How do I connect to Windows file servers with Mac OS X?

Q: How do I connect to Windows file servers with Mac OS X?

Answer

If you want to do a Windows share from Mac OS X you need to know a few pieces of information first:

- The name of the server.
- The name of the share.
- The name of the Network or Domain where the server lives.
- Your user name on the server.
- Your password on the server.

1. As there is no browsing feature when connecting to Windows shares, choose **Connect To** from the Go menu in the Finder.
2. Enter "smb://your_server_name/your_share_name" (sans quotes)
   Note: You must replace "your_server_name" and 'your_share_name" with your appropriate information for this to work.
3. A dialog box then prompts you to authenticate yourself: Enter the name of the workgroup in which the server resides, your user name on the server, and your password in the appropriate fields.
4. The share will appear in the Computer area in a Finder window and on your desktop (if you have selected the Finder preference to show mounted shares on your desktop)

> If you enter the fully qualified hostname of your Windows server (eg: your_server_name.mit.edu), the dialog box will appear with the appropriate workgroup name already entered.

Further notes from Apple's Knowledge Base.

You can find the entire article here.

1. "ServerName" may be an IP address or DNS name.
2. The name of the "share" (the shared disk, volume, or directory) must be specified. You will not be prompted for it.
3. You cannot type spaces as part of the share name when connecting. In place of any space in the share name, type: %20
4. You cannot connect to a share with a name that contains a hyphen. Resolve the issue by giving the share a name that does not contain a hyphen.
5. Connecting to (mounting) two or more SMB volumes simultaneously may cause a kernel panic. Drag one volume to the Trash to eject it before connecting to another.
6. The only alert message that Mac OS X displays for SMB login difficulties is "There's no file service available at the URL <URL>." This is sometimes correct and sometimes incorrect. This is the message that would appear if you mistyped your password, for example.
7. Mac OS X connects to SMB via the TCP/IP protocol, not via the NetBIOS protocol.
8. When troubleshooting a connection failure, you can ping the IP address of the Windows computer using the Mac OS X Network Utility to verify a TCP/IP connection between the two computers.
9. Check Microsoft support resources for information on setting up file sharing on your Microsoft Windows-based computer. These may include Help files installed on your computer or the Microsoft online Knowledge Base https://support.microsoft.com/en-us. For an example, see article Q304040: "Description of File Sharing and Permissions in Windows XP"

Note: These instructions assume you are using Mac OS version 10.1.2. Locations, labels, and behaviors may differ in other versions of the OS.

See Also

- Windows Server Software Landing Page