

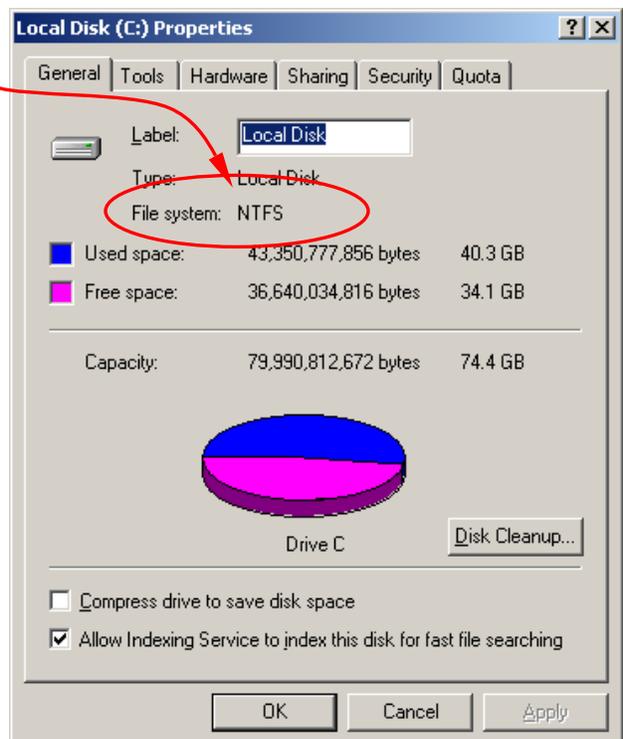
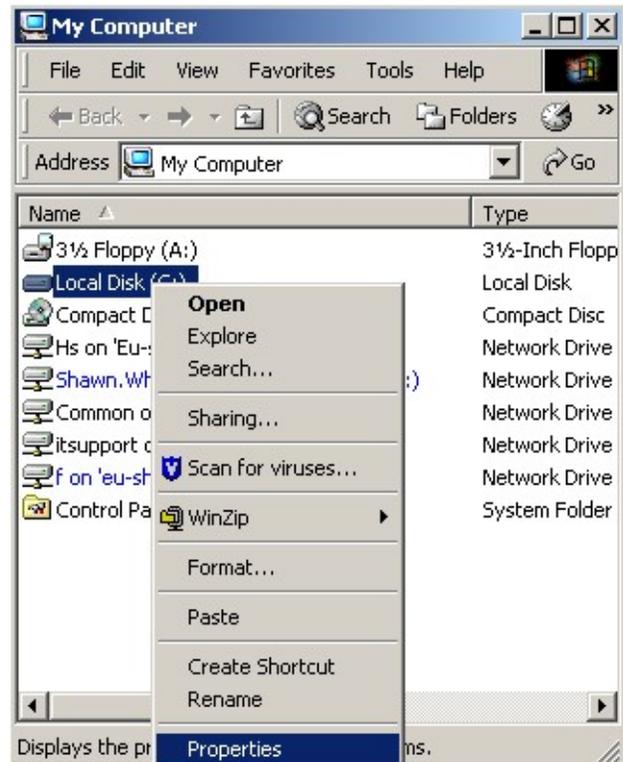
File Sharing

Operating System: Are you using Windows98? WindowsME? Windows2000? Windows XP Home? Windows XP Professional? The OS (Operating System) you have determines how, if at all, you share files across your home network. This how-to and all screen-shots were created on a Windows2000 Professional OS.

FAT32 vs NTFS File systems: The type of file system your computer uses may affect file sharing between computers. To find out which file system you're using:

1. Double-click on *My Computer*
2. **Right-click** on the *Local Disk C:*
3. Select *Properties*
4. You should see a window like the one on the bottom right.
5. Find your file system here.

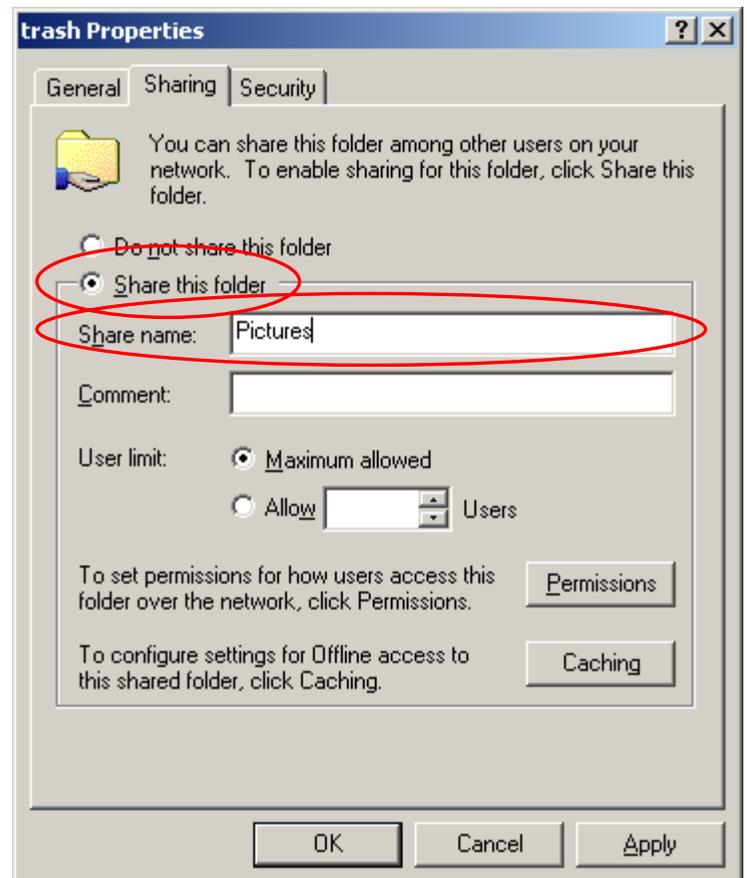
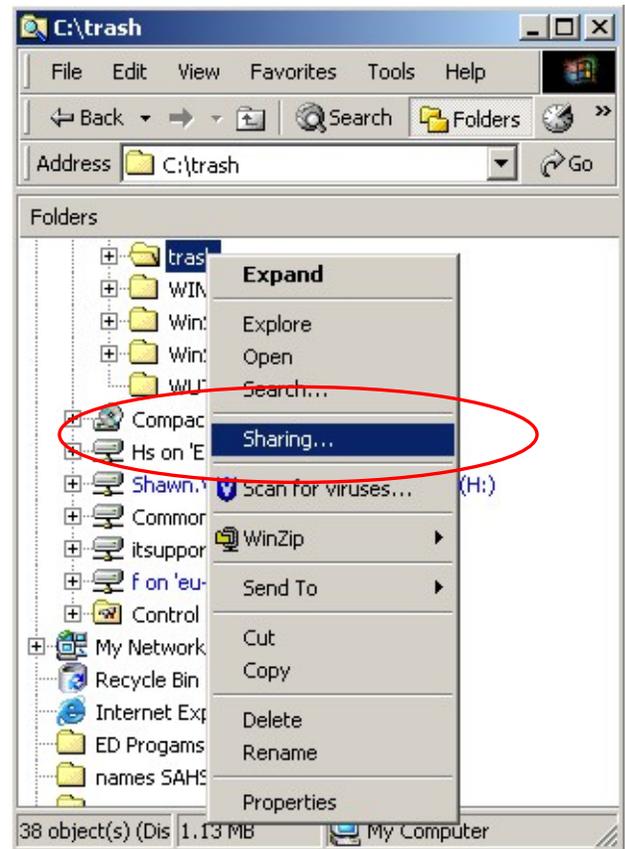
WHY SHOULD YOU CARE? You cannot set file permissions on FAT32, so sharing files is easy. Everyone can access everything. There is no security. If you have NTFS, you have to pay close attention to what users log on to both machines, what groups they are members of and what file rights those groups and users have.



Set up a 'Share'

You have files on ComputerA that you want to access from ComputerB. You must first go to ComputerA and set up a share-point for those files. Microsoft refers to this as a 'Share.' A *Share* has it's own set of permissions that are related to, but definitely separate from the *NTFS File Rights* (which apply to the files in the *Share*). For our purposes, let's assume that we all have the correct permissions to the *Share* and the correct *NTFS File Rights*. Remember, if you have FAT32, you can't set file rights, hence the term *NTFS File Rights*.

1. Double-click on *My Computer*.
2. Double-click on *Local Disk C:*
3. Right-click on the folder you want to share.
4. Select *Sharing*. (you get to the same place by selecting *Properties* and the the *Sharing Tab*). In this case, I'm going to share the files inside the folder C:\Trash
5. You should see a window similar to the one on the right. Click in the radio button to *Share this folder*.
6. Enter a name for the share that you would recognize.
7. Leave the *User Limit* at *Maximum Allowed*. Usually, the default setting for the *Permissions* is to allow the group *Everyone* full control. To begin with, I recommend leaving it that way. To double-check, click the button *Permissions* and look.



Connect To The *Share* From Another Computer.

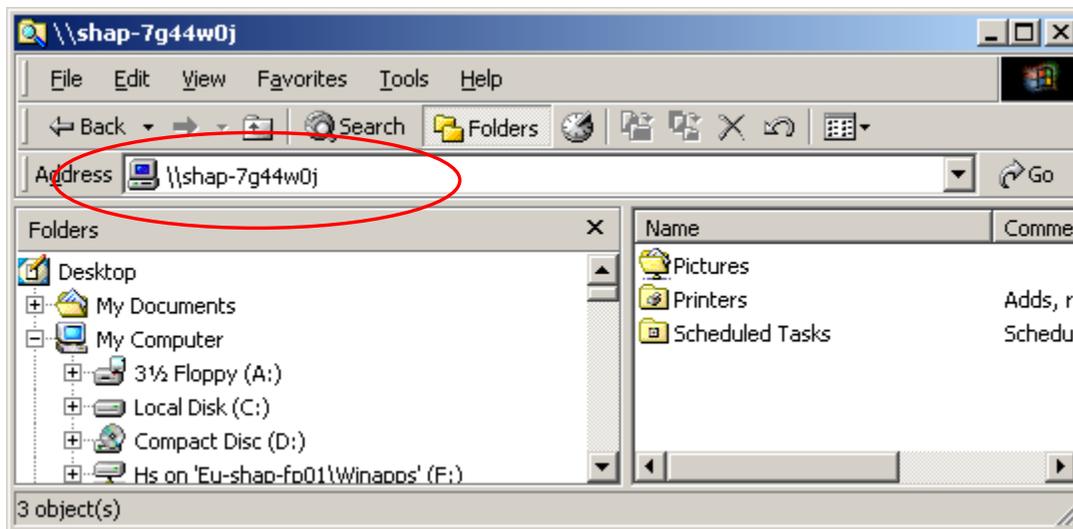
1. From ComputerB, double-click on *My Computer*.
2. Double-Click on *My Network Places*.
3. Double-click on *Microsoft Windows Network*.
4. Double-click on the name *ComputerA*
5. Double-click on the name of the share you created.

If you cannot see the name of your computer, you may have to type the computer name in the address bar of Windows Explorer and then press enter. It must be entered in the format:

\\ComputerName

or

\\IPAddress



FAT32 vs NTFS Details

http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/using/games/expert/durham_fs.msp

The following is the first third of the article from the above URL. Bottom line: NTFS is the better file system to use.

In non-gaming applications, NTFS is clearly the superior file system for a number of reasons. NTFS is a much more robust file system. Charlie Russel discusses this in his Expert Zone column, [NTFS vs. FAT: Which Is Right for You?](#) The latest version of NTFS is supported by Windows 2000, Windows NT 4 with Service Pack 4, and Windows XP. It has all the capabilities of FAT, with advantages that include the following:

- File size is limited only by the size of the volume of a partition.
- File compression is native to NTFS. Files on an NTFS drive can be compressed without the need for third-party applications like DriveSpace.
- Files on an NTFS file system can be encrypted. Better still, the files can be encrypted as they're written and decrypted as they're read, making encryption transparent to the user.
- NTFS supports enhanced file security. Access rights to files and folders can allow users full, partial or no access.
- The theoretical hard drive size limitation pertaining to NTFS is a dizzying 16 exabytes.

Another key advantage of NTFS is that it's recoverable. NTFS keeps track of individual transactions: reads and writes. When a user invokes the disk repair utility CHKDSK under NTFS, it maintains a log of transactions so that if CHKDSK encounters errors, it need only roll back to the last recovery point in order to repair the file system.

Possibly the most important aspect of NTFS over FAT32 in terms of performance is this: under FAT32, as the number of files on a partition increases, the performance of the system slows. That's not the case in NTFS; its performance remains consistent as the number of files and the drive sizes increase.

How to configure file sharing in Windows XP

<http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb;en-us;304040>

This is a very thorough description written in Geek-Speak