

Using ICS (Internet Connection Sharing)

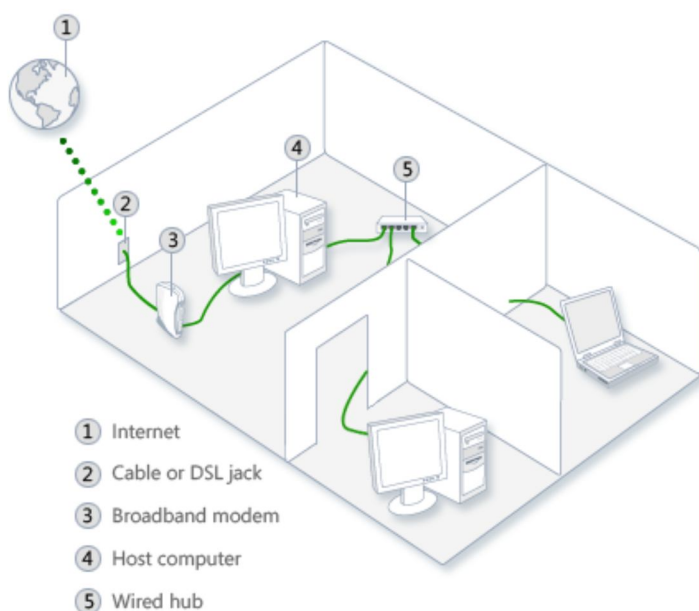
If you want to share one Internet connection among several computers, you have two options:

- Use Internet Connection Sharing (ICS).
- Use a router.

For information about using a router, see [Setting up a home network](#).

How does ICS work?

First, you need one computer, called the *host* computer, that is connected to the Internet and that has a separate connection to the other computers on your network. You enable ICS on the Internet connection. The other computers on your network then connect to the host computer, and from there to the Internet through the host computer's shared Internet connection.





A network using Internet Connection Sharing (ICS)

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Enabling ICS

To enable ICS, on your host computer:

1. Open Network Connections by clicking the **Start** button , clicking **Control Panel**, clicking **Network and Internet**, clicking **Network and Sharing Center**, and then clicking **Manage network connections**.
2. Right-click the connection that you want to share, and then click **Properties**.  If you are prompted for an administrator password or confirmation, type the password or provide confirmation.
3. Click the **Sharing** tab, and then select the **Allow other network users to connect through this computer's Internet connection** check box.

Note

The Sharing tab will not be available if you have only one network connection.

Applies to these editions of Windows Vista:

[Home Basic](#)

[Home Premium](#)

[Business](#)

[Ultimate](#)

[Enterprise](#)

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See also

- [Sharing one Internet connection among several computers](#)
- [Change which computer on your network connects to the Internet](#)
- [Disable ICS \(Internet Connection Sharing\)](#)
- [Set up a computer-to-computer \(ad hoc\) network](#)

