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Fix Cannot Access Network Shares on Windows 10

Posted on November 27, 2020 by Madalina Dinita — 5 Comments

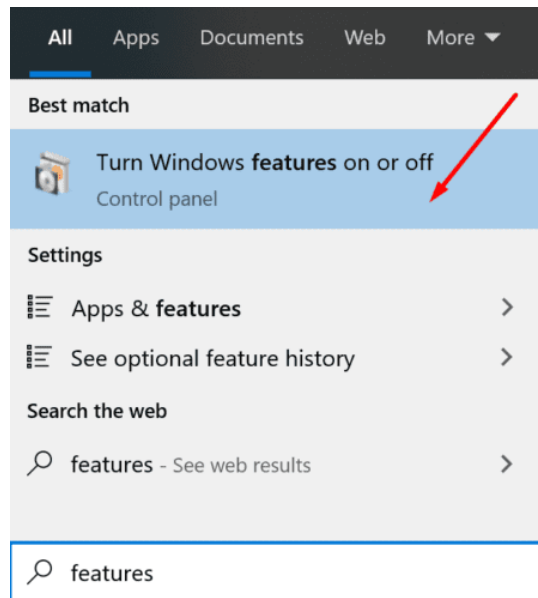
Not being able to access network shares can be really annoying. For example, if other computers can detect the shared folders and yours cannot, you need to fix this issue. In this guide, we'll show you how you can solve this problem.

My Computer Doesn't Detect Network Shares

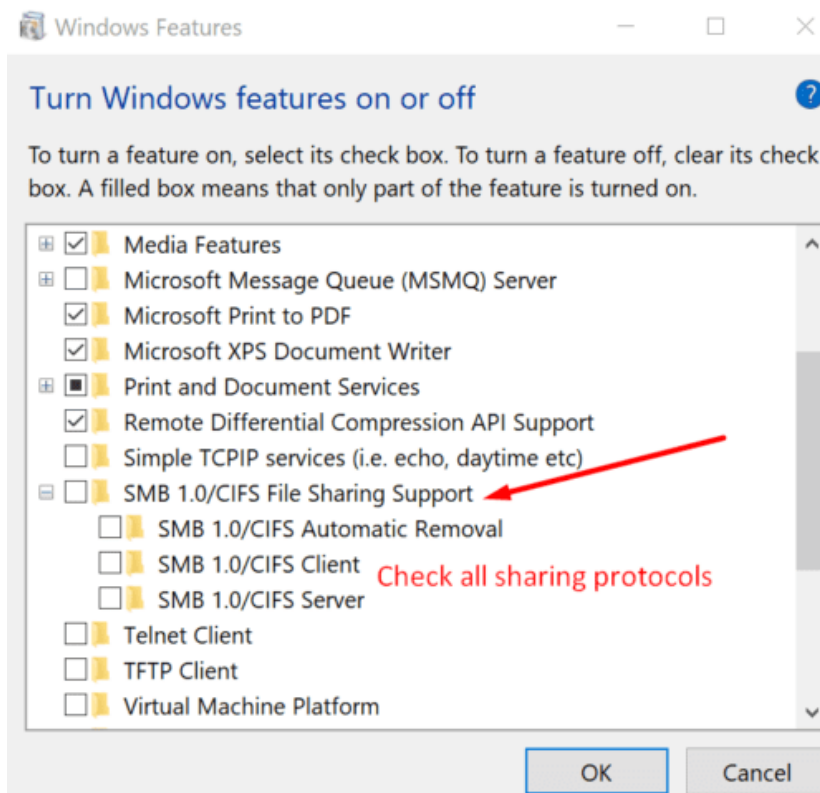
Use the same sharing protocol

First of all, make sure all the computers are using the same sharing protocol. That is to say, there should be no incompatibility issues at this level.

1. First, type *features* in the Windows search box.
2. Select **Turn Windows features on and off**.



3. Then expand the **\SMB 1.0/CIFS File Sharing Support** category.
4. The next step is to check all the options. As a result, your computer will support all the sharing protocols.

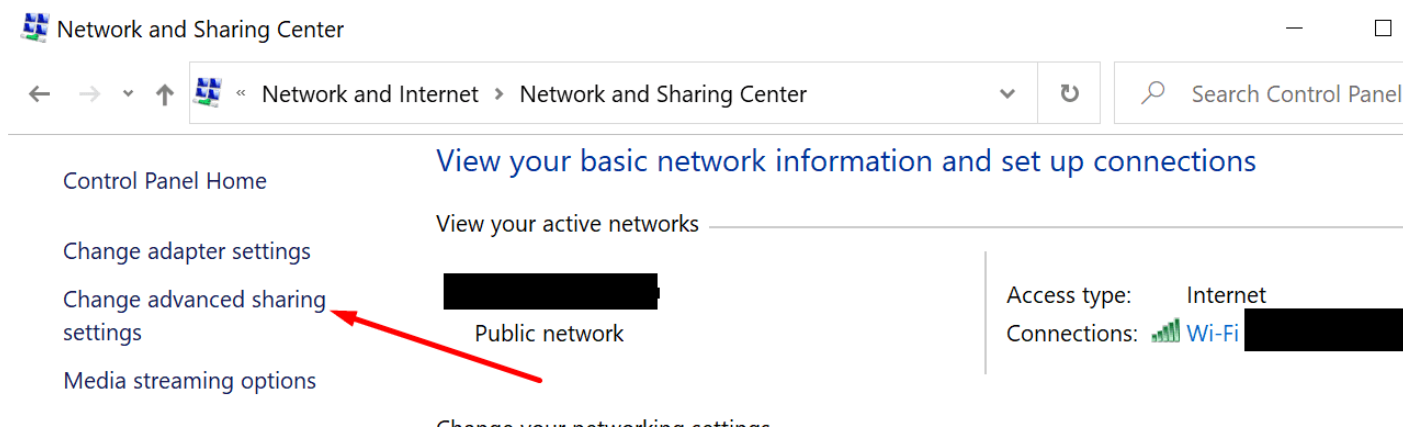


5. Apply the changes and restart your computer.

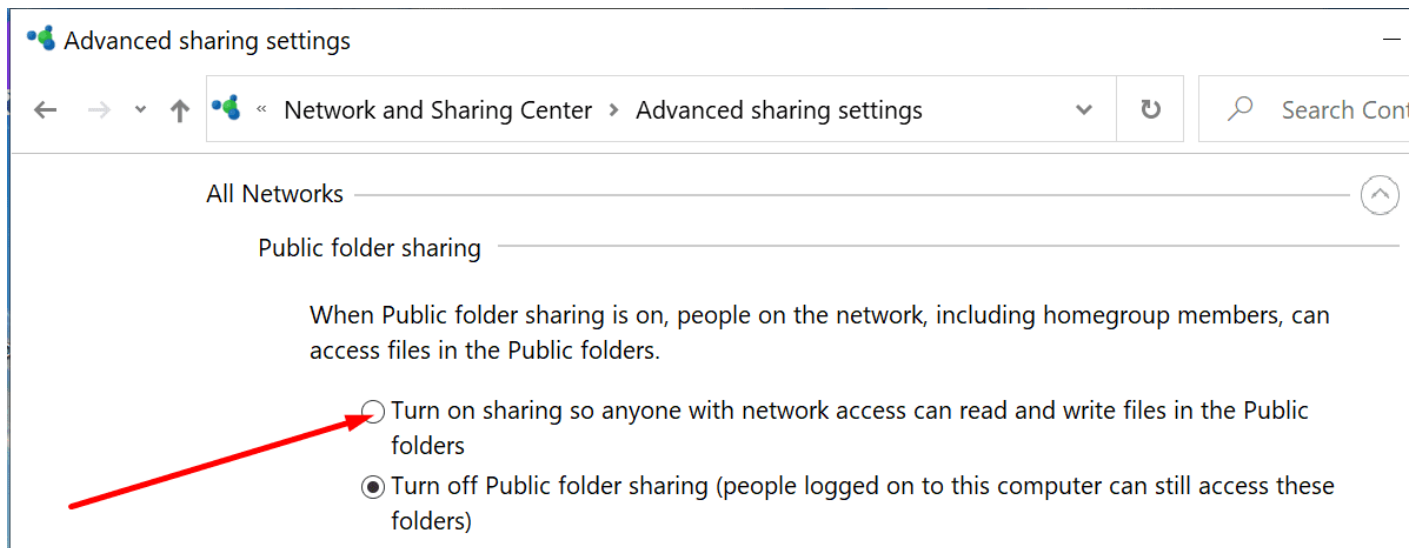
Enable Public Sharing

If the public sharing feature is disabled, certain folders may not visible over the network.

1. The first step is to launch the Control Panel.
2. Then go to **Network and Internet**.
3. Select **Network and Sharing Center**.
4. Go to **Change advanced sharing settings**.



5. After that, expand **All networks**.
6. Locate the **Public folder sharing** option and make sure it's checked.

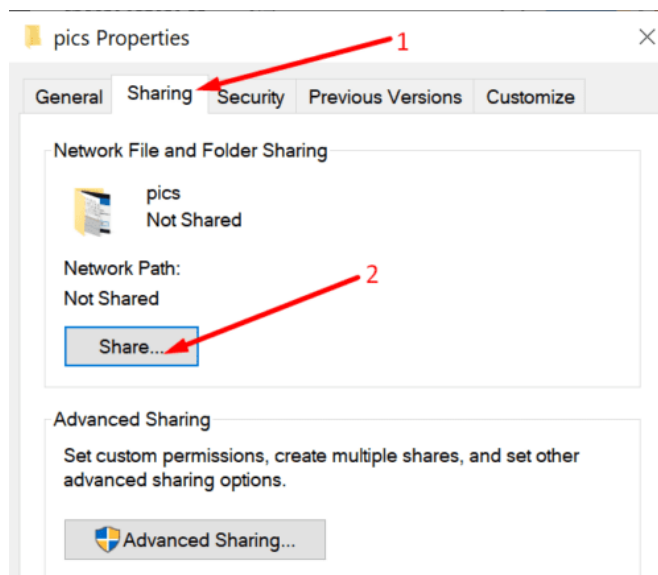


7. Then restart your computer.

Check the sharing settings for individual folders

Equally important, make sure to check the sharing settings for the folder you're trying to share.

1. Right-click on the folder.
2. Then click on the **Sharing** Tab.
3. Hit the **Share** button.


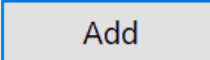


4. Go to **Choose people to share with**.
5. Select **Everyone** from the drop-down menu.

← Network access

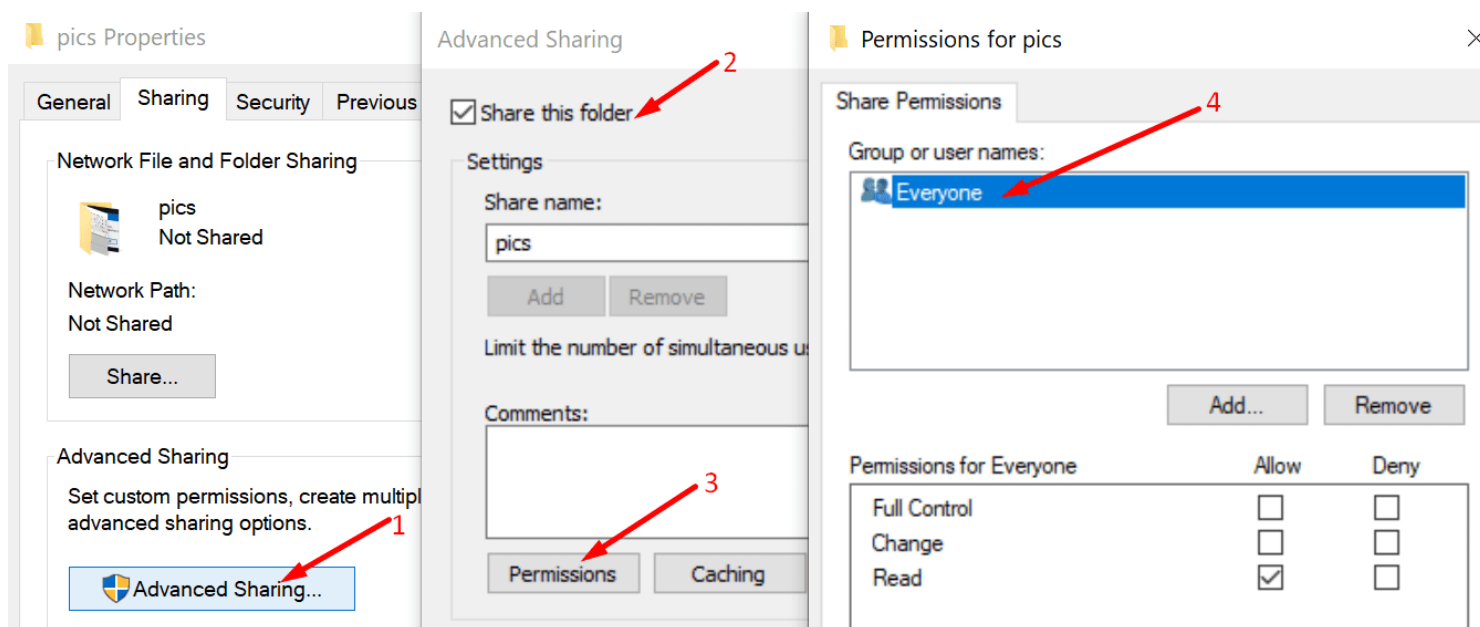
Choose people to share with

Type a name and then click Add, or click the arrow to find someone.

Everyone  

Name	Permission Level
------	------------------

6. Go to **Advanced Sharing**.
7. Check the **Share this folder** option.
8. Go to **Permissions** and make sure it's set to **Everyone**.



pics Properties

General | **Sharing** | Security | Previous

Network File and Folder Sharing

pics
Not Shared

Network Path:
Not Shared

Advanced Sharing

Set custom permissions, create multiple advanced sharing options.

Advanced Sharing...

Advanced Sharing

☒ **Share this folder** (arrow 2)

Settings

Share name:
pics

Limit the number of simultaneous users:

Comments:

(arrow 3)

Permissions for pics

Share Permissions

Group or user names:

Everyone (arrow 4)

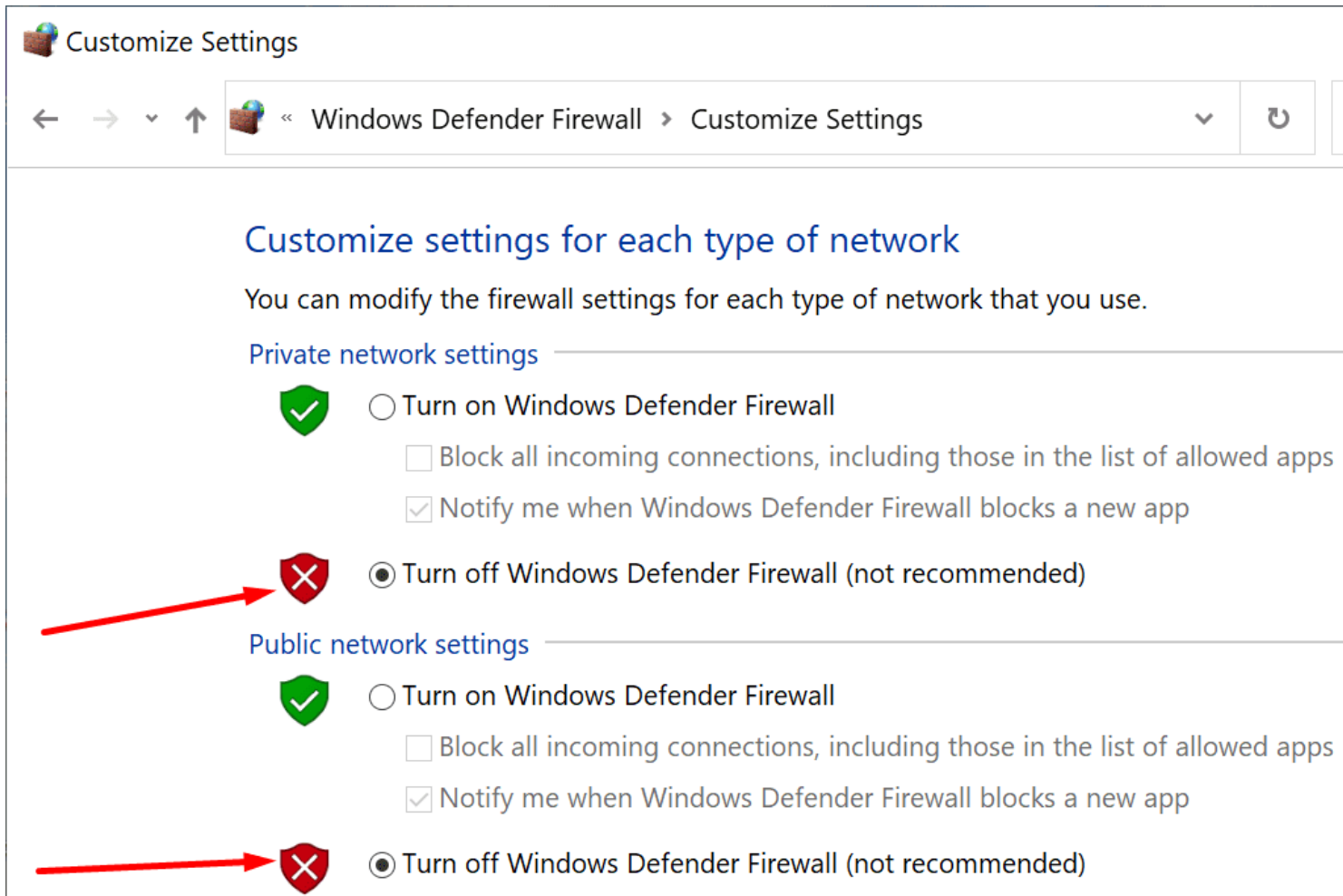
Permissions for Everyone

	Allow	Deny
Full Control	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Change	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Read	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you can't find the Permissions tab, click on the *Add* option. Then, click on *Advanced*, and then *Find Now*. The computer will list all the users. Select *Everyone* and you're ready to go.

Disable your firewall

Some users said that disabling the firewall did the trick. If you're using Windows 10's built-in firewall, open the Control Panel. Select **Turn Windows Defender Firewall on and off**.

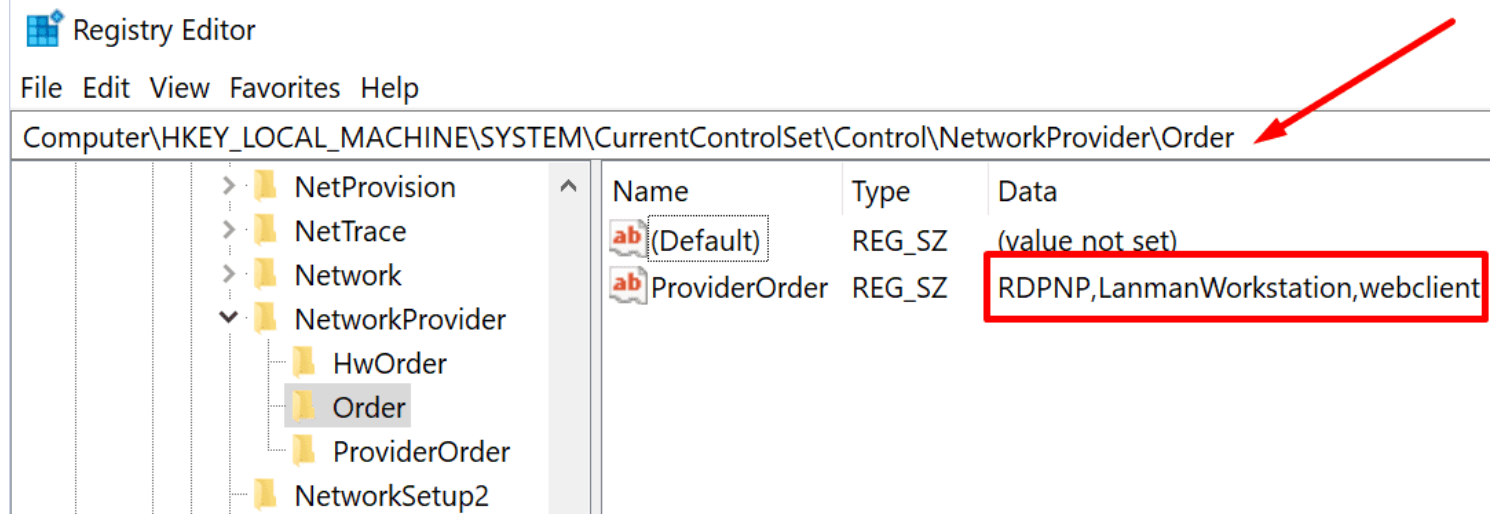


You can then disable the firewall, and restart your computer. Check if the network shares are visible now.

Enable LanMan Workstation

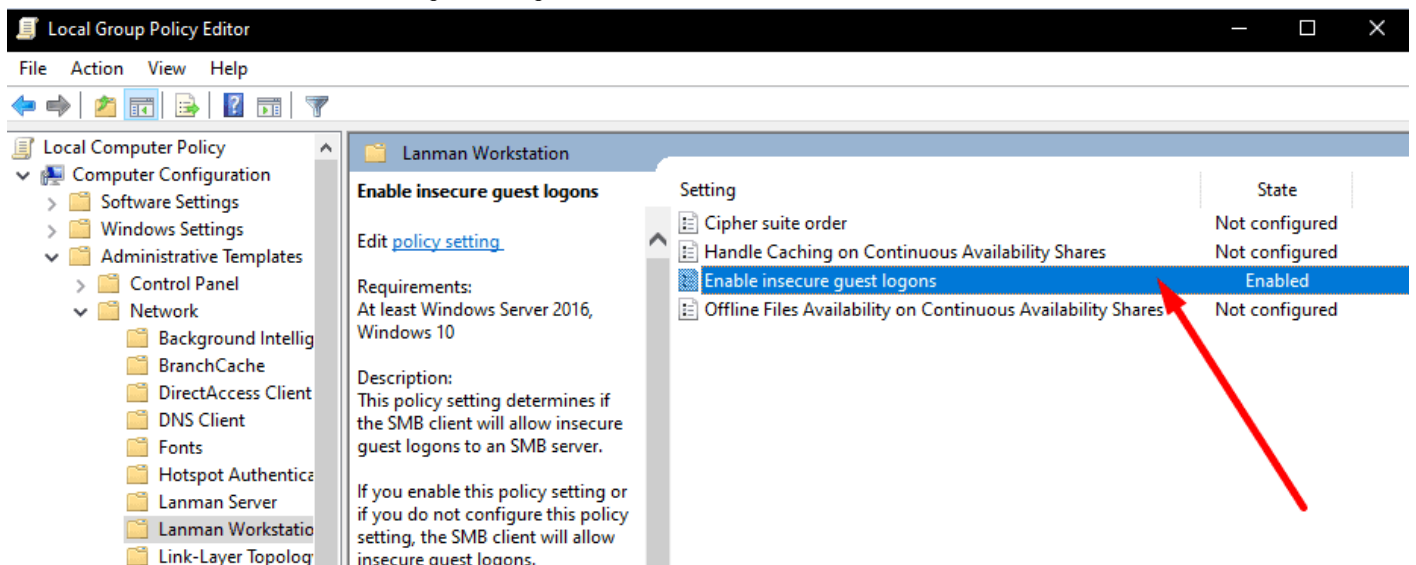
This policy allows users to block or accept insecure guest logons. It could be the reason why users can't access network shares.

1. To check if the policy is enabled, enter *regedit* in the Windows search box and launch the Registry Editor.
2. Next, go to HKLM\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\NetworkProvider\Order and HKLM\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\NetworkProvider\HWOrder
3. Check if the RDPNP,LanmanWorkstation value is set for both of these keys.



If it's not, you can enable it via the Group Policy Editor.

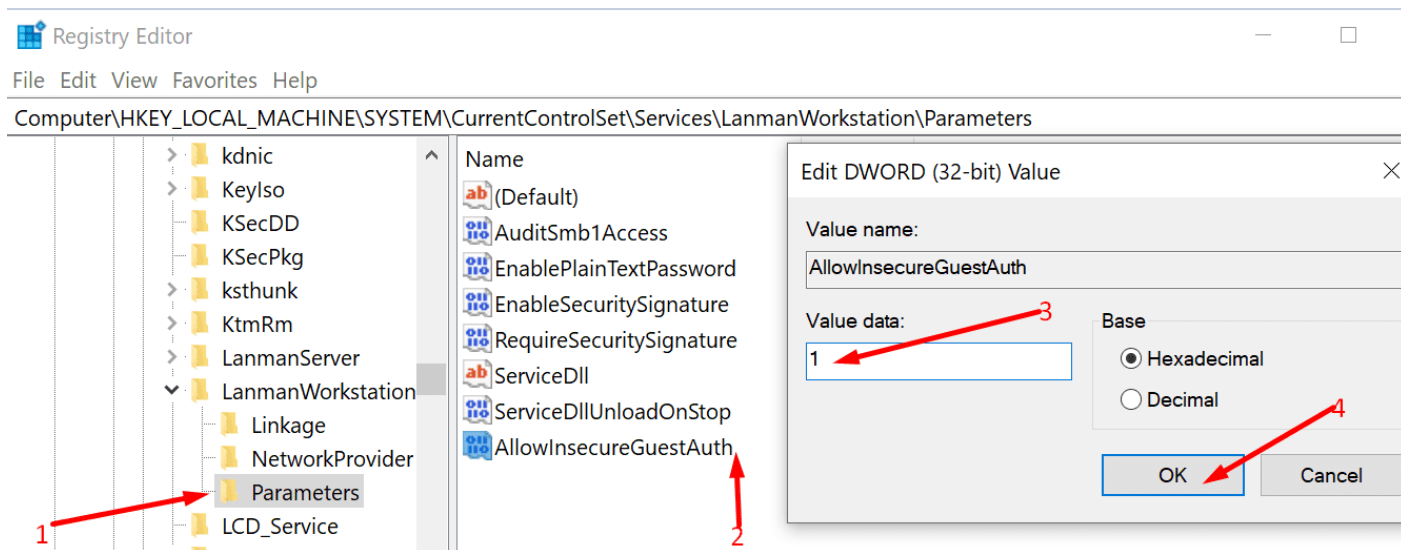
1. Press Windows + R and type *gpedit.msc* in the Run window
2. Press Enter to open the editor
3. Go to
ComputerConfiguration\Administrative Templates\Network\Lanman Workstation
4. Double click on **Enable insecure guest logons**



5. Set the option to **Enabled**
6. Save the changes and restart your computer.

In case the Group Policy Editor fails to edit the Lanman Registry key, follow the steps below. Use the same steps if GPEdit is not available on your computer.

1. Open the Registry Editor (type *regedit* in the Windows search bar and select the Registry Editor)
2. Go to HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Services\LanmanWorkstation\Parameters
3. Then locate the **AllowInsecureGuestAuth** key



4. Double-click on it and make sure the DWORD value is set to 1.

Of course, if the AllowInsecureGuestAuth key is not visible, you need to create it yourself. Right-click on Parameters → New → DWORD Value.

In conclusion, fixing any sharing protocol issues is crucial. Certainly, the sharing settings for individual folders are worth checking as well.

Meanwhile, let us know if you managed to fix this problem with the help of this guide.

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Comments

Kim says

March 16, 2021 at 4:20 pm

Yes, Thanks a bunch. Been racking my brain over this one. One day worked next not....Who knows these days

Paul Hawkins says

March 14, 2021 at 5:08 pm

No did not help.

I can see an xp machine but xp cannot see windows 10 machine

keylinost says

March 11, 2021 at 3:55 am

this fixed my sons laptop but made my pc worse. He can see all the clients and I can only see my own PC.

Nipun says

February 18, 2021 at 2:38 am

Couldn't be more thankful.... This solved my issue after a long time trying.

Gary Dillon says

February 17, 2021 at 6:16 am

After many weeks of searching without a good result, this worked perfectly for me. Thank you for the steps and details!

Did this help? Let us know!

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My name is Mitch Bartlett. I've been working in technology for over 20 years in a wide range of tech jobs from Tech Support to Software Testing. I started this site as a technical guide for myself and it has grown into what I hope is a useful reference for all.

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