

Import and Export Windows network settings

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Network administration - Do you need to backup or distribute network settings? In this article, I will show you how to work with your wireless profile, configure TCP / IP and 802.1X authentication settings .

This tutorial will show you how to backup and transfer network settings. We will target the following major network settings:

- **Wireless profile.** Encryption and authentication settings
- **Configure TCP / IP .** Static IP addresses and detailed information about DNS
- **Profile running wire.** 802.1X authentication settings

The main method we will use is the command line network shell (Netsh) tool, which can work at the command prompt. Although Netsh has been integrated into Windows since Windows 2000, support for the ability to work with wireless and wired network profiles has not been added until Windows Vista.

We will also work with Windows Connect Now (WCN), which is available in Windows XP SP2 and later versions. Microsoft has developed this feature to make it easy to set up and configure small networks.

Import and Export Wi-Fi settings with Netsh (Windows Vista and Windows 7 only)

In Windows Vista and Windows 7, Microsoft added some wireless commands to the Netsh command line tool. This feature allows you to export the profiles of wireless networks that you have saved in Windows; It also allows you to import profiles to other Windows Vista or Windows 7 computers.

To start with Netsh, open the command prompt window. Since you need to know the profile name, you can review the list of your saved profiles:

```
netsh wlan show profiles
```

If you want to see details about your profiles, use the following command:

```
netsh wlan show all
```

When ready to export the profile, use the following syntax:

```
netsh wlan export profile folder = " PATH_TO_FOLDER " name = PROFILENAME
```

This command will create an XML file (Figure 1 shows an example) in the directory you specify and use the interface name and profile you enter (for example, Wireless Network Connection-mynetworkname.xml).

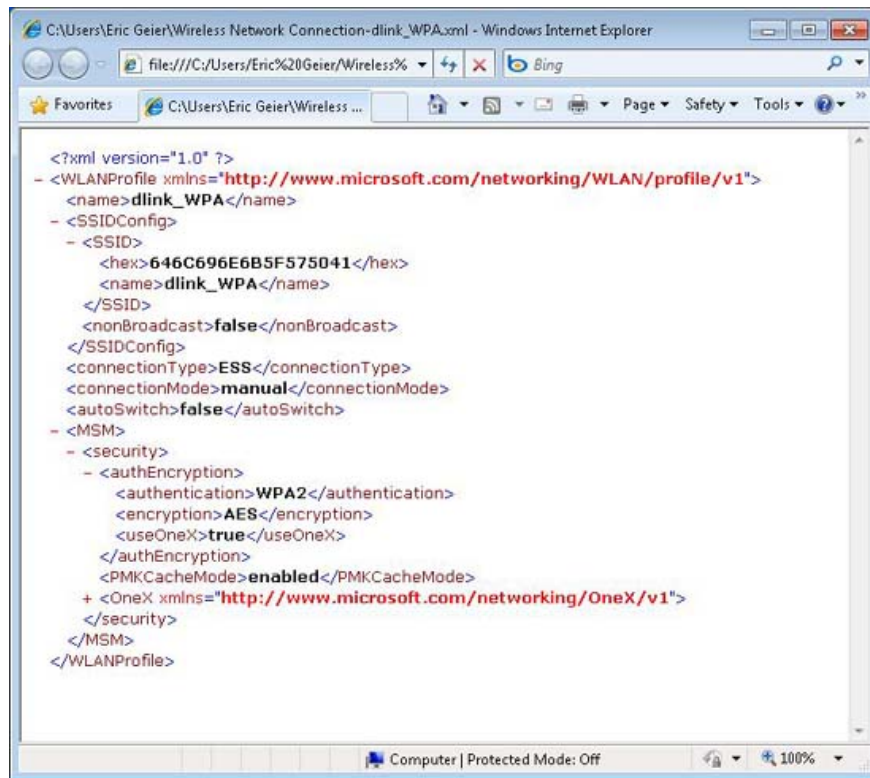


Figure 1: Example of a wireless profile exported in XML format

Note that you do not need to specify any parameters; Just enter the following command:

```
netsh wlan export profile
```

If the directory name is not provided, Windows will automatically select the home directory of the user's personal folders. If you do not distinguish the profile, Windows will export all profiles.

Tip : After exporting a profile, you can change network settings. Right-click on the XML file and select Open With> Notepad (or your favorite file editor). Then edit and save the file. Be careful not to corrupt the schema in the XML file! If you are interested in editing the profile, check the detailed information about the schema from Microsoft's MSDN website here.

After exporting a profile, you can import it to another Vista or Windows 7 computer:

```
netsh wlan add profile filename = " PATH_AND_FILENAME .xml".
```

You can specify an interface to import profiles; This option is quite useful if the computer has multiple wireless adapters. You can also specify that you want to use profiles for all computer users, or only for current users. Here is an example of how to use both of these parameters:

```
netsh wlan add profile filename = " PATH_AND_FILENAME .xml" Interface = " Wireless Network Connection "
user = current
```

If you do not specify the interface, Windows will add it to all interfaces by default. In addition, if no user parameters are specified, Windows will add profiles to all users.

Import and export wired authentication settings with Netsh (Windows Vista and Windows 7 only)

If you are performing 802.1X authentication on a wired network, you may find it useful to export and import your wired network profile in Windows Vista and Windows 7. (If you want to backup or transfer information only) For details about IP or DNS, see the next section The wired profile only includes authentication settings.

First, you can print the list of wired profiles and their settings:

```
netsh lan show profiles
```

Then, when ready to export the profile, use the following syntax:

```
netsh lan export profile folder = PATH_TO_FOLDER interface = "INTERFACE_NAME"
```

This command will create an ML file (see Figure 2 for example) in the directory you specified, and use the specified interface name; For example, Local Area Connection.xml .

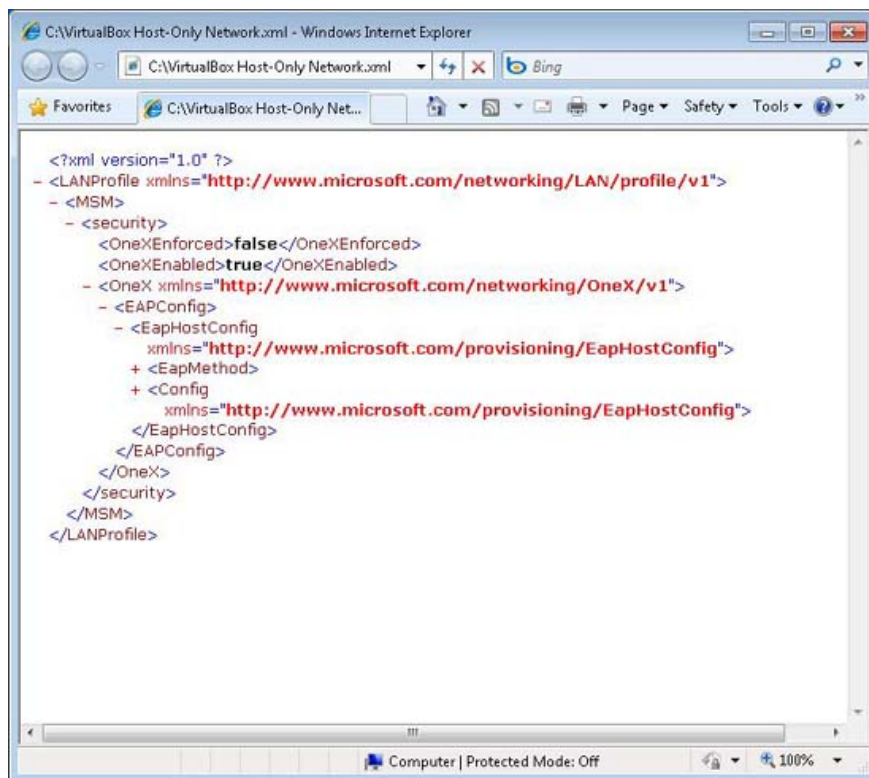


Figure 2: Example of a wired connection profile exported in XML format

It should be noted that identifying an interface is completely optional. If you do not specify the interface, Windows will export the profiles for all interfaces. However, you must specify a directory.

You can import a wired profile to another Windows Vista or Windows 7 computer using the following command:

```
netsh lan add profile filename = " PATH_AND_FILENAME .xml" interface = " INTERFACE_NAME "
```

Import and export the TCP / IP configuration with Netsh

If you assign static or DNS IP addresses to your computers, exporting and importing the TCP / IP configuration can be quite useful. You can save the settings to use for backup purposes, or use the configuration as a template to configure other computers quickly. For example, you can configure a computer with a static IP address and DNS details, export it, and then before importing to other computers, change the IP address to avoid address conflicts.

Note : Remember that some settings, such as the interface name, may vary according to the computers.

To dump or export the TCP / IP configuration, use the following command:

```
netsh -c interface dump> PATH_AND_FILENAME .txt
```

Tip : You can open and edit the configuration file in your favorite text editor (such as Notepad). Use the following command to import the TCP / IP configuration:

```
netsh -f PATH_AND_FILENAME .txt
```

Transfer wireless network settings via USB

Windows Connect Now (WCN) provides wireless network profile copy to USB so you can easily distribute network settings (name, WEP or WPA / WPA2-PSK encryption settings, .) to computers and other wireless devices are not connected.

To export the wireless network profile to USB in Windows XP SP2 or SP3 and Windows Vista, you can use the Wireless Network Setup wizard. You can launch this wizard in a few different ways. For example:

- Click **Start> Programs> Accessories> Communications> Wireless Network Setup** .
- Open **Control Panel, open the Network and Internet Connections folder, and then open Wireless Network Setup** .

WPA / WPA2-Enterprise is not supported by Windows Connect Now, but you can use Netsh to backup or transfer network profiles using WPA / WPA2 mode as described above.

To export wireless network profiles to a USB in Windows 7, open the profile or wireless network connection settings. One simple way is to click on the network icon in the system tray, right-click on the network name and select Properties. On the Connection tab, click "Copy this network profile to a USB flash drive".

To import a profile to a Windows XP, Vista, or Windows 7 computer, insert it into USB. When the AutoPlay dialog box appears, click on the "Connect to a Wireless Network link using Windows Connect Now" or "Wireless Network Setup Wizard". If the AutoPlay menu does not appear, you can initiate the import action by running SetupSNK.exe on the USB root directory.

Keep your settings safe

You now know how to export and import all major network settings. It is safe to keep backups or copies of network settings because it probably includes network keys!

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