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## File and Printer Sharing in Windows Vista

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#### Abstract

Microsoft® Windows Vista™ has made some important changes to the way that file and printer sharing works. This article describes the changes and provides step-by-step instructions for sharing files and printers and connecting to shared files and printers from a computer running Windows Vista for a small-office or home office network that does not use the Active Directory® domain service.

This article is designed for IT professionals and experienced users that are familiar with file and printer sharing in Windows. If you are new to file and printer sharing, see the following Windows Vista help topics:

- [File sharing essentials](#)
- [Share files with someone](#)
- [Sharing files with the Public folder](#)
- [Share a printer](#)

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### Differences in File and Printer Sharing in Windows Vista

The differences in file and printer sharing in Windows Vista are the following:

- The default workgroup name in Windows Vista has been changed to WORKGROUP. In Windows® XP Home Edition, the default workgroup name is MSHOME. If you upgrade a computer running Windows XP Home Edition to Windows Vista, it will keep its existing workgroup name. However, new computers with Windows Vista can have a different workgroup name than the other computers on your network. With different workgroups, it takes more time and effort to view all of the computers on the network.