How to Share Files Between Windows KORBIN BROWN UPDATED JULY 3, 2017, 3:08PM EDT

We've previously covered various ways to share files between nearby computers, but sharing between Windows and Linux can be a little more complex. This article will show you how to map shares across both operating systems for seamless file sharing. RELATED: How to Easily Share Files Between Nearby Computers There are two parts to this guide. In the first part, we'll create a shared folder on Windows,

and then configure Linux to access that share. In the second part, we'll create a shared folder on Linux and configure Windows to access the share. Depending on your situation, you'll want to follow the appropriate set of instructions. If, for some reason, you want to set up shared folders on both systems, you can do that, too. We're using Windows 10 and Ubuntu for our examples, but we've made the instructions adaptable to pretty much any version of

Windows or Linux. Option One: Create a Share on Windows and Access It From Linux

To make this work, we'll be taking three steps. First, we'll make sure sharing is enabled on Windows. Once it is, we'll share the actual folder. And then, we'll look at how to access that folder from a Linux system. Step One: Make Sure Sharing is Enabled in Windows To set up a shared folder on Windows for Linux to access, start by making sure your network

settings are configured to allow the connection from the other computer by opening the Network and Sharing Center. The easiest way to do this is to right-click the network icon in

your system tray and choose "Open Network and Sharing Center." Troubleshoot problems Open Network and Sharing Center ^ # № 🖆 🖤

In the Network and Sharing Center window, click on "Change advanced sharing settings."

← → ↑ ▼ « Networ... → Network and Sharing Center

Control Panel Home

Change adapter settings

· Turn on network discovery

Guest or Public (current profile)

File and printer sharing

Network discovery

Turn on file and printer sharing

Change advanced sharing Network settings Public network Change your networking

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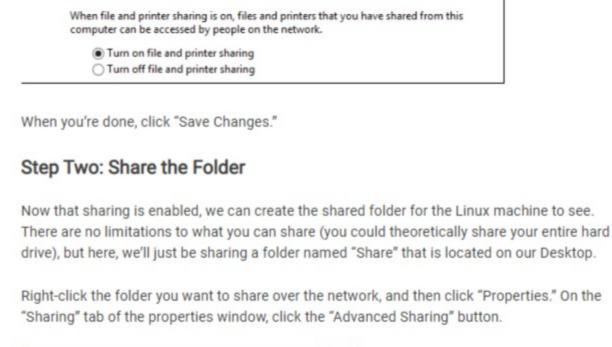
Network and Sha

View your basic net

View your active networks

For your current profile, make sure the following two settings are enabled:

When network discovery is on, this computer can see other network computers and



Share Properties

Set custom permissions, create multiple shares, and set other

People must have a user account and password for this

OK

To change this setting, use the Network and Sharing Center.

Advanced Sharing

General Sharing Security Customize

Network File and Folder Sharing Share Not Shared

advanced sharing options.

Password Protection

Advanced Sharing...

computer to access shared folders.

Network Path: Not Shared

devices and is visible to other network computers.

 Turn on network discovery Turn off network discovery

Share... Advanced Sharing

Cancel

Apply

In the "Advanced Sharing" window that opens, enable the "Share this folder" option, and then click the "Permissions" button.

✓ Share this folder ←

Settings Share name:

Share Add Remove Limit the number of simultaneous users to: + Comments: Permissions Caching Cancel In the permissions window, you can restrict access to the folder to certain accounts. To let any user have access to your folder, just give the "Full Control" permission to the "Everyone" user. This allows anyone to read and write changes to files in the shared folder. If you would rather restrict access to certain accounts, just remove the Everyone user, add the users you want, and then assign them appropriate permissions. Note: These user accounts are on the Windows computer, not Linux. When you're done setting up users and permissions, click "OK" to close the permissions window and then click "OK" again to close the "Advanced Sharing" window. Permissions for Share Share Permissions Group or user names:

Add...

Permissions for Everyone Full Control

OK

General Sharing Security Customize

To change permissions, click Edit.

For special permissions or advanced settings,

Close

close the window and move on to the next step.

Share Properties

General Sharing Security Customize

🔏 geek (WIN-DIO5H2T03N2\geek)

For special permissions or advanced settings,

Close

To change permissions, click Edit.

Permissions for SYSTEM

Full control

Read

click Advanced.

Security

Group or user names: SYSTEM .

Read & execute List folder contents

Group or user names: SYSTEM

Object name: C:\Users\geek\Desktop\Share

Administrators (WIN-DIO5H2T03N2\Administrators)

Group or user names: SYSTEM 8

Permissions for geek Full control Modfy Read & execute List folder contents

click Advanced.

Object name: C:\Users\geek\Desktop\Share

Administrators (WIN-DIO5H2T03N2\Administrators)

Share Properties

Change

Read

Allow

✓

✓

Cancel

Remove

Deny

Back in the main properties window, switch over to the "Security" tab.

Edt.

Advanced

For the Linux user to have access to the shared folder, you need to configure the same

Edt.

Adyanced

Apply

In the permissions window that opens, click the "Add" button to enter the new user's details.

Remove

Object Types...

Locations..

Check Names

Cancel

Cancel

Permissions for Share

Object name: C:\Users\geek\Desktop\Share

Administrators (WIN-DIO5H2T03N2\Administrators)

geek (WIN-DIO5H2T03N2\geek)

Apply

permissions here that you configured in the sharing settings. If the two settings don't match, the most restrictive settings will take effect. If your desired user already has their security permissions set up (such as the geek user in our example) then you're good to go. You can

Apply

If you do need to add a user, such as "Everyone," click the "Edit" button.

Select Users or Groups Select this object type: Users, Groups, or Built-in security principals From this location: WIN-DIO5H2T03N2 Enter the object names to select (examples): Everyone Advanced... Click "OK" on all the open windows, and your folder should now be shared with the network. Step Three: Access the Windows Share from Linux You should be able to mount the shared folder by using the GUI in Linux, but it's also very easy to do with the command line. We're going to use terminal for our examples not only because it's quicker, but because it will work across many different distributions. First, you'll need the cifs-utils package in order to mount SMB shares. Just type the following command at the terminal: sudo apt-get install cifs-utils After that, just make a directory, and then mount the share to it. In this example, we will create the folder on our Desktop for easy access. Use these commands to create and mount the folder: mkdir ~/Desktop/Windows-Share sudo mount.cifs //WindowsPC/Share /home/geek/Desktop/ geek@ubuntu:~\$ mkdir ~/Desktop/Windows-Share geek@ubuntu:~\$ sudo mount.cifs //WindowsPC/Share /home/geek/Desktop/Windows-Share/ -o user=geek [sudo] password for geek: Password:

geek@ubuntu:~\$

on the Linux system.

from Windows

use the following command:

sudo apt-get install samba

but you can choose any name you'd like.

New SMB password:

geek@ubuntu:~\$||

Retype new SMB password:

to put a folder on our Desktop.

sudo vi /etc/samba/smb.conf

look something like this:

valid users = geek

sudo service smbd restart

Desktop and select New > Shortcut.

Paste shortcut

Screen resolution Personalize

terminal.

Linux share.

available =

browsable =

Scroll down to the end of the file and add these lines:

mkdir ~/Desktop/Share

geek@ubuntu:~\$ sudo smbpasswd -a geek

share:

look at how to access it from a Windows PC.

Step One: Create the Share on Linux

folder.

smbpasswd -a geek Note: In this example, we are using 'geek' since we already have a Linux user with that name,

As you can see in the screenshot, we were prompted for the root password of the Linux machine, and then for the password of the "geek" account on Windows. After running that command, we are now able to see the contents of the Windows share and add data to it.

sudo mount.cifs: This is just the mount command, set to mount a CIFS (SMB) share.

. WindowsPC: This is the name of the Windows computer. Type "This PC" into the Start menu on Windows, right click it, and go to Properties to see your computer name.

/home/geek/Desktop/Windows-Share: This is where we'd like the share to be mounted

-o user=geek: This is the Windows username that we are using to access the shared

Option Two: Create a Share on Linux and Access It

Creating a share on Linux and then accessing it from Windows is actually a bit easier than the other way around. First, we'll create the shared folder on the Linux system. Then, we'll

To set up a shared folder on a Linux that Windows to access, start with installing Samba (software that provides access to SMB/CIFS protocols used by Windows). At the terminal,

After Samba installs, configure a username and password that will be used to access the

Create the directory that you'd like to share out to your Windows computer. We're just going

[<folder_name>] path = /home/<user_name>/<folder_name> available = yes valid users

Obviously, you'll need to replace some of the values with your personal settings. It should

Now, use your favorite editor to configure the smb.conf file. We're using Vi here.

In case you need help understanding the mount command, here's a breakdown:

//Windows-PC/Share: This is the full path to the shared folder.

public = Save the file and close your editor. Now, you just need to restart the SMB service for the changes to take effect.

path = /home/geek/Desktop/Share

View Sort by Refresh Paste

> Folder Shortcut

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Bitmap image G Contact

Journal Document

Now, let's add the Linux share to our Windows Desktop. Right-click somewhere on your

Your shared folder should now be accessible from a Windows PC.

Step Two: Access the Linux Share from Windows

Rich Text Document Text Document Compressed (zipped) Folder Type in the network location of the shared folder, with this syntax: \\IP-ADDRESS\SHARE-NAME

Type the location of the item: \\192.168.6.129\Share Note: If you need the IP of your Linux computer, just use the ifconfig command at the

In the shortcut wizard on the Windows PC, click Next, choose a name for the Shortcut, and then click Finish. You should end up with a Shortcut on your Desktop that goes right to the