

NAS Integration for Tender Documents

Overview

Your business management system now includes **NAS (Network Attached Storage) integration** for tender documents. This feature allows you to link tender records to folders on your NAS server instead of uploading large documents to the hosting platform.

Key Benefits

Storage Efficiency

- **No upload limits:** Link to folders containing GB of tender documents
- **Reduced hosting costs:** Keep large files on your local NAS
- **Faster access:** Direct network access to documents

Seamless Integration

- **One-click folder access:** Open tender document folders directly from the web interface
- **Multiple path formats:** Support for Windows UNC, SMB, and file protocols
- **Smart fallback:** Copy path to clipboard if direct access fails

Workflow Enhancement

- **Organized structure:** Maintain your existing folder organization
 - **Team collaboration:** Everyone on the network can access the same documents
 - **Version control:** Use your NAS's built-in versioning features
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Features Added

1. New Tender Form Enhancement

- **NAS Document Path field** with intelligent validation
- **Path format testing** to verify correct syntax
- **Format examples** for different operating systems
- **Real-time validation feedback**

2. Tender List Integration

- **Documents column** in the tenders table
- **One-click folder access** button for each tender
- **Visual indicator** when NAS path is available
- **Hover tooltips** showing full folder paths

3. Advanced NAS Components

- **Smart path handling** for Windows UNC and SMB formats
- **Cross-platform compatibility** for Windows, Mac, and Linux


- **Error handling** with clipboard fallback
 - **User-friendly notifications**
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How to Use

Creating Tenders with NAS Links

1. **Navigate to Tenders**
 - Go to the **Tenders** section
 - Click **“New Tender”** button
2. **Fill Tender Information**
 - Complete all required fields (Title, Client, etc.)
 - Scroll to the **“NAS Document Folder Path”** field
3. **Enter NAS Path**
 - Enter the network path to your tender documents folder
 - Use one of these formats:
 - **Windows UNC:** `\\nas-server\tenders\project-abc`
 - **SMB:** `smb://nas-server/tenders/project-abc`
 - **File Protocol:** `file://server/tenders/project-abc`
4. **Test Path (Optional)**
 - Click **“Test Path”** button to validate format
 - Look for ✓ Valid or ✗ Invalid feedback
5. **Save Tender**
 - Click **“Create Tender”** to save with NAS link

Accessing NAS Documents

1. **From Tenders List**
 - Navigate to **Tenders** section
 - Look for the **Documents** column
 - Click the  **folder icon** for any tender with NAS path
 2. **What Happens Next**
 - **Success:** Folder opens in your file explorer
 - **Fallback:** Path copied to clipboard for manual access
 - **Notification:** Toast message confirms action
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* Technical Specifications

Supported Path Formats

Format	Example	Use Case
Windows UNC	\\nas-server\shared\tenders\ABC-2024	Windows networks
SMB Protocol	smb://nas-server/shared/tenders/ABC-2024	Cross-platform
File Protocol	file://server/shared/tenders/ABC-2024	Web standards

Database Schema

```
-- New field added to Tender table
ALTER TABLE Tender ADD COLUMN nasDocumentPath VARCHAR(500);
```

API Enhancement

- **GET /api/tenders:** Returns `nasDocumentPath` in tender objects
- **POST /api/tenders:** Accepts `nasDocumentPath` in request body
- **Data validation:** Ensures path format integrity

🔧 Setup Requirements

Network Configuration

1. **NAS Server Access:** Ensure your NAS is accessible on the local network
2. **User Permissions:** Grant appropriate folder access to team members
3. **Network Discovery:** Enable network discovery on client machines

Folder Structure Recommendations

```
\\nas-server\tenders\
├── 2024\
│   ├── TND-2024-001-ProjectAlpha\
│   │   ├── RFP_Documents\
│   │   ├── Technical_Specs\
│   │   └── Submissions\
│   ├── TND-2024-002-ProjectBeta\
│   └── ...
├── Archive\
│   ├── 2023\
│   └── 2022\
```

Best Practices

Path Naming Conventions

- **Use tender numbers:** Include tender number in folder names
- **No special characters:** Avoid spaces, use underscores or hyphens
- **Consistent structure:** Maintain uniform folder hierarchy

Security Considerations

- **Access control:** Use NAS user permissions for security
- **Backup strategy:** Regular backups of tender document folders
- **Network security:** Ensure secure network access protocols

Team Workflow

- **Standardize paths:** Train team on consistent path formats
- **Document organization:** Establish folder structure guidelines
- **Regular maintenance:** Archive completed tender folders

Troubleshooting

Folder Won't Open

Problem: Clicking the folder button does nothing

Solutions:

1. Check network connectivity to NAS server
2. Verify folder permissions for your user account
3. Try copying the path (it's automatically copied on failure)
4. Open file explorer manually and paste the path

Path Format Errors

Problem: "Invalid path format" message

Solutions:

1. Use double backslashes for Windows paths: `\\server\folder`
2. Include protocol for SMB paths: `smb://server/folder`
3. Check spelling of server name and folder paths
4. Use the "Test Path" button to validate format

Browser Security Warnings

Problem: Browser blocks file:// links

Solutions:

1. Allow pop-ups for your application domain
 2. Use the "Copy Path" fallback option
 3. Configure browser to allow local file access
 4. Use SMB protocol instead of file:// protocol
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Usage Analytics

The system now tracks:

- **NAS link creation:** How many tenders include document paths
 - **Folder access attempts:** Usage of the folder access feature
 - **Path format distribution:** Which formats are most commonly used
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Migration Notes

Existing Tenders

- All existing tenders remain unchanged
- NAS document path is optional (can be added later)
- No data migration required

Future Enhancements

- **Auto-discovery:** Automatic NAS server detection
 - **Thumbnail previews:** Document preview from NAS folders
 - **Sync status:** Real-time folder availability checking
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Support

Common Issues

- Path format validation errors → Check examples above
- Network access problems → Contact IT support
- Permission denied errors → Check NAS user permissions






Feature Requests

This NAS integration system is designed to be extensible. Future enhancements may include:

- Automatic folder creation
 - Document synchronization
 - Advanced search within NAS folders
 - Integration with other modules (Projects, Quotations)
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Success Indicators

You'll know the NAS integration is working when:

-  Tender creation includes NAS path validation
-  Tenders list shows document folder buttons
-  Clicking buttons opens folders in file explorer
-  Team can access the same document folders
-  No large file uploads needed for tender documents

The NAS integration is now fully operational and ready for production use! 🎉