

# Create a wireless connection between two laptops

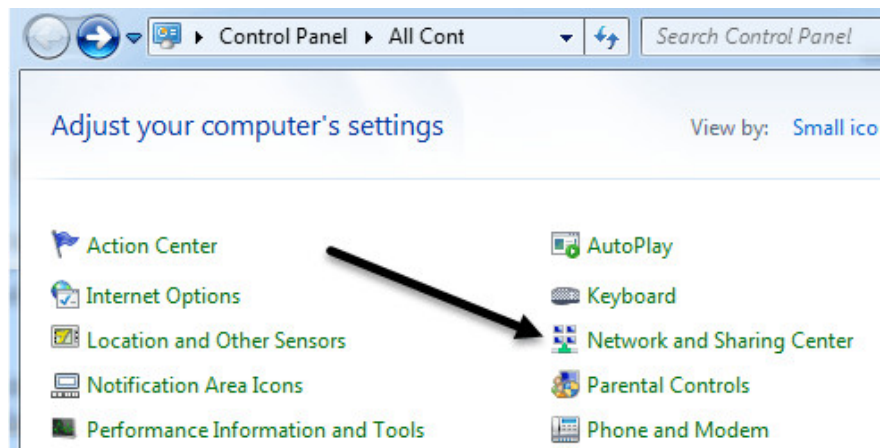
For computer users, there will be times when you need to share a file or connect two laptops together to share internet connection. Understanding the user's psychology, Windows Vista and Windows 7 have been integrated by Microsoft to create a wireless connection between two laptops.

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>>> **Share Internet connection via ad hoc network in Windows 7**

## Set up ad hoc network

First of all, open the **Control Panel** and click on **Network Sharing Center** as shown below.



A dialog box opens, click **Setup a new connection or network** near the bottom of the dialog box.

## View your basic network information and set up connections

The screenshot shows the Windows Network and Sharing Center. At the top, it displays 'View your basic network information and set up connections' with icons for 'WINDOWSMAC (This computer)', 'Sagardeep5GHZ', and 'Internet'. Below this, 'View your active networks' shows 'Sagardeep5GHZ Home network' with details: 'Access type: Internet', 'HomeGroup: Available to join', and 'Connections: Wireless Network Cc (Sagardeep5GHZ)'. A black arrow points from the 'Connections' section to the 'Set up a new connection or network' link. Under 'Change your networking settings', there are two options: 'Set up a new connection or network' (with a description: 'Set up a wireless, broadband, dial-up, ad hoc, or VPN connection; or set up a router or point.') and 'Connect to a network' (with a description: 'Connect or reconnect to a wireless, wired, dial-up, or VPN network connection.').

In the new link dialog box that opens, scroll down and select **Setup a wireless ad hoc (computer - to-computer) network** .

## Choose a connection option

The screenshot shows a dialog box titled 'Choose a connection option' with five options:

- Manually connect to a wireless network**: Connect to a hidden network or create a new wireless profile.
- Connect to a workplace**: Set up a dial-up or VPN connection to your workplace.
- Set up a dial-up connection**: Connect to the Internet using a dial-up connection.
- Set up a wireless ad hoc (computer-to-computer) network**: Set up a temporary network for sharing files or an Internet connection. (This option is highlighted in yellow.)
- Connect to a Bluetooth personal area network (PAN)**: Set up a connection to a Bluetooth enabled device or network.

On the next screen, it will explain the ad hoc network definition and tell you if you are connected to a wireless network, you may be disconnected. Click **Next** to continue.

Set Up an Ad Hoc Network

Give your network a name and choose security options

Network name:

Security type:  [Help me choose](#)

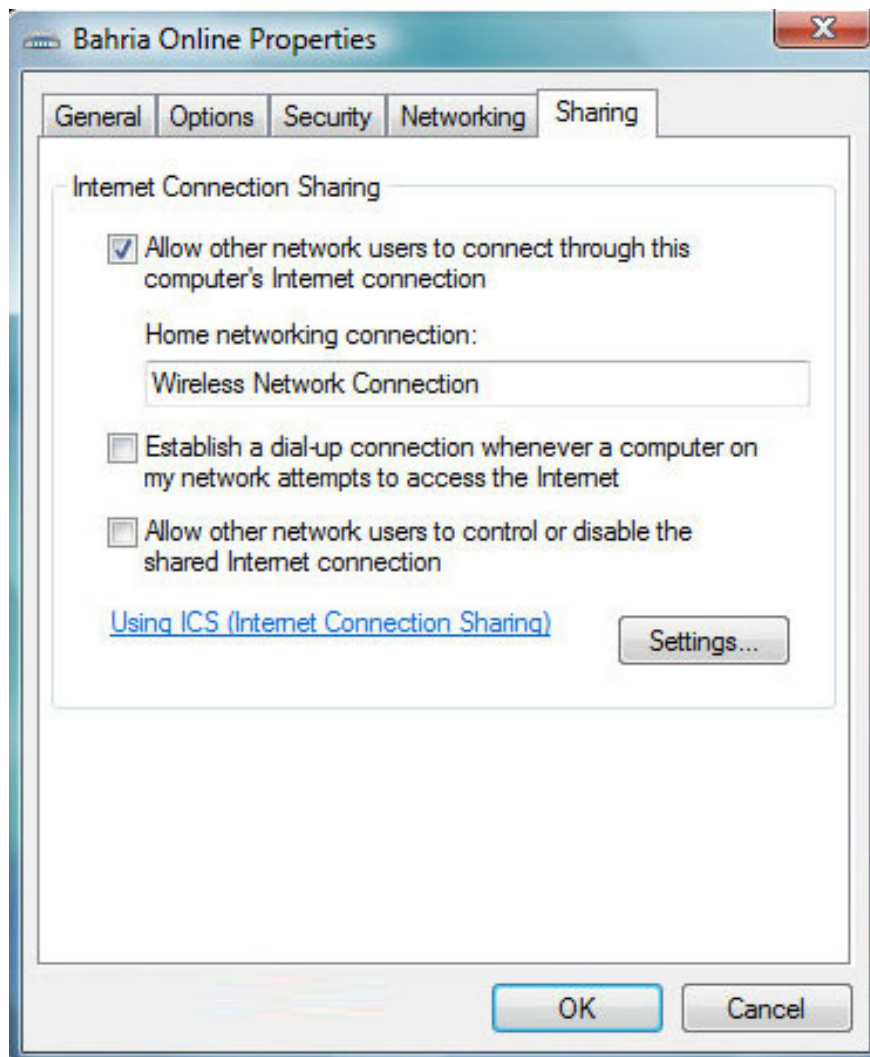
Security key:   Hide characters

Save this network

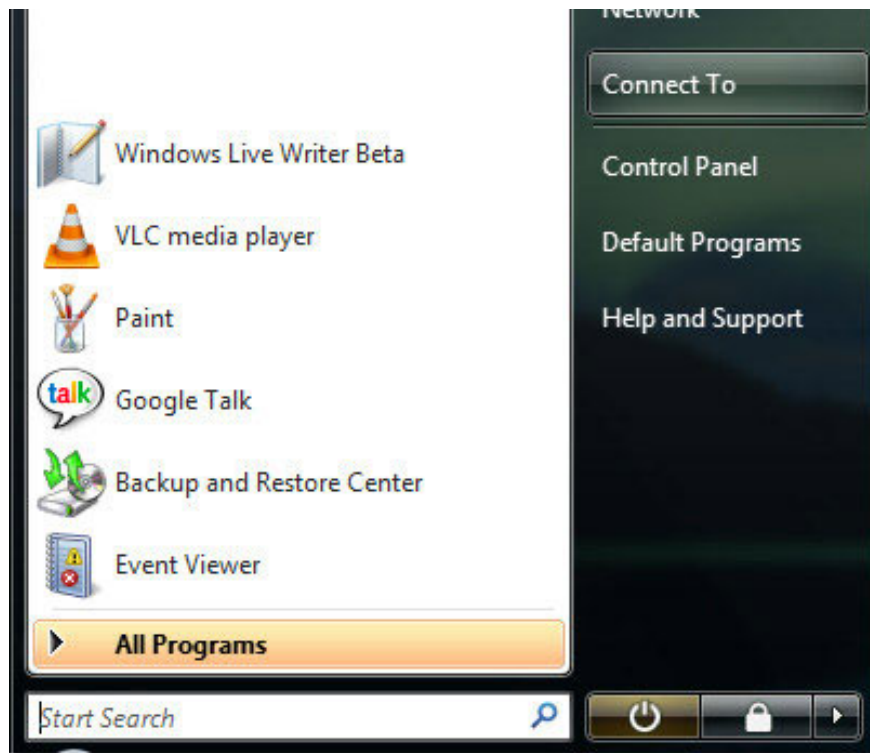
Now Windows requires you to provide the network name, security type and security key. For a security key, you can choose one of three options: no authentication, no WEP or WPA2-Personal. By default it will be WPA2-Personal, this is the strongest security key. Click **Next** and then you will receive a screen that displays the network message that has been set up. Note that if you don't check the **Save this network** box, when you disconnect the ad hoc network, the network disappears. If you want to use it again, you will have to start from scratch.

In case you want to share an Internet connection, right-click the Internet connection and select **Properties**.

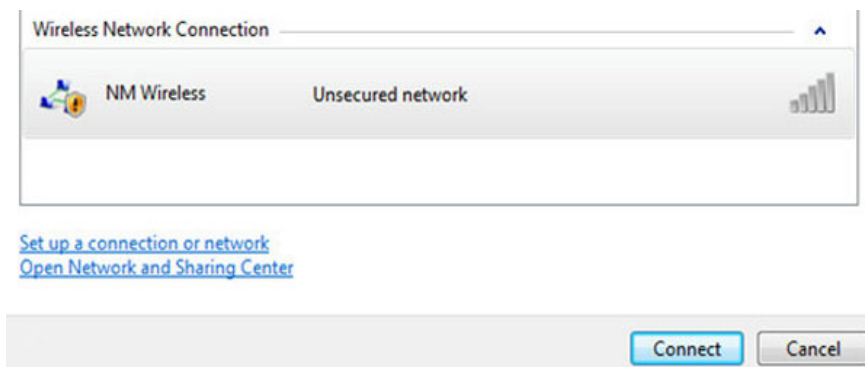
Next, switch to **Sharing** tab and check the **Allow Other Network Computers To Connect Through This Computer's Internet Connection** checkbox. At the bottom of the **Home Networking Connection**, select **Wireless network Connection** and then click **OK**.



Now your connection is ready to work. To activate this wireless connection on the other device, simply click **Start** and select **Connect To**.



A list of wireless network connections will appear, select the connection you want and click **OK**.



You should see a message appear as shown below, you will have to type the password to access the wireless network if required.

### The NM Wireless is ready to use

This network will appear in the list of wireless networks and will stay active until everyone disconnects from it. Give the network name and security key (if any) to people you want to connect to this network.



Your connection will be displayed in the **Wireless Network Connection section** of another device. Now you can connect and share data between two laptops without having to use a 3rd party cable or software. See how to share data between computers below.

## Share data via ad hoc network

Now that you have set up the ad hoc network, continue and use another client connected to the network. You will have several ways to share data between computers. We will have the following cases:

- If all computers are running Windows 7 or later, you can use the Homegroup feature right inside Windows. This feature allows you to share music, videos, documents, photos and printers easily.
- If all computers are running Windows, but there are Windows XP or Windows Vista clients, you must connect all computers to the same Workgroup group and make sure that the parts that search the network and share files and printer is activated.
- If computers are not the same operating system as Windows and Mac, then you need to rely on permissions and file sharing. The most important thing here is that the user account in Windows must have a password (otherwise you cannot connect to file sharing) and allow file sharing on non-Windows operating systems.

## Set up Homegroup feature

The easiest way to share data between Windows 7 and computers with higher operating systems is to use HomeGroup. You don't have to worry about manually sharing folders or files, configuring firewalls or adding passwords to user accounts. To get started, go to **Control Panel** and click on **HomeGroup**.

Share with other home computers running Windows 7



There is currently no homegroup on the network.

With a homegroup, you can share files and printers with other computers running Windows 7. You can also stream media to devices. The homegroup is protected with a password, and you'll always be able to choose what you share with the group.

[Tell me more about homegroups](#)

[Change advanced sharing settings...](#)

[Start the HomeGroup troubleshooter](#)

Create a homegroup

Cancel

If there is already a computer connected to the Homegroup on the ad hoc network, it will display and you can connect or click on the **Create a homegroup** button .

## Share with other home computers running Windows 7

Your computer can share files and printers with other computers running Windows 7, and you can stream media to devices using a homegroup. The homegroup is protected with a password, and you'll always be able to choose what you share with the group.

[Tell me more about homegroups](#)

Select what you want to share:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pictures | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Documents |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Music    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Printers  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Videos   |   |



Next

Cancel

On the next screen, you can select the items you want to share such as photos, music, videos, documents and printers. Click **Next** and enter the Homegroup password.

## Use this password to add other computers to your homegroup

Before you can access files and printers located on other computers, add those computers to your homegroup. You'll need the following password.

Write down this password:

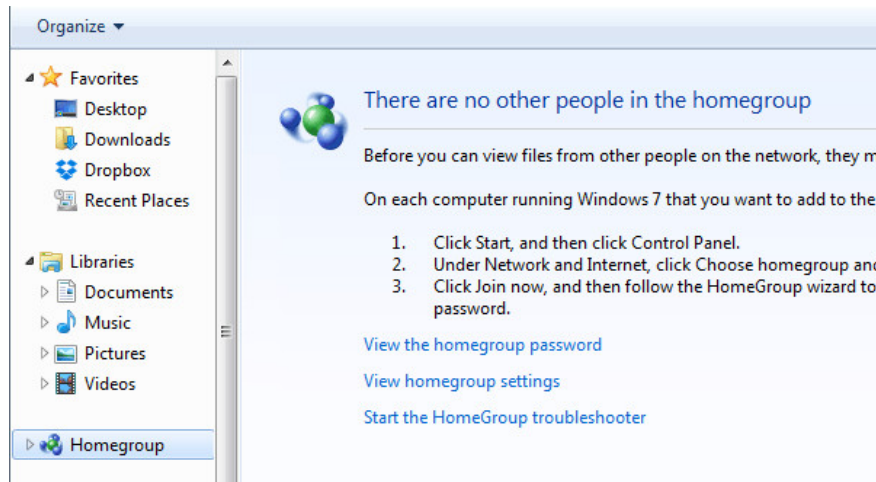
cy7ME6dU64

[Print password and instructions](#)

If you ever forget your homegroup password, you can view or change it by opening HomeGroup in Control Panel.

[How can other computers join my homegroup?](#)

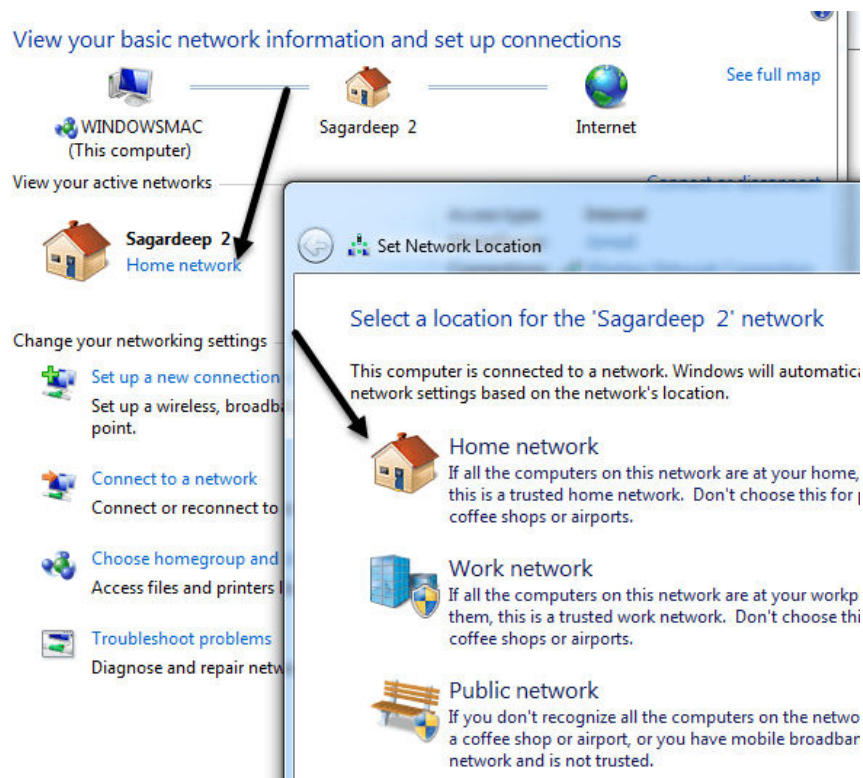
Now, on other computers, the same steps are done, but the link with the existing Homegroup is not created. You can then open **Explorer** and click on the **Homegroup** in the left menu. When other people join the homegroup, shared data folders will appear there and any data you put into these folders will be visible to everyone in the Homegroup.



## Share via Workgroup

If you have a computer running Windows XP and Vista, sharing via Homegroup will not work. In this case, you still have other options. First, if you connect from an XP or Vista machine to a Windows 7 or higher, you need to set up something on your Windows 7 or higher.

First, you need to make sure the ad hoc network is set to its network type Home or Work. To do so, open **Network and Sharing Center** and click the link below the wireless network name. If it is a Home network, then you don't have to set anything up. However, if not, you must click it to set it to Home. That will allow sharing on the network with other computers.

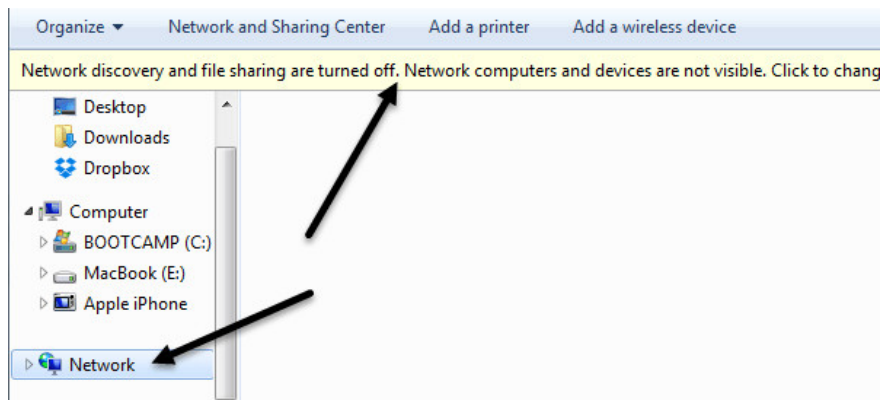


Next, make sure all computers are in the same Workgroup. This is especially important for Windows XP and Windows Vista computers that you want to access through Windows 7 or later. By default, most Windows machines are in WORKGROUP, so you don't have to change anything, but you should check.

On Windows XP, click **Start** , right-click **My Computer** and select **Properties** . In **System Properties** , click the **Computer Name** tab and then click **Change** if you need to change the Workgroup name.

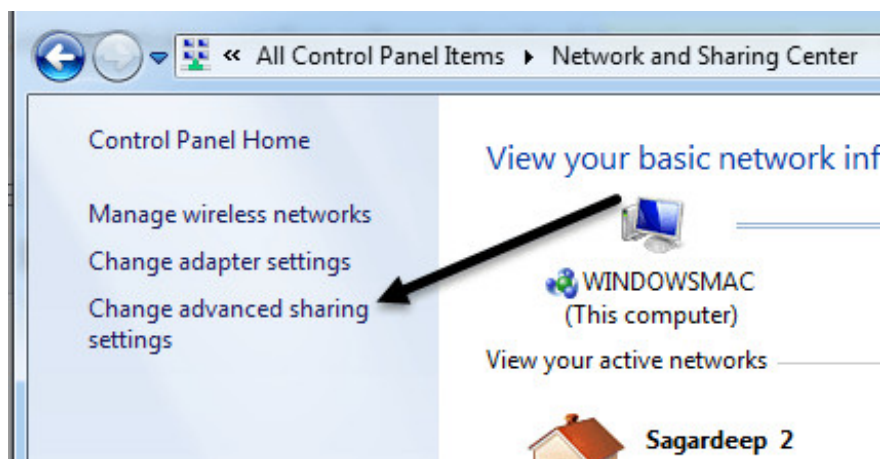
On Windows Vista machines and machines with higher operating systems, click **Start** , right-click **Computer**, and then click **Properties** . In the **Computer name, domain, and workgroup settings section** , select the **Change settings** button if you want to change the name.

Now the last thing you need to do applies to Windows 7 and above. Access **Explorer** and click **Network** on the left menu.

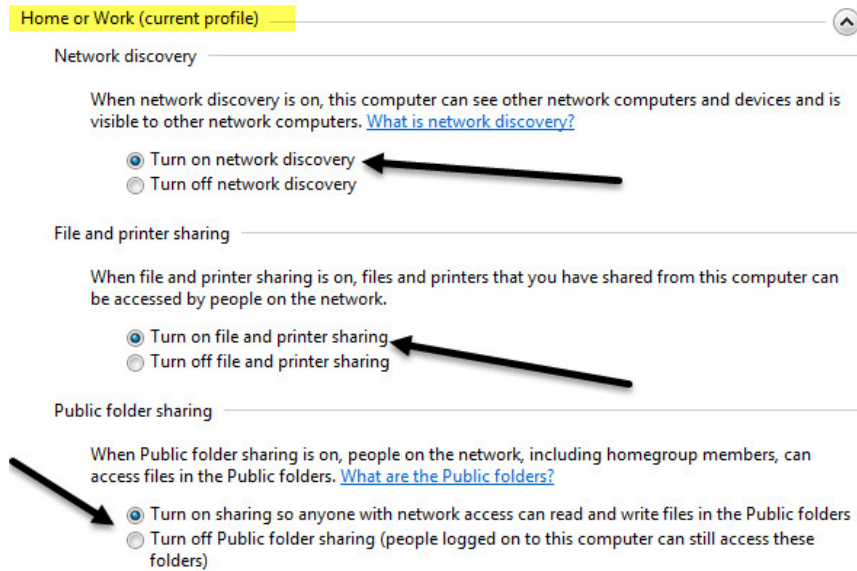


After that, you may see a pop-up bar saying that **Network discovery and file sharing are turned off**. **Máy ?nh và thi?t b? không ???c hi?n th?**. **Click to change**. Go ahead, click that and select **Turn on network discovery and file sharing** . Once you have selected it, you will see all other computers are on the ad hoc network, but make sure that the network search and file sharing sections are enabled. On Windows 7 or higher operating system, simply follow the steps above.

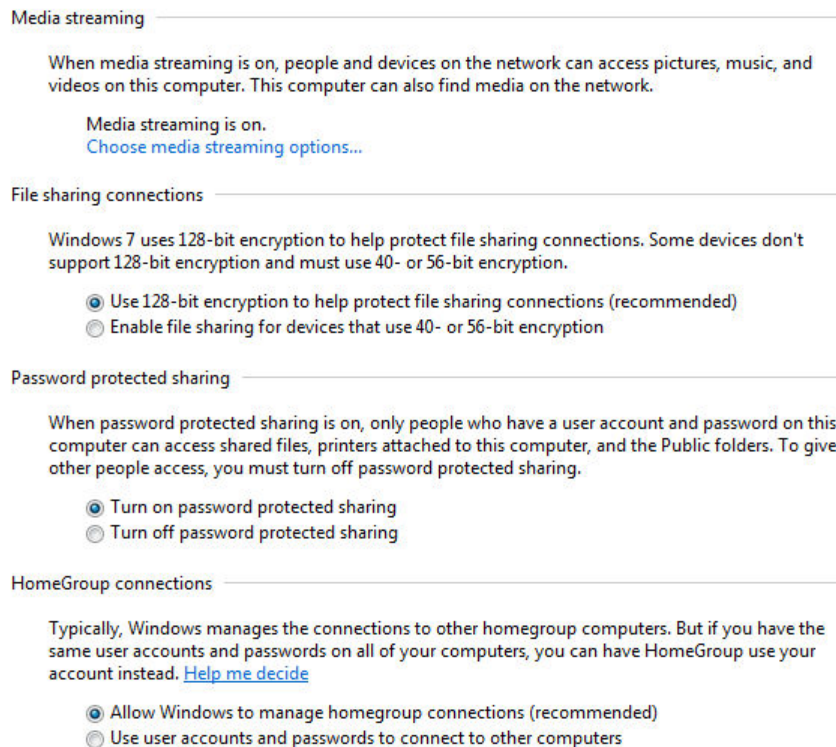
For all advanced sharing options, go to **Network and Sharing Center** from **Control Panel** and click **Change advanced sharing settings** .



Here you will find all the options to share and make sure you are installing Home or Work and not Public.



Select **network discovery** sections and **file and printer sharing** and select **public folder sharing** if you want to allow others to access these folders over the network. If you are doing this on an ad hoc network, then just turn it on.



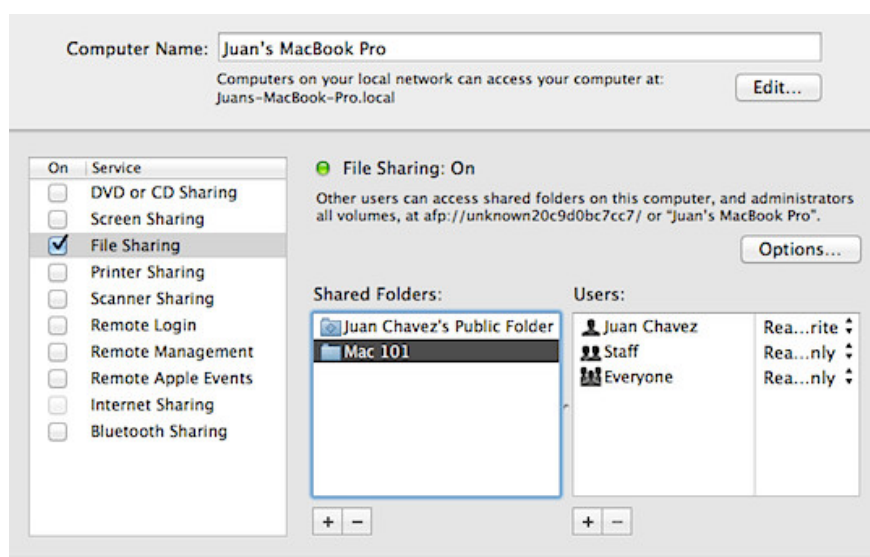
Streaming allows others to play content from your computer, but you can disable this feature and still share data between computers. File sharing connections are set to use 128-bit encryption by default. This **password protected sharing** feature requires that the user have a username and password of the computer they are

accessing to be able to view shared folders or files. If you don't want to do that, then you can turn off this option. Finally, the Homegroup group connection will be accepted by default and those connections do not require a password to connect.

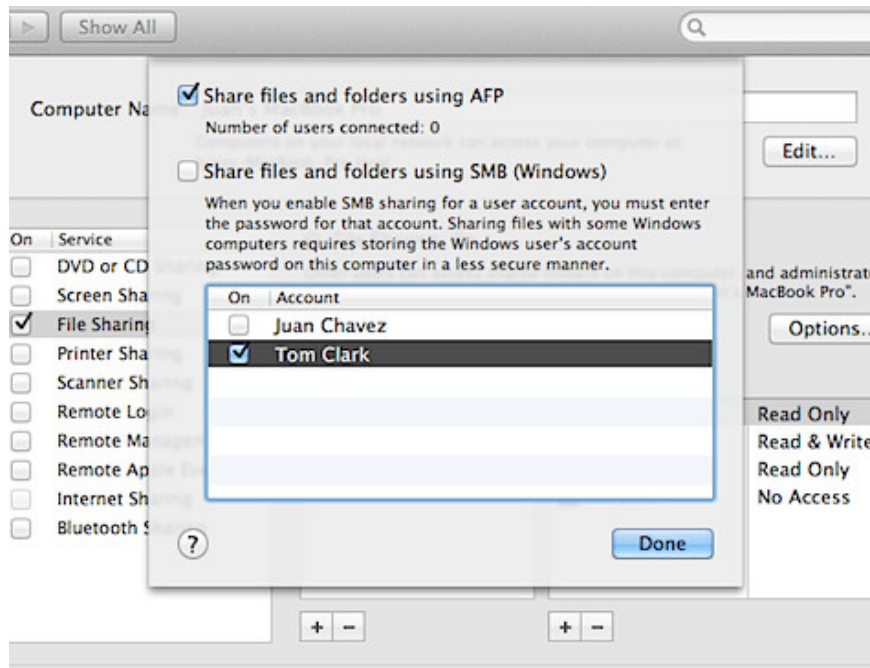
## Share between different operating systems

Finally, to share between Windows and Mac or some other operating system, you still need to follow all the instructions above for Windows machines. The only problem is that you must create a password for the Windows user account to connect. You can try turning off the **password protected sharing** feature mentioned above, but sometimes other operating systems still require you to enter a password.

If you are trying to connect from a Windows machine to another operating system like OS X, then you will have to enable file sharing on these operating systems separately. For example, on a Mac, go to **System Preferences** and then click **Sharing** or **File Sharing**, then add the folders you want to share and the appropriate user rights.



To access the files on your Mac from your Windows machine, you must click **Options** and then check the **Share files and folders using SMB (Windows)**.



Good luck!

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