

7.3.6 Windows Network Profile Facts

The Windows operating system uses network location profiles to determine the security settings for a particular network connection.

The following table describes each network location profile and the situations in which they should be selected:

Location	Description
Home Network	<p>The Home network location is designed for use on networks where you know and trust each device on the network. With the Home network location:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Network discovery is enabled. This means other computers and devices on the network are able to see and connect to each other.■ Connected devices are able to join the network homegroup.■ The Windows firewall configuration is changed to allow certain types of network communication through. <p>Because this network location is the least secure, select this location only if you know all the devices and people that are connected to the network.</p>
Work Network	<p>The Work network location is designed to be used in a SOHO environment or other small business network. With the Work network location:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Network discovery is enabled; however, the computer is unable to create or join a homegroup.■ The Windows firewall configuration is changed to allow certain types of network communication.
Public Network	<p>The Public network location is designed for use on unknown or public networks (e.g., a coffee shop or other public Wi-Fi network). With the Public network location:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Network discovery is disabled. This means other computers on the network cannot see you and you cannot see them.■ Network sharing, such as printers and scanners, is disabled.■ The Windows firewall configuration is changed to block almost all inbound and most outbound communications. For applications to be able to communicate, they need to be manually allowed through the firewall. <p>The Public network profile should be used when connecting to any unknown network location, such as a hotel's Wi-Fi network.</p>

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