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## How-To: Share a folder with a Windows computer from a Raspberry Pi

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Sharing files over the network is often very useful. Whether you need to transfer media files to the Raspberry Pi or you want to use the raspberry as a simple Network-Attached Storage (NAS) device, this guide will show you how to enable file sharing of a folder on the Raspberry Pi running the Raspbian OS.

## Prerequisites & Equipment

You are going to need the following:

- A Raspberry Pi (Buy here (<http://amzn.to/2ezFmWb>))
- A SD Card flashed with the Raspbian OS (Here is a guide (<http://raspberrypi.hq.com/booting-the-raspberry-pi-for-the-first-time/>) if you need)
- Access to the Raspberry either via keyboard and a monitor or remotely (<http://raspberrypi.hq.com/working-with-a-raspberry-pi-from-another-computer/>)
- A home network
- A Windows computer (for this guide we will be running Windows 7)

## Install and configure required software

To share network folders to a Windows computer we need to install some special software on the Raspberry Pi. The software providing the secret sauce this time is called *Samba*. The *Samba* software package implements the SMB protocol and provides support for the Windows naming service (WINS) and for joining a Windows Workgroup.

Installing the software is easy – login to your Raspberry Pi and run:

```
sudo apt-get install samba samba-common-bin
```

After installation configure the software by opening the file `/etc/samba/smb.conf` using the command:

```
sudo nano /etc/samba/smb.conf
```

Read through the file and make sure you have the following parameters set:

```
workgroup = WORKGROUP  
wins support = yes
```

You can use anything as your workgroup name as long as it is alphanumerical and matches the workgroup you would like to join. The default workgroup in Windows 7 is WORKGROUP.

## Setup folder to share

Next step is to create the folder you would like to share. To create a folder called “share” in your home directory do the following:

```
mkdir ~/share
```

With the folder created we can now tell the Samba software to share it on the network. Open the file */etc/samba/smb.conf* using the command:

```
sudo nano /etc/samba/smb.conf
```

Scroll to the bottom and add the following:

```
[PiShare]
comment=Raspberry Pi Share
path=/home/pi/share
browseable=Yes
writeable=Yes
only guest=no
create mask=0777
directory mask=0777
public=no
```

Notice how we tell Samba that public access is not allowed via “public=no” – this means that anyone wanting to access the shared folder must login with a valid user.

In this case the valid user is the user called “pi”. To let Samba know that “pi” is a network user run the command:

```
sudo smbpasswd -a pi
```

And enter pi’s password twice (default: raspberry).

At this point we can now login to the share from our Windows computer – use Domain: raspberrypi, User: pi and Password: raspberry (unless you changed the password) as you can see below:




(<http://raspberrypi.hq.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/samba-login.png>)

If you do not want to deal with logging in you can always make the share publicly available by changing the config file to say:

```
public=yes
```

However please note that this is *extremely dangerous* since anyone will be able to access, modify and delete your files.

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