

Joining a Windows client to a domain

From SambaWiki

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Introduction

Computers, that should be part of a Domain, have to join it. After this process they are members of the joined domain and able to access domain resources. During the join, an account for the machine will be created. This allows the computer to authenticate itself in the domain.

This documentation describes the join process for Windows clients. It is the same for NT4-style and Active Directory domains.

System Requirements

Windows Version

To join a Domain, the Windows version requires the necessary capabilities. The following Windows version are able to join Domains:

- Windows 10 Pro / Enterprise / Education
- Windows 8/8.1 Pro / Enterprise
- Windows 7 Professional / Ultimate / Enterprise
- Windows Vista / Business / Ultimate / Enterprise
- Windows XP Professional
- Windows 2000 Professional
- Windows NT4 (*can only join NT4-style domains!*)

Permissions

To join a client to a domain, you require

- local Administrator permissions on the computer you want to join
- knowledge of credentials of a Domain account, that is allowed to join machines to the domain.
 - At least the Domain Administrator account can join computers to a domain, but it's possible that the permissions are delegated to other accounts, too.
 - In an Active Directory, authenticated user accounts are allowed per default to join up to 10 machines (<https://support.microsoft.com/kb/243327/en>) to the domain, if this wasn't changed or disabled by the Domain Administrator.

Ask your Domain Administrator for details.

DNS Setting

The client requires to have at least one DNS server configured, that is able to resolve names of the Domain it should join.

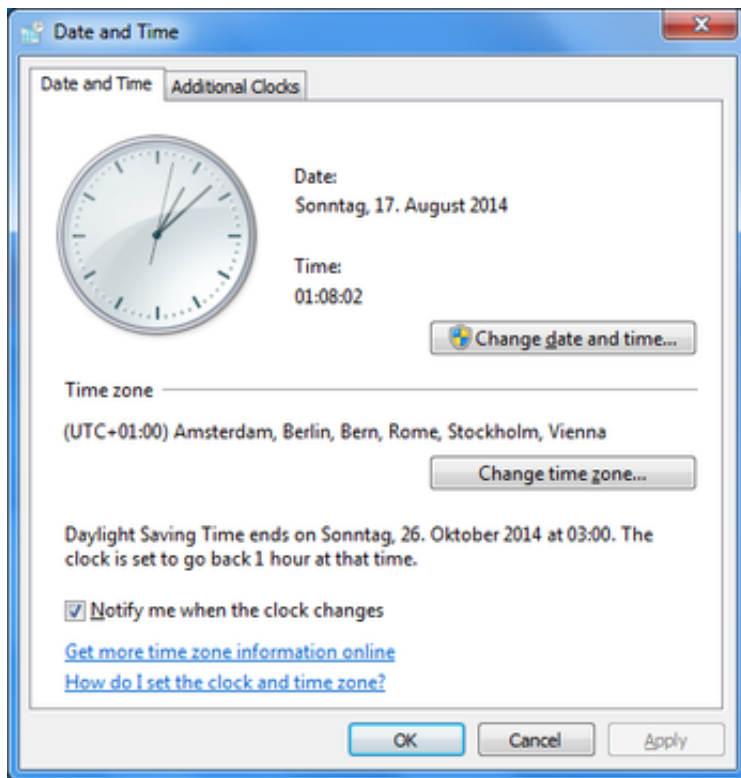
See DNS Configuration on Windows.

Date And Time Settings

If you're joining an NT4-style domain, this step is optional. But a correct system time is always recommended.

Active Directory uses Kerberos for authentication, which relies on a fairly consistent time across the network. This makes it necessary, that, before you can join the client to the Domain, the time on the client does not differ more than 5 minutes (<http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/cc779260%28v=ws.10%29.aspx>) (default setting in an AD) to your Domain Controller.

- Open the Control Panel.
- Navigate to „Clock, Language and Region“.
- Click „Date and Time“.



- Check your date, time and time zone settings.

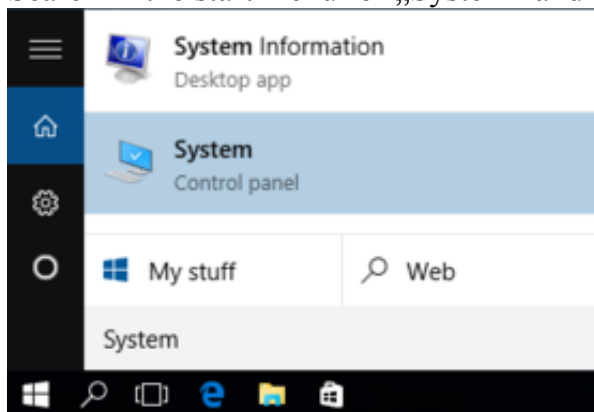
Joining A Windows Client To A Domain

The procedure is for all Windows versions the same. It just differs in the ways opening the „System Properties“ window.

The first step differs on your OS version:

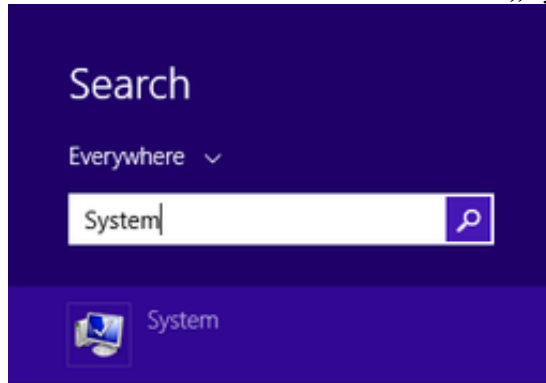
- Windows 10

Search in the start menu for „System“ and click the „System - Control panel“ entry.



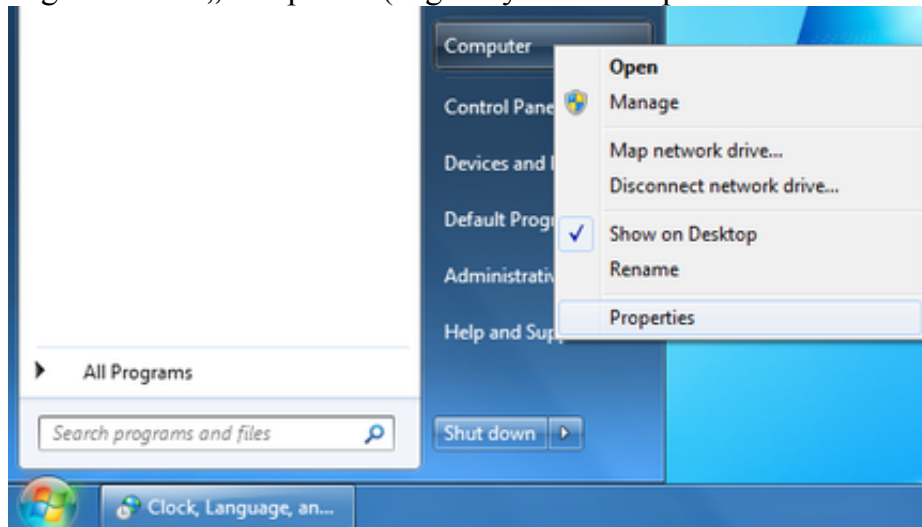
- Windows 8 / 8.1

Search on the Modern UI screen for „System“ and click the icon.



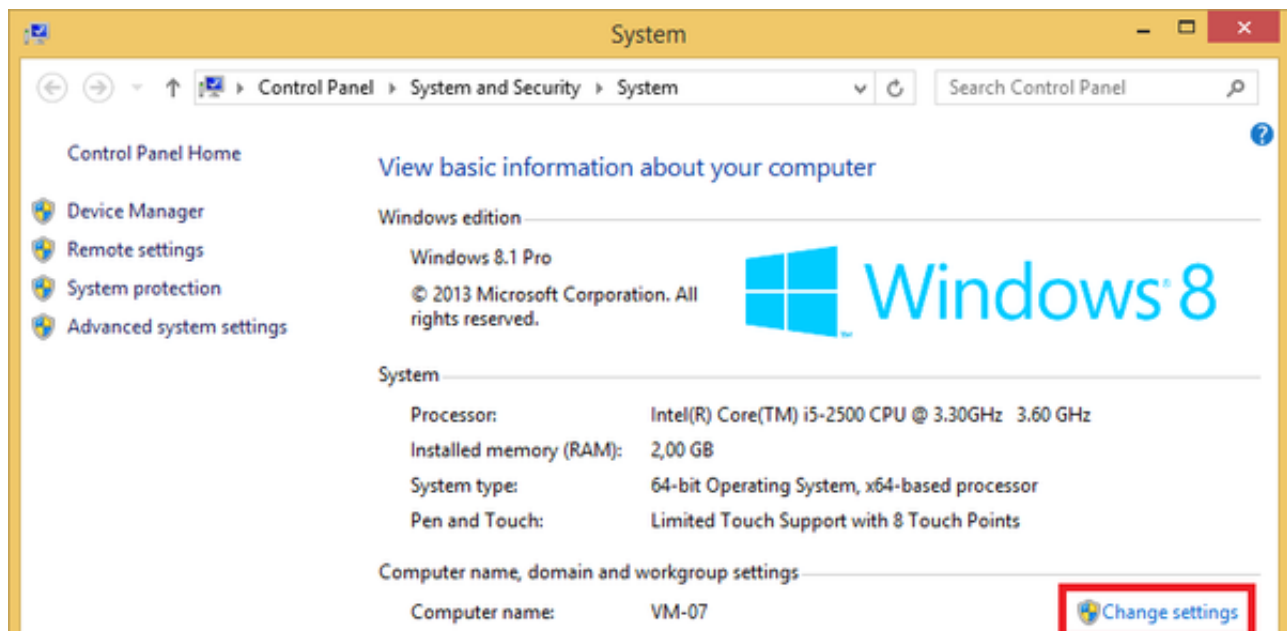
- Windows 7

Right-click to „Computer“ (e. g. on your desktop or in the start menu) and choose „Properties“.

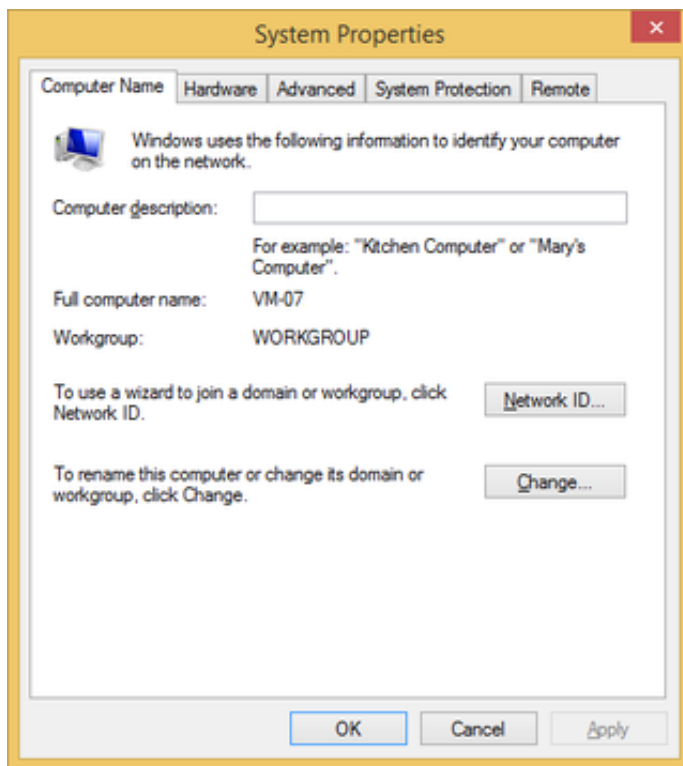


All further steps are the same on each Windows OS (the appearance may differ):

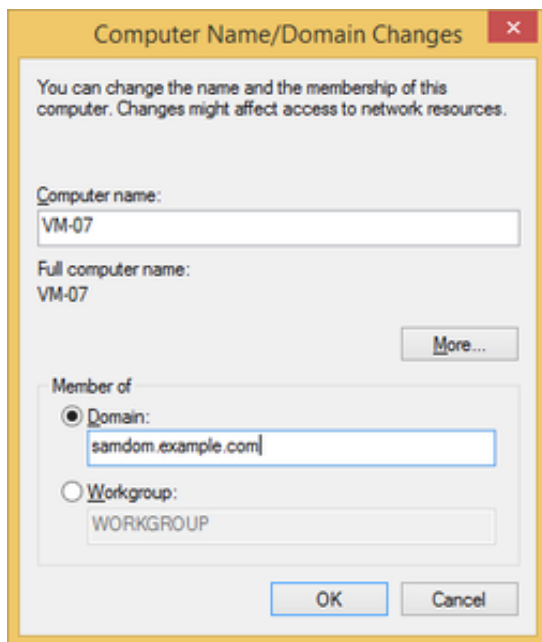
- Click „Change settings“ in the „Computer name, domain and workgroup settings“ area.



- In the „System properties“ window, click the „Change...“ button.

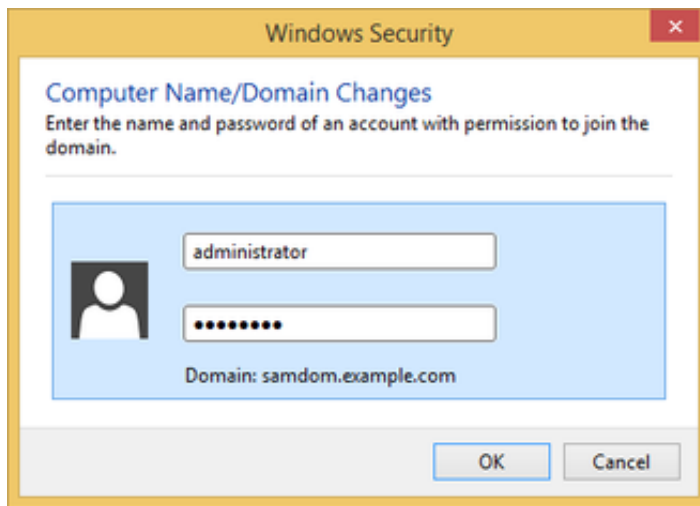


- Choose „Domain“ and enter the Domain name.

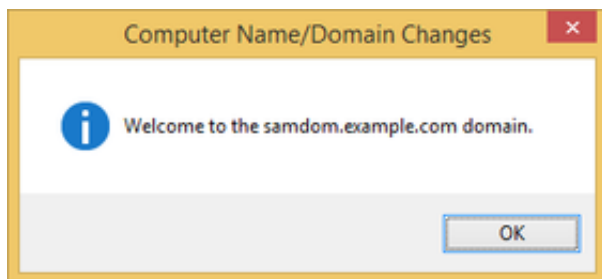


Note: If your client is able to resolve the NetBIOS name of your domain, you can use the this one (e. g. „samdom“). Otherwise you have to enter the full DNS name of your Domain (e. g. samdom.example.com).

- Click „OK“
- If the computer is able to connect to the Domain Controller / PDC, you will be prompted for credentials that are allowed to join to the domain.



- Click „OK“.
- If the join succeeded, you will be welcomed in the domain.



- Reboot to take changes effect.

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