

Mastering the NET USE Command

A Practical Guide for IT Professionals

In Windows environments, efficient resource management is essential for both system administrators and help desk support specialists. One classic tool that often gets overlooked is the [NET USE](#) command. NET USE is a Windows command-line tool used to:

- Connect to shared network resources
- Map or disconnect network drives
- View current network connections
- Authenticate using alternate credentials

This tool is especially useful in hybrid environments, such as mixed Windows domains, workgroups, or NAS setups.

Common Use Cases

Map a Network Drive (This maps the shared folder to drive Z: using your current login credentials.)

```
net use Z: \\Server\SharedFolder
```

Mapping with Credentials (The asterisk prompts for a password securely)

```
net use Z: \\server\share /user:DOMAIN\username *
```

Persistent Mapped Drive (Reconnect on Login)

```
net use Z: \\server\share /persistent:yes
```

Connecting to a Share Without Mapping a Drive

```
net use \\server\share /user:username *
```

Viewing All Current Connections

```
net use
```

Removing a Mapped Drive

```
net use Z: /delete
```

Why IT Professionals Should Still Use NET USE

The NET USE command remains one of the most reliable tools in a Windows administrator's toolkit. Understanding how to use it effectively can streamline troubleshooting, automate repetitive tasks, and enhance your overall command-line proficiency. Even as cloud storage dominate modern IT landscapes, Windows file shares remain present from SMB shares on NAS devices to Windows file servers.