

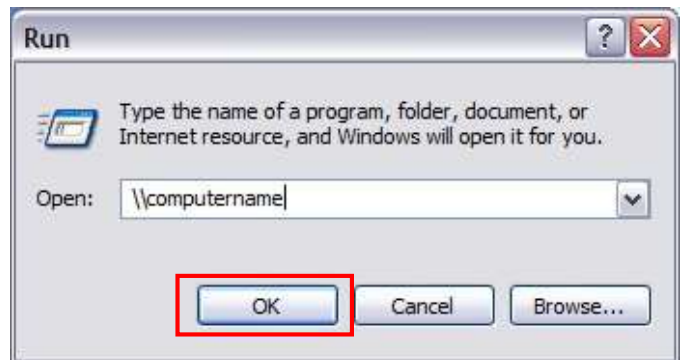


Network Shares

A major step in protecting a computer against viruses is to close any unnecessary Network Shares. Network Shares are folders that Windows has been instructed to make available to others on the network. If a Network Share is configured to allow 'write privileges' (the ability for others to write files to your hard disk), then infections on any other networked computer could infect your computer as well.

This ability to share folders is a handy networking tool, but it's also a dangerous one in an environment where malware is present. You'll want to close any unnecessary network shares. To check to see if your PC has open shares:

- Browse to your computer
 - Click Start > Run
 - Type "\\yourcomputername" (type the name given to your computer, no quotes) in the text box
 - If you do not know your computer name, right click on Computer, select Properties. The computers name will be listed.
 - Click OK



The resulting window (*not shown*) will list all visible shares your PC is making available to others on the network. If you do have folders shared, follow these steps: *Note: ADMIN\$ and IPC\$ are default system shares and should not be touched.*

- Right-click My Computer
- Select Manage
- Expand System Tools
- Expand Shared Folders
- Select Shares
- Identify non-system shares
- Right-click each non-system share
- Select Stop Sharing

