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**