on the server, (i.e \\SERVERNAME\\MyAdminUser), you still get an error message.

This is because of a default security policy that disables access to administrative shares.

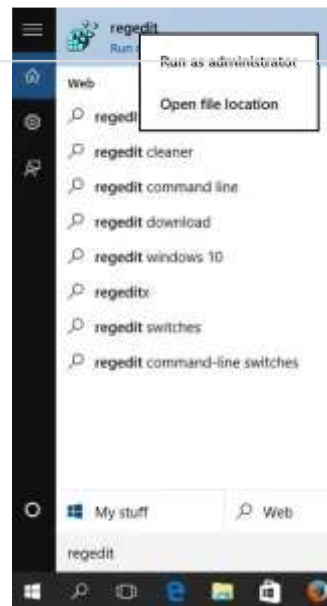
Thankfully, a small registry hack is all it takes to get around the issue by creating a policy manually that overrides the default setting. Do this on the server that has the shares you want to access remotely:



1. Click the Windows Start icon and search for “regedit”. Right-click and select “run as administrator”.

Thanks! Have a great day

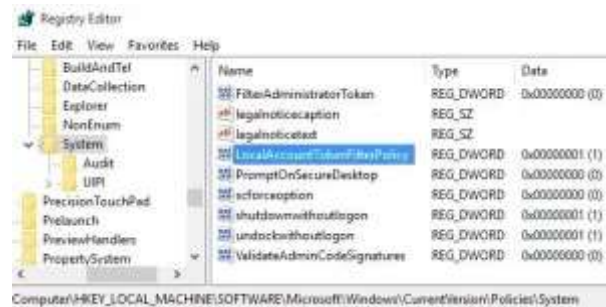
:-)



2. Expand the tree to HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE \ SOFTWARE \ Microsoft \ Windows \ CurrentVersion \ policies \ system.

3. Create a new key (Right click -> New -> choose “DWORD Value (32bit)”).

4. Name the key “LocalAccountTokenFilterPolicy” and give it the value of “1”. Click OK.



Ad



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7. Now when you try to access the administrative shares on the remote computer, it should magically work.

🔖 administrative shares, how to enable, remote access, windows 10

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Best Newest Oldest**Oscar**

🕒 5 years ago

Perfect!

It solved my problem!!!

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**Tommy Stephansen** Mod

➔ Oscar

🕒 5 years ago

Nice to hear Oscar! :D

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**Petar**

🕒 6 years ago

Yes it worked without reboot. Shorter ways are possible, one is command line:



How do you disable it admin shares?

TommyNation.com © All Rights Reserved 1 0 • Reply • Share ›



Petar

→ skyrail02

🕒 3 years ago

I presume it should be setting it to 0 again
(didn't try):
reg add
HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\Current'
/v LocalAccountTokenFilterPolicy /t
REG_DWORD /d 0 /f

0 0 • Reply • Share ›



V@no

🕒 7 years ago edited

Thank you!

I did not need do anything regarding advanced sharing steps, all I had to do was add LocalAccountTokenFilterPolicy registry and the effect took place immediately, no reboot was necessary.

Also note, that if you are using Microsoft account, with pin or not, you must use full username (email address) and password on remote computer to login to your W10. I'm not certain about computer name, if it required to be changed to W10's one or not, but I typed in username field:

MYW10COMPUTERNAME\mymicrosoftemailaddress@example.com

and it worked (after second try though)



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E

Ed

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🚩


🕒 5 years ago

"Windows 10 is awesome. Administrative shares are too."

"Windows 10 is awesome."

haaaa, haahahahaha good one

2 1 • Reply • Share ›



Bill Beckett

—

🚩

🕒 4 years ago

Not working

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R

Rik


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🚩

🕒 6 years ago

Wow, Thanks Dude! just to share my "finding". You don't actually have to reboot the machine. you can just kill the process explorer.exe and restart it. After restarting the process (not the computer) I was able to connect to my shares again :D. (Windows 7 Ultimate)

1 0 • Reply • Share ›



Tommy Stephansen Mod  Rik

—

🚩

🕒 5 years ago

Good tip. To anyone else who wants to do this, restart explorer.exe this way: Right-click the taskbar. Click Task Manager to open it. Find any explorer.exe instances in the list, right-click them and kill process. Don't close the Task Manager yet! Click FILE and RUN NEW TASK. Then type in EXPLORER and run it. All done!

0 0 • Reply • Share ›


ashik shoikh

—

🚩


AS

ashik sheikh


 6 years ago

May I Know what are the disadvantage for changing the value of "LocalAccountTokenFilterPolicy" = 1

1 0 • Reply • Share ›


**Tommy Stephansen** Mod ashik

sheikh

 6 years ago

Hi ashik! Good question. It is a question of network security. Please see this link for more information:
<https://support.microsoft.c...>

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**Zibri (<http://www.zibri.org>)** 6 years ago

Whatever I do (even removing the password authentication) gives no access from tcp ip windows 7 pc... I remember I had the same problem on windows 7 but I don't remember how I solved it.

1 0 • Reply • Share ›

PH

Pablo Hablo 3 years ago

Great! Thanks Tommy (& Petar), works. But, wtaf, ms??? Does 'Administrators' not mean anything any more? I mean, when I upgraded, admins had ZERO privileges in both 'Program Files' and PF (x86). Who would think offhand THAT's why they can't install anything? (Guess I'm lucky I 'only' have 25 systems to fix!).

0 0 • Reply • Share ›

**Idunno Mename** 4 years ago

Thx. Here's normal registry path that other people can just easily copy/paste:

Computer\HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\F

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A

afnan

🕒 4 years ago

HY

0 • Reply • Share ›

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Michael Grammas

🕒 5 years ago

Son of a beehive! That did it. You've got to love Microsoft. Thanks, Tommy.

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— 🚩



cybericius

🕒 5 years ago edited

Hi,

So in theory, I could access with a live account the hidden default shares without the need of changing the value of this key?

Why does not it allow me as admin of the Windows 10 deployment to connect then with the live account I have installed the OS?

If I create shares with advanced sharing, then it works for those.

Thanks.

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— 🚩



Tommy Stephansen

Mod

➔ cybericius

🕒 5 years ago edited

Hi,

I don't know how this may have been modified in Windows 10 or if it has been. The new system of live accounts is sort of "attached" to a local account behind the scenes, maybe that changes things. You can see the name of the local account if you use netplwiz command.

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— 🚩



cybercius

Stephansen

🕒 5 years ago

Ahh, thanks, I will give that and the registry modification a try.

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mo takpec

🕒 7 years ago

I did this and I can see \\name\drv\$ win10 to win10 but my shares I cannot see are win10 to Win7. It worked until the april or may updates. Will someone find a fix? Breaking all the share security is totally open. I just need to see the stuff "I" my users can see machine to machine in my network. My machines are not phones. Did Microsoft stop making OS and now only competes with a phone OS? Somehow all of what I have been using for ever is suddenly useless. Kind of expensive to not be able to use it.

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Tommy Stephansen Mod

➔ mo takpec

🕒 7 years ago

Are you saying you can't see your Win 10 shared folders if you go to \\name using Win 7?

0 0 • Reply • Share ›



mo takpec

➔ Tommy

Stephansen

🕒 7 years ago

No. I am saying all the sudden my win10 cannot see the win7 shares anymore. It was fine all along now it stopped. The user is there, the settings are all correct. I can also see it, win7, from other win 7 and win 10 and win 8.1 on the same network. All of those using multiple users as well. Odd and frustrating. I don't want to move all the "stuff" yet that win 7 has photo and

scanner software I have not been able to run on win 10. The scanner I think I can do but the adobe software does not transfer and cost big bucks. Not ready to do without it yet. Not done with my family photos.

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Tommy Stephansen

Mod → mo takpec

🕒 7 years ago

I see! Haven't experienced that issue (yet). Maybe this can help?

<https://community.spiceworks...>

0 0 • Reply • Share ›



aRvInD

🕒 7 years ago

Useful!!! Thanks for this tip...

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TR

🕒 7 years ago

I'm having trouble connecting (for a vulnerability scan) to a few Windows XP systems, keeps coming up with authentication failures. I know I'm using (for the scan) the built-in administrator credentials, but still can't get a good scan. The settings you suggested here are already set. I see Failure Audits in the Sec Log for Windows Authentication. I'm out of ideas as to what else to check.

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Andrew F

→ TR

🕒 2 years ago

Go into programs and features on the Windows 10