



Crossover Adapter Guide

Windows OS File Transfer Guide

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Summary

Connect two Windows PC computers via Ethernet sockets for the purposes of file transfer.

This guide assumes some basic knowledge of Windows, including navigating folders, copying files and changing settings. Some understanding of computer network behaviour is beneficial, but not essential.

This guide is focused on Windows 10 and 11. Some setting may be located in other areas on older systems.

CAUTION: This is a quick-and-easy guide that does not take file security or network configuration settings into consideration. No responsibility is taken for loss or damage done to your hardware, software or data by following these steps. Always take note of original settings before you change them!

Requirements

- Two operational computers running the Windows Operating System, XP to 11. They do not have to be the same OS version. Both computers need an Ethernet socket (a USB to Ethernet adapter may be used)
- One Crossover Adapter (optional if both NICs have Auto-MDIX)
- One CAT6 (or CAT5e) network cable, pre-terminated with RJ45 plugs
- Folders with network sharing access permission (described below)

Connecting the Computers

1. Turn both computers ON and boot into Windows
2. Attach the CAT cable to Computer 1
3. Attach the Crossover Adapter to the other end of the CAT cable
4. Attach the Crossover Adapter to Computer 2
5. If the computers ask about the network type, choose *Private*

The computers are now linked. It does not matter which computer the Crossover Adapter is connected to.

Configuring Static IPs

*This step may not be essential on all computers. Because this step changes network properties, you may prefer to skip to the **Sharing Folders** section and only return here if you are unable to access the shared folders as described.*

Configure a new static IP address on both computers ensures easy file access. If your computer(s) will be returning to another configured network after you finish transferring files, record the original entries before making the changes at **step h**. You can then follow these steps to revert your changes later.

1. Configure a static IP address **on each computer** as follows:
 - a. Right-Click the Network icon  next to the clock in the system tray
 - b. Select **Open Network & Internet settings**
 - c. Click **Change adapter options** under the 'Advanced Network Settings' heading
 - d. Right-Click the Ethernet Network icon (if more than one, click the icon **without** a red cross)

- e. Select **Properties**
- f. Select "Internet Protocol Version 4 (TCP/IPv4)" from the list
- g. Click the Properties button beneath the list window
- h. Click Use the Following IP Address:

- i. For Computer 1, type in the IP address 192.168.0.**11**
- j. For Computer 2, type in the IP address 192.168.0.**12**
- k. For both computers, type in the Subnet mask 255.255.255.0
- l. Hit OK, OK

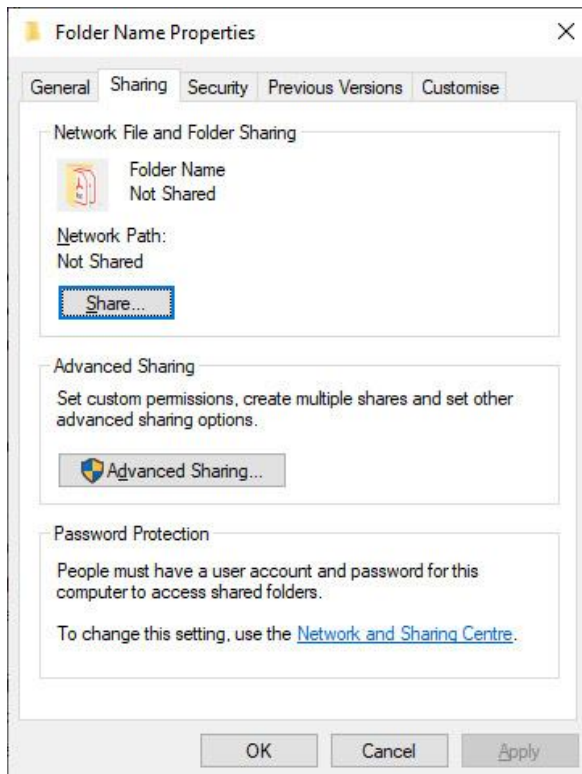
Sharing Folders

Connecting two computers together is the easy step. Now that the computers can communicate, you need to manually select folders to "share". The Sharing step is done on the computer you want to copy FROM. Let's call the source computer with the data the "Old Computer" and the destination computer the "New Computer"

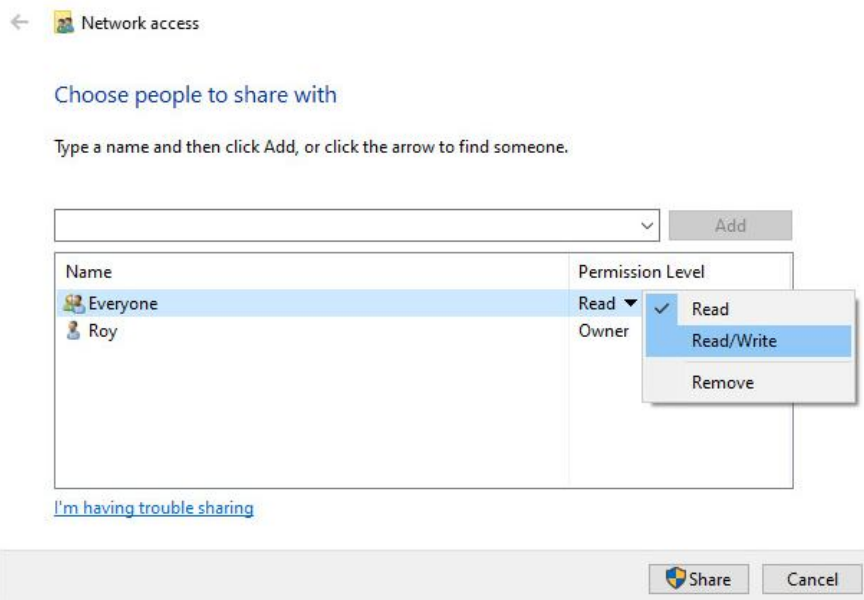
Old Computer (Sharing)

1. Navigate to the folders that contain the files you want to copy or move off the Old Computer
Places to check for important files may include:
 - a. C:\Users*Account Name*\Documents
 - b. C:\Users*Account Name*\Pictures
 - c. C:\Users*Account Name*\Downloads
 - d. C:\Users*Account Name*\Desktop
 - e. C:\Windows\Fonts
2. Right-Click on a folder you want to share
3. Select **Properties** from the drop-down menu

4. Select the **Sharing** tab



5. Click the **Share** button
6. In the text field above the list of names, Type "Everyone" (without quotes) and press Enter
- a. If you want full access to copy, paste and even delete files, change the Permission level from "Read" to "Read/Write" by clicking with the down ▼ arrow



7. Click the **Share** button.

8. A new window will confirm your change, and also tell you how to access the folder
Record the address it provides. It will look like **\\Computer1\SharedFolder**
If the name has spaces, be sure to make a note of them

Repeat these steps for as many folders as you want to have access to, and record each address. If you want to un-share a folder in the future, record its local path as well so you can easily find all of your shared folders later.

Sharing an Entire Hard Drive

When you share a folder, all of its sub-folders are shared as well. You can share a whole hard drive at once by Right-Clicking the drive icon in Windows Explorer (under “My Computer” or “This PC”) and following the steps above. While easier, this will give Everyone complete access to critical system files as well as personal data. If you forget to stop sharing the drive later, it will remain exposed.

New Computer (Copying)

1. Open Windows File Explorer (Win+E) on the New Computer
2. Type the address you recorded in Step 8 of the previous section into the address bar



Be sure to retain all capitalization and spaces

3. Press Enter
4. If you are asked for a username and password, use the credentials of the account you're using on the Old Computer – you can optionally save the credentials so you don't have to type them in every time
5. If you receive an error after a short wait, check the address is typed correctly and try again
6. Now that the shared folder is open, you can navigate, search, copy and paste files and folders from the Old Computer's drives to the New Computer's drives.
7. It is generally easier to open a second Windows Explorer instance (Win+E) so you have one for the Old Computer and one for the local hard drive.

Troubleshooting

Windows Networks seem to include of a healthy dose of black magic. You may experience unexpected problems or error messages as you try to share and access folders, even when you have done everything right.

Check the Basics

- Ensure the CAT cable is functional
- Ensure the Network adapters are functional in both computers
- If you skipped setting Static IP Addresses, revisit that section
- Check your username and password are correct and for the correct computer (the one sharing)
 - o If the account on the source (sharing) PC has no password, set one and try again

Computer Name

- If your source (sharing) computer does not have a name, you must set one. Search online for help changing your computer name in Windows, as the process varies by OS version
- Check your computer's name easily by following these steps:

- o Click Start. Type "cmd" (without quotes). A black terminal prompt window will open. Type "hostname" (without quotes) and press enter. Your computer's name will appear
- You can navigate to the computer directly with \\ComputerName from any File Explorer window
 - o This will show you all shared folders at once if you have multiple
 - o You can also navigate to the computer with the IP address assigned in the Static IP Addresses section (eg: 192.168.0.11)
- If no folders are shared, there will be nothing to access and you may get an error

Check the Connection

- If both computers are connected but sharing is not working, you can test the link
- Ensure you have followed the Configuring Static IPs section above
- On Computer 1, Click Start and type "cmd" (without quotes)
- A new black terminal window will open
- Type "ping 192.168.1.12"
- If it says "timed out" repeatedly, there is a problem with the connection
- If it comes back with a list of successful ping results and times, the link is good but the folder sharing is not

Push, Don't Pull

Rather than share a lot of different folders on the Old Computer, and access them one by one on the New Computer, you can go 'backwards' - Share a new empty folder on The New Computer, giving "Everyone" read/write access. Record the shared folder address.

Now go to the Old Computer and open Windows Explorer (Win+E), and type in that shared address. You can now use the Old Computer, navigating to all your local files and copy/paste the ones you want to keep into that one full-access shared folder.

Copying Works, but My Old Programs Don't Run

In the good old days of home computing (late 90s to early 2000s) you could easily copy most computer software installation folders and have it run without issue on a new PC. Those days are long gone, and most programs will fail to load if they haven't been installed from the original media or setup executable that registers them with the system.

It is not recommended to copy files from the root Windows, Program Files, Program Files (x86) or Program Data folders on your **C:** drive. These locations contain system and program information that is generally NOT personal. Exceptions are made for software add-ons like Photoshop Filter Plugins or configuration files and program licences. If you are looking to back up or migrate personal computer data, these folders aren't likely to have anything critical.

An exception is the Windows\Fonts folder, which may be important for designers, writers or editors.

Where Are My Files?

If you are a casual user and let Windows decide where to put your data, you'll find almost everything under **C:\Users** and from there, under each specific account name. If you have multiple users, you may need to log out and back in under their credentials to share everything.

Typically, the folders you are interested in are Documents, Music, Videos, Downloads, and Pictures. If you save files to the Desktop (naughty!) then also look there for your data. Some special program data is hidden. You can browse it by Clicking Start, and typing %appdata% then press Enter.

Be careful in your AppData folder. Removing important files or folders can stop software from working, or lose your settings, credentials and even browser data like history, saved passwords and more.

Why do I Have to Share Folders?

By default, Windows wants to protect your data. It does this in strange ways, but when it comes to network access, it buttons up your computer so your data is safe from prying eyes. By manually sharing folders as you need them made accessible, all of your other data remains protected.

There is a boxout above explaining that you can share a whole hard drive if you want to.

I've Finished Copying Everything. How Do I STOP Sharing?

1. Right-Click any folder that has been shared.
Ensure it is the 'top level' folder, and not a sub-folder. You wrote down all of the folders you shared, right?
2. Click **Properties**, and go to the **Sharing** Tab
3. Click the **Advanced Sharing** button
4. Un-Tick "Share this folder" and click OK. Repeat for all shared folders.