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By [Jim Tanous](#) on August 2, 2018 at 8:52 AM • [@JimTanous](#)

Just like in [previous versions](#) of Windows, [Windows 10](#) allows your PC to categorize its network connections as either **Public** or **Private**. The type of connection Windows thinks you have will determine how your PC interacts with other devices on the network.

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The problem is that Windows assigns a public or private profile to your network connection when you first make the connection, which may result in users accidentally choosing the wrong label. Situations may also change, requiring you to reclassify the location at a later date. In either case, having an incorrect network profile for your connection may cause security issues or prevent Windows features from working how you expect them to. So here's a look at public and private networks in Windows 10 Pro and how to configure them to match your environment.

Public vs. Private Network Profile

Private connections are intended for the home or a closed office network, in other words, situations where you know and

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connect to other devices or share files on a public network just means that Windows won't automatically do it for you, requiring you to manually connect and authenticate to another device.

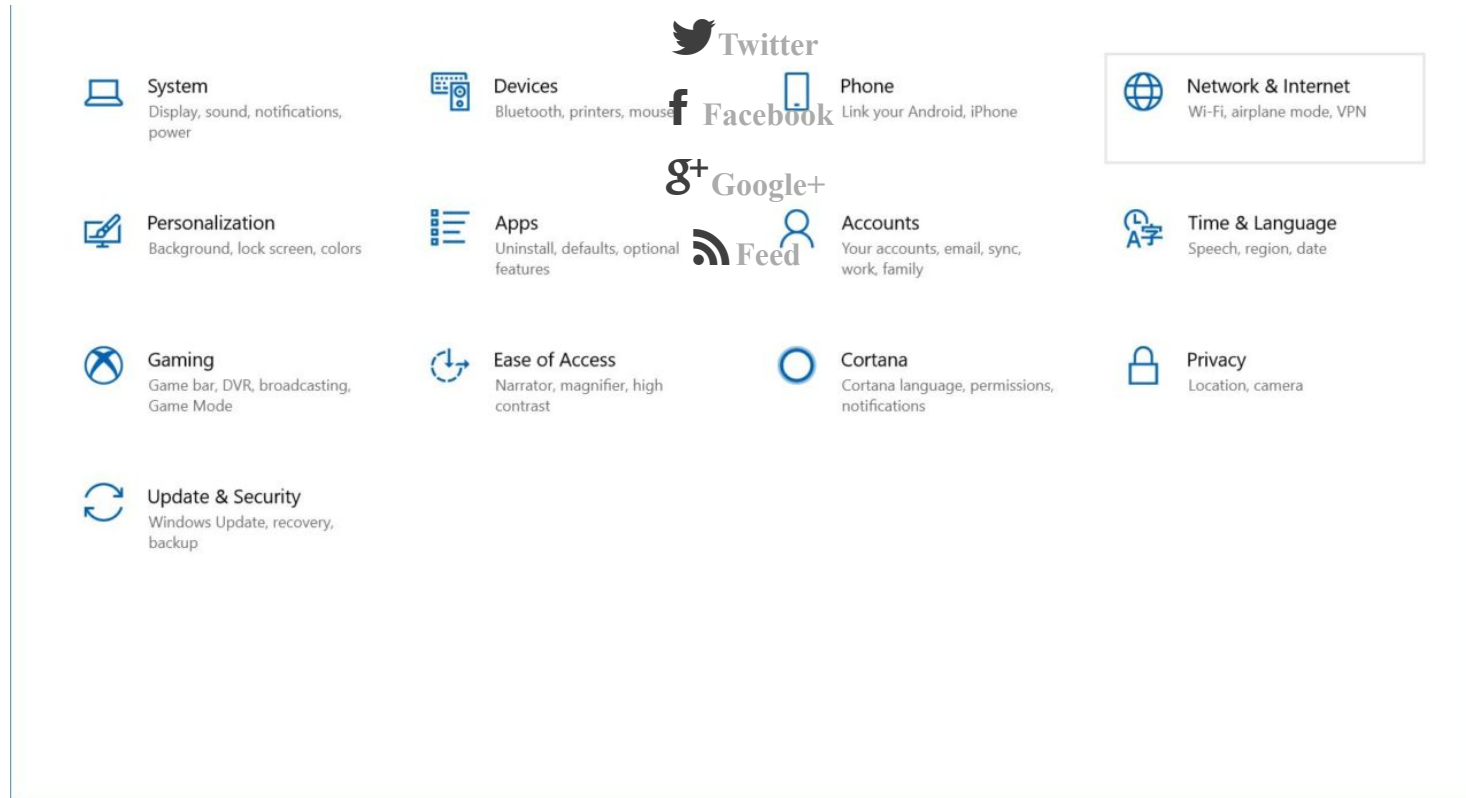


Identifying Your PC's Network Profile

If you don't know whether your network connection is currently labeled by Windows as public or private, you can find out by heading to **Settings > Network & Internet**.

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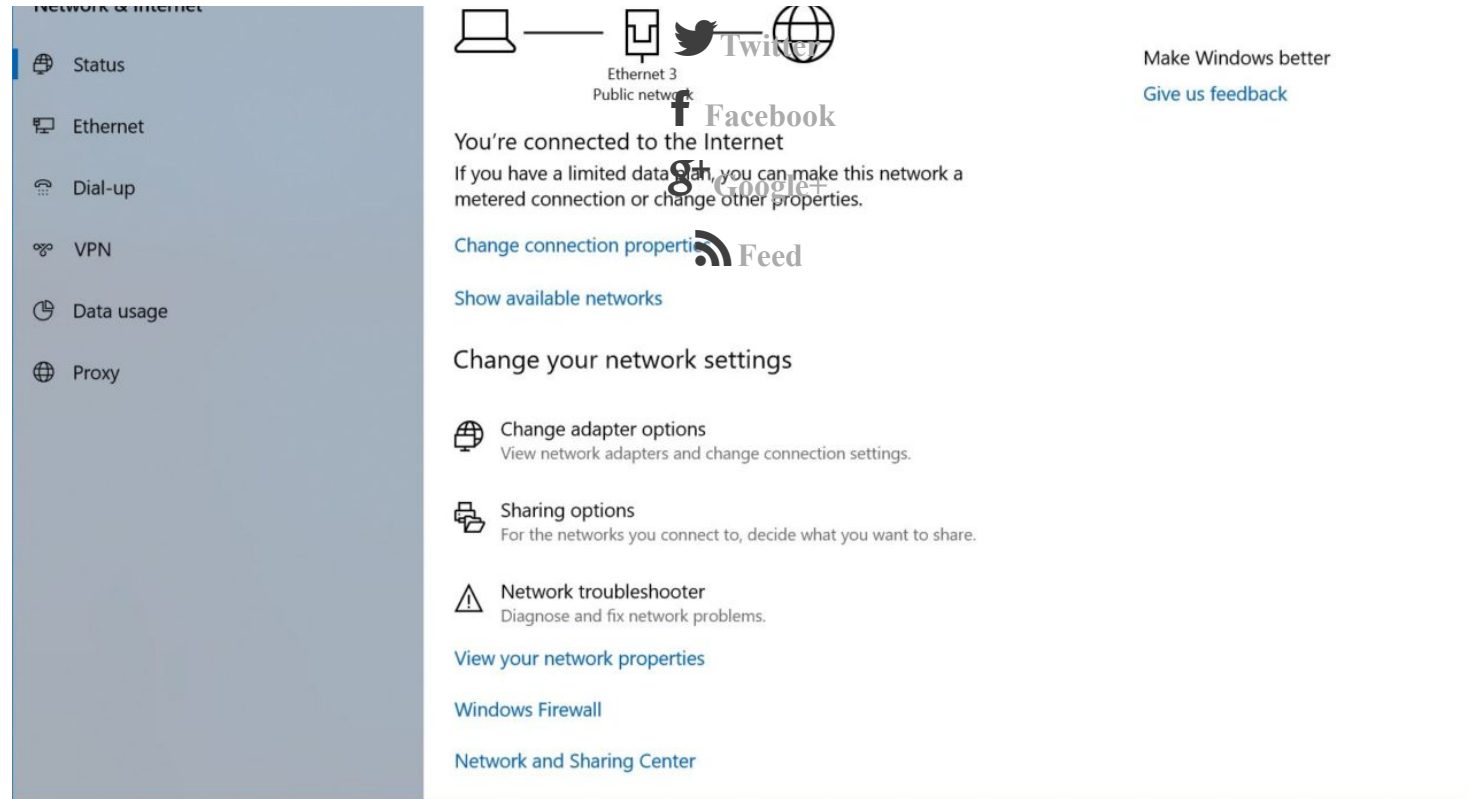
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There, make sure you've selected the **Status** tab on the sidebar and you'll see your active network connection listed on the right.

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In our example, our Ethernet connection is identified as a public network. However, since this PC is located at the office where we used a closed network, it's better to change its label to a private network.

Change Public to Private Network in Windows 10

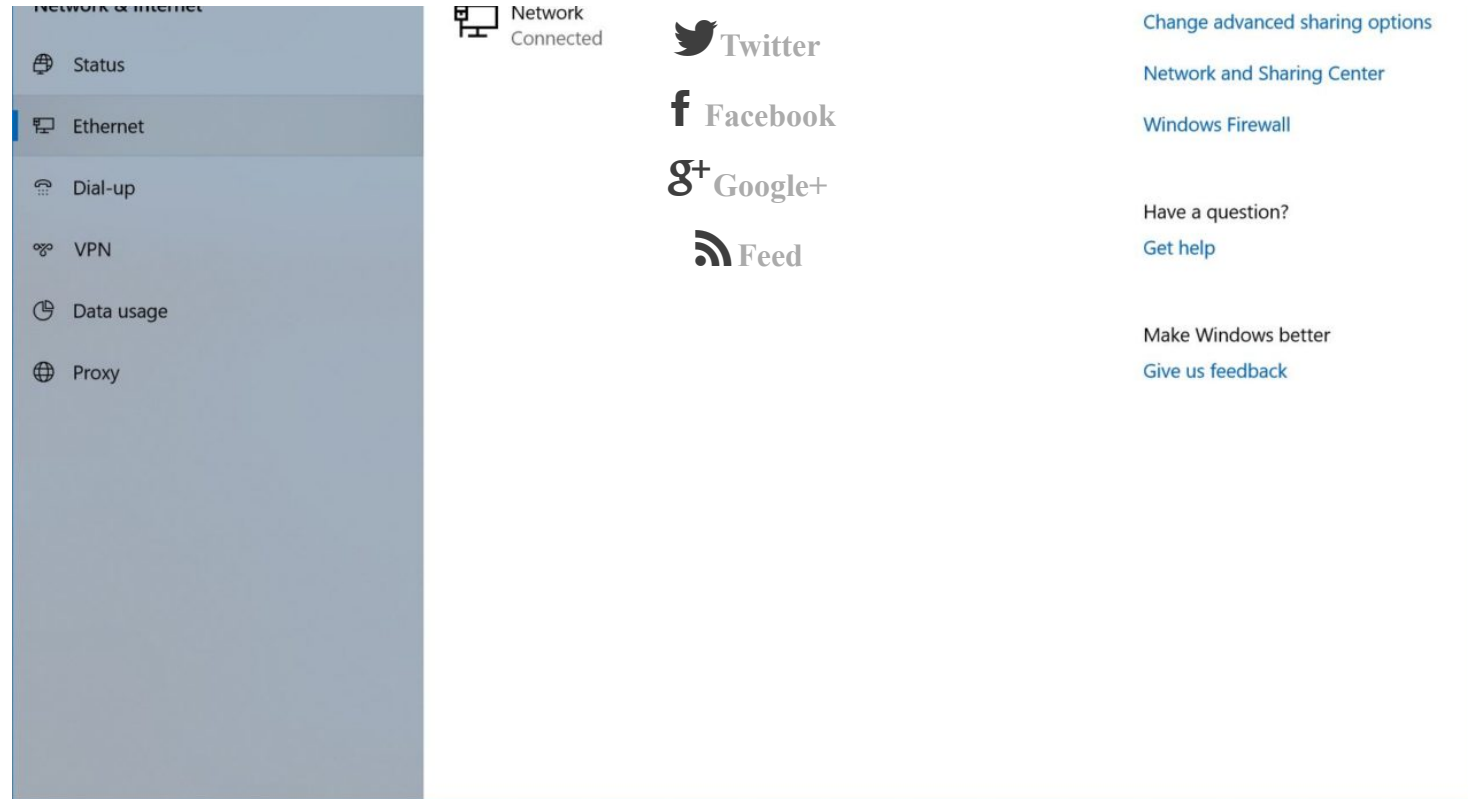
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Note that Microsoft has and will continue to make significant changes to Windows 10. This tip and its screenshots reference the most current build of the operation system as of the date of publication (Version 1803, Build 17134) but steps may change in future releases.

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☐ Public
Your PC is hidden from other devices on the network and can't be used for printer and file sharing.

☒ Private
For a network you trust, such as at home or work. Your PC is discoverable and can be used for printer and file sharing if you set it up.
[Configure firewall and security settings](#)

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Metered connection

If you have a limited data plan and want more control over data usage, make this connection a metered network. Some apps might work differently to reduce data usage when you're connected to this network.

Set as metered connection

☐ Off

If you set a data limit, Windows will set the metered connection setting for you to help you stay under your limit.

[Set a data limit to help control data usage on this network](#)

Properties

At the top you'll see a section labeled **Network Profile**. Click the correct public or private location to make the change. In our case, we'll change from Public to Private. Once you're done, you can close Settings or hit the back button in the upper-left corner to return to the Status page and verify the change.

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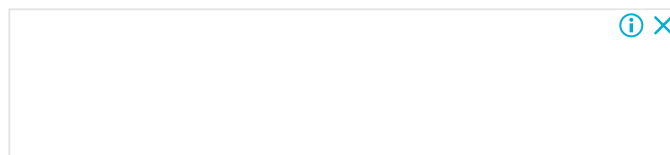
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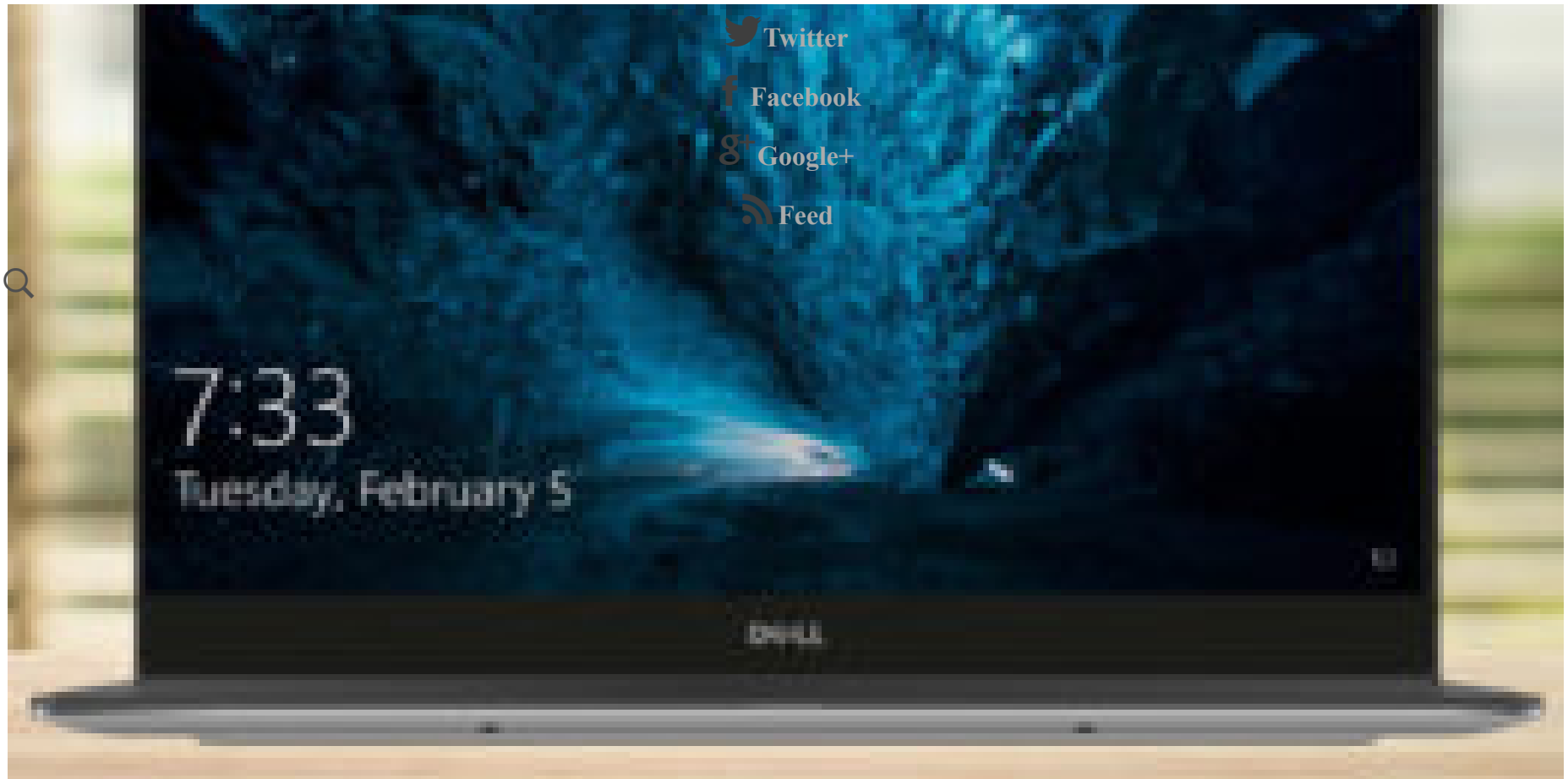
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