

# 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.