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How to Set Up a Home Network Between Linux & Windows

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You can set up a home network complete with a shared file server and print server by installing the Common Unix Print Services (CUPS) and Samba on a Linux desktop. Since Linux can run on minimal hardware and a file and print server does not need a lot of memory or CPU resources, you can use an old desktop that you would normally send to the trash. However, you will need a large hard drive to hold everyone's files. [Have a question? Get an answer from online tech support now!](#)

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Things You'll Need

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Linux | <input type="checkbox"/> Samba |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Windows | <input type="checkbox"/> CUPS |

Instructions

- 1 Install Samba and CUPS on the Linux computer. Use your graphical package manager or command line tools.
- 2 Configure CUPS to use your printer. Use the web-based graphical interface by typing `"http://localhost:631"` in your browser.
- 3 Stop the Samba services:
`sudo /etc/init.d/samba stop`
- 4 Move the default configuration file to a backup:
`sudo mv /etc/samba/smb.conf /etc/samba/smb.conf.bkup`
- 5 Create a new smb.conf file. Issue the following command:
`sudo gedit /etc/samba/smb.conf`
Then, either make a new configuration file by following the Samba documentation or copy and paste the following example into the editor. Make sure you change the parameters to reflect your network.

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[global]

workgroup = WORKGROUP

netbios name = MYNAME

security = user

```
&#9;null passwords = true
```

username map = /etc/samba/smbusers

hostname lookups = yes

hosts equiv = /etc/hosts

hosts allow = 192.168.0.0/255.255.255.0 localhost

hosts deny = All

interfaces = lo eth0

bind interfaces only = yes

guest ok = yes

printing = CUPS

```
&#9;printcap name = CUPS
```

[printers]

comment = All Printers

browseable = no

printable = yes

writable = no

public = yes

guest ok = yes

path = /var/spool/samba

printer admin = root

```
&#9;
```



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```
[DEFAULT PRINTER]
comment = PRINTERNAME
printable = yes
path = /var/spool/samba
public = yes
guest ok = yes
printer admin = root
```

```
[PUBLIC]
path = /HOME/PUBLIC
browseable = yes
read only = no
guest ok = yes
public = yes
create mode = 766
```

```
[home_directories]
path = /home/%U
read only = no
valid users = %U root
```

- 6** Test the smb.conf file with the following command:
sudo testparm
- 7** Add additional users to the Samba server:
useradd -c "New User" -m -g users -p Passwd1 newuser
The useradd options are as follows:
-c is the comments section which is used for the user's Full Name
-m says to create the user's home directory
-g is the group name for the user's initial login group
-p is the user's password
- 8** Let Samba know about the users:
sudo smbpasswd -a newuser
- 9** Map the Windows network drives. On the Windows machine, click on "Start" and right-click "My Computer." Select "Map Network Drive," choose a drive letter and type \\netbios name\user. This will map a drive to the user's home directory on the Linux machine.
- 10** Add the printer to the Windows machine. Use the Windows "Add Printer" utility.

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References

- The Official Samba How-to
- Common Unix Print System

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