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- ❖ Windows 7 Upgrade Paths
 - ❖ Windows 7 Features By Version
 - ❖ Windows 7 Home Groups
 - ❖ Internet Explorer 8
 - ❖ Making the Switch to Live Mail
 - ❖ HP Windows 7 Printer Drivers
 - ❖ And more.

Windows 7 Resources

Sponsored by

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CONTENTS

WINDOWS 7 UPGRADE PATHS.....	3
• Unsupported Upgrade Scenarios	3
• Supported Upgrade Scenarios	4
• Windows 7 Upgrade Option	4
• Upgrading Your PC to Windows 7.....	5
WINDOWS 7 FEATURES BY VERSION.....	6
HARDWARE COMPATIBILITY.....	7
• Windows Compatibility List.....	7
• Windows Logo'd Products.....	8
INTERNET EXPLORER 8.....	9
• Search Connectors	9
MAKING THE SWITCH TO WINDOWS LIVE MAIL	10
HOW TO RESOLVE AN UNSUCCESSFUL MIGRATION OF MESSAGES FROM OUTLOOK EXPRESS (OE) BY UTILIZING WINDOWS LIVE MAIL'S (WLM) IMPORT FUNCTION.....	11
• Comments:.....	11
• Moving Messages from the Imported Storage Folder(s) Location to an Email Account:	12
• Moving Messages from the Imported Storage Folder(s) Location to another user created Storage Folder:	13
WHAT YOU NEED TO RUN WINDOWS 7'S HOMEGROUPS.....	14
• How to create or join a homegroup	14
• How to set up or join a homegroup.....	14
• To join an existing homegroup	15
• To use a homegroup.....	15
SETTING UP A HOMEGROUP REQUIRES A WAKE-UP CALL.....	15
• Now it's time to put your homegroup to use.....	17
H/P WINDOWS 7 PRINTER DRIVER RESOURCE PAGE	19
VIDEO LINKS	20

WINDOWS 7 UPGRADE PATHS

UNSUPPORTED UPGRADE SCENARIOS

Upgrades to Windows 7 from the following operating systems are not supported:

- Windows 95, Windows 98, Windows Millennium Edition, Windows XP, Windows Vista® RTM, Windows Vista Starter, Windows 7 M3, Windows 7 Beta, Windows 7 RC, or Windows 7 IDS
- Windows NT® Server 4.0, Windows 2000 Server, Windows Server® 2003, Windows Server 2008, or Windows Server 2008 R2
- Cross-architecture in-place upgrades (for example, x86 to x64) are not supported.
- Cross-language in-place upgrades (for example, en-us to de-de) are not supported.
- Cross-SKU upgrades (for example, Windows 7 N to Windows 7 K) are not supported.
- Upgrades from Windows Vista to Windows N, Windows K, Windows KN, or Windows E are not supported.
- Cross-build type in-place upgrades (for example, fre to chk) are not supported.
- Pre-release in-place upgrades across milestones (for example, Windows 7 RC to Windows 7 RTM) are not supported.

SUPPORTED UPGRADE SCENARIOS

From Windows Vista (SP1, SP2)	Upgrade to Windows 7
Business	Professional, Enterprise, Ultimate
Enterprise	Enterprise
Home Basic	Home Basic, Home Premium, Ultimate
Home Premium	Home Premium, Ultimate
Ultimate	Ultimate

From Windows 7	Repair-In-Place Upgrade to Windows 7
Enterprise	Enterprise
Home Basic	Home Basic
Home Premium	Home Premium
Professional	Professional
Starter (x86 only)	Starter (x86)
Ultimate	Ultimate

From Windows 7	Anytime Upgrade to Windows 7
Home Basic	Home Premium, Professional, Ultimate
Home Premium	Professional, Ultimate
Professional	Ultimate
Starter	Home Premium, Professional, Ultimate

WINDOWS 7 UPGRADE OPTION

Purchase a qualifying version of a Windows Vista retail packaged product from your favorite retailer between June 26, 2009 and January 31, 2010 and receive Windows 7 free.

<http://www.microsoft.com/windows/buy/offers/upgrade.aspx>

UPGRADING YOUR PC TO WINDOWS 7

Upgrading Your PC to Windows 7

Upgrade FROM :	Upgrade TO:		
	Windows 7 Home Premium	Windows 7 Professional	Windows 7 Ultimate
Windows® XP*	Custom Install		
Any 32-bit version to 64-bit, or vice-versa	Custom Install		
Windows Vista Home Basic	In-Place Upgrade	In-Place Upgrade + Windows Anytime Upgrade	In-Place Upgrade
Windows Vista Home Premium	In-Place Upgrade	In-Place Upgrade + Windows Anytime Upgrade	In-Place Upgrade
Windows Vista Business	Custom Install	In-Place Upgrade	In-Place Upgrade
Windows Vista Ultimate	Custom Install	Custom Install	In-Place Upgrade

Note: To do an in-place upgrade on either a 32-bit or 64-bit system, please ensure that your PC has either Windows Vista Service Pack 1 (SP1) or Service Pack 2 (SP2) installed first.

Custom Install: A custom (clean) installation gives you the option to either completely replace your current operating system or install Windows on a specific drive or partition that you select. You can also perform a custom installation if your computer does not have an operating system, or if you want to set up a multiboot system on your computer.

In-Place Upgrade: Keeps your files, settings, and programs intact from your current version of Windows.

Windows Easy Transfer and the Windows 7 Upgrade Advisor are useful tools that can assist your upgrade. For more information about these tools and upgrading your PC to Windows 7, please visit: <http://windows.microsoft.com/upgrade>

Additional Notes:

**If you are upgrading from Windows XP, you will need to back up your files and settings, perform a custom (clean) install, and then re-install your existing files, settings, and programs.*

To upgrade an earlier operating system than Windows XP (e.g. Windows 95 or Windows 2000) you will need to purchase a full license of Windows 7 and perform a custom installation.

In the EEA/EU (including Croatia and Switzerland) and Korea, Microsoft will ship Windows 7 editions that do not include certain features such as Windows Media Player, and related technologies such as Windows Media Center. Upgrading to these editions will require a custom installation.

Upgrading Windows Vista from one language (e.g. English) to Windows 7 in a different language (e.g. French), requires a custom install.



[Back to TOC](#)



WINDOWS 7 FEATURES BY VERSION

Version	Starter	Home Basic	Home Premium	Professional	Enterprise	Ultimate
<i>Intended For</i>	<i>OEM Licensing</i>	<i>Emerging Markets</i>	<i>Retail and OEM Licensing</i>	<i>Retail and OEM Licensing</i>	<i>Volume Licensing</i>	<i>Retail and OEM Licensing</i>
64-bit and 32-bit versions	32-bit only	Both	Both	Both	Both	Both
Maximum physical memory (64-bit only)	N/A	8 GB	16 GB	192 GB	192 GB	192 GB
Home Group (Create and Join)	Join only	Join only	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Multiple monitors	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Fast user switching	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Changeable desktop wallpaper	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Desktop Window Manager	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Windows Mobility Center	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Windows Aero	No	Partial	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Multitouch	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Premium games included	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Windows Media Center	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Windows Media Player Remote Media Experience	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Encrypting File System	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Location Aware Printing	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Remote Desktop Host	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Presentation Mode	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Windows Server Domain	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Windows XP Mode	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
AppLocker	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
BitLocker Drive Encryption	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
DirectAccess	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Virtual Hard Disk Booting	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes

HARDWARE COMPATIBILITY

Both Vista and XP used the Windows Hardware Compatibility List (for hardware) and Windows Logo'd Product List (for software) to ensure that your favorite devices and applications would work with those versions of Windows. With Windows 7, you can look at the Windows 7 Compatibility List window to see if your current hardware works with Windows 7 or whether you need a new driver. You can also look at the Logo'd Product List to determine whether you need a software upgrade.

WINDOWS COMPATIBILITY LIST

The Windows 7 Upgrade Advisor is a Website that makes it easy for you to evaluate whether your system is compatible with Windows 7. It has links to the Upgrade Advisor program, advice on the process, links to downloadable versions of Windows 7, and information about system requirements. To download the Upgrade Advisor, visit the following Microsoft Website at:

<http://www.microsoft.com/windows/windows-7/get/upgrade-advisor.aspx>
Caution: Windows 7 Upgrade Advisor has been reported not to work properly with 64-bit Windows XP operating systems.



Generally, if your computer can run Windows Vista, it can run Windows 7. However, if you're not running Windows Vista or are unsure whether your system can run Windows 7, here's how to check.

- ✦ Before you run the Windows 7 Upgrade Advisor Beta, be sure to plug in any USB devices or other devices such as printers, external hard drives, or scanners that are regularly used with the computer you're evaluating. They are needed for the evaluation.
- ✦ Download, install, and run the Windows 7 Upgrade Advisor Beta.
- ✦ You'll get a report on whether your PC can run Windows 7 and if there are any known compatibility issues.
- ✦ If an issue can't be easily resolved, you'll get suggestions for next steps. For example, it might let you know that you need an updated driver for your printer and where to get it. Or the suggestions might include a recommendation that you buy a newer computer to fully experience features of Windows 7.

WINDOWS LOGO'D PRODUCTS

Programs that have earned the “Certified for Windows 7” logo or the “Works with Windows 7” logo are officially supported on Windows 7 by our independent software vendor (ISV) partners.

The “Certified for Windows 7” logo identifies products that are designed and tested to deliver a superior experience with Windows 7.



The “Works with Windows 7” logo lets you know which software and devices offer baseline compatibility with Windows 7.

To find which products are compatible with Windows 7, use a search engine to find references to “Windows 7 Logo'd Products.” If you do this search shortly after Windows 7 has been released, the updates to the relevant Microsoft sites may not have been posted. Many programs are compatible and work well with Windows 7 but are not included in the websites. Some programs are not included because they have not yet gone through the Windows 7 logo program, or because they are still completing the program. New programs are continually being added to the program.

INTERNET EXPLORER 8

SEARCH CONNECTORS

<http://www.sevenforums.com/tutorials/742-windows-7-search-federation-providers.html>

MAKING THE SWITCH TO WINDOWS LIVE MAIL

If you prefer to continue to rely on Microsoft for free e-mail, Windows Live Mail is your only choice. Windows Live Mail looks a lot like Outlook Express and Windows Mail, but underneath the covers it's considerably more complex and more robust. **The program runs fine on XP, Vista, and Windows 7.** More importantly, Microsoft actually supports Windows Live Mail. Novel idea, that.

Here's how to add Windows Live Mail to your PC without gumming it up with the other "Live Essentials" junk — which is neither Live nor Essential, by the way:

- **Step 1.** Go to Microsoft's Windows Live Essentials [download site](#) and click the Download button.
- **Step 2.** Double-click the downloaded installer and select the box marked Windows Live Mail. Deselect all of the others, unless you want a specific program (Live Photo Gallery ain't half bad). Click Continue.
- **Step 3.** When the installer comes up for air, it has the audacity to ask whether you would mind if Microsoft hijacks your browser's default search provider (did I hear a loud "Bing" out there?) and resets your browser's home page. Uncheck all the boxes and click Continue.
- **Step 4.** The installer then asks whether you have a Windows Live ID. Get one if you don't have one already — remember that you don't have to provide Microsoft with any personal information that you prefer not to share, and creativity counts. Finally, click Close and Windows Live Mail will be ready to run.

The first time you open Windows Live Mail, the program offers to import your contacts and old messages. Most of the time, the import is successful.

Keep in mind that installing Windows Live Mail doesn't uninstall your old e-mail program. If WLM fails to pick up contacts or e-mail messages from OE or WM, take a look at a [post](#) on the Windows Live forum for a tip on clicking and dragging mail from Outlook Express to Windows Live Mail.

HOW TO RESOLVE AN UNSUCCESSFUL MIGRATION OF MESSAGES FROM OUTLOOK EXPRESS (OE) BY UTILIZING WINDOWS LIVE MAIL'S (WLM) IMPORT FUNCTION.

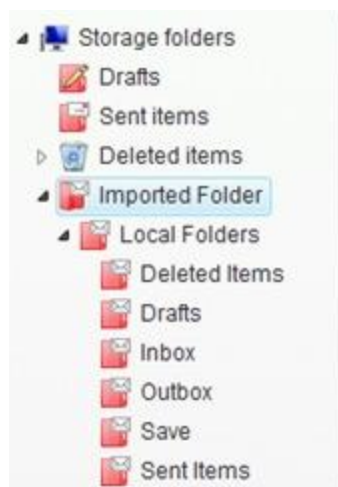
Use the following steps:

- ✚ Open Windows Live Mail (close Outlook Express if it's currently running)
- ✚ Click on "File" (If you do not see the Menu on the top part of the program, this means it's hidden. In order to see the menu, hit ALT+M and select 'Show all menus')
- ✚ Then click on "Import" and select "Messages"
- ✚ From the new window that popped up, select the program you want to import from.
- ✚ If you are importing from Outlook Express 6, and haven't changed the default store location of the folders, click "Next" (if you did change the location of the store folder, please choose the location by clicking the "Browse" button)
- ✚ Click "Next" (keep the default selection of "All folders")
- ✚ Once all the data has been imported, click "Finish"

You can view this migrated folder under "Storage Folders" > "Imported Folders" in Windows Live Mail.

COMMENTS:

- This method imports folders and messages from an existing account(s) in OE
- It does not import or create the source (OE) email account in the destination WLM client (*see Note below*) Folders are imported to sub-folders in WLM's Storage Folders\Imported Folders\Local Folders.



- Messages present in OE's default folders (Inbox, Drafts, Deleted Items, Outbox, Sent Items) will be present, if successful, in each respectively named folder
- User created folders in OE can also be successfully migrated (e.g. 'Save' folder in above picture)
- **Note:** Since the import does not import/create the email account in WLM, the user must manually create the email account (if not already present, and also any user created folders) or optionally import the email account using a previously created/saved OE *.iaf file as source.
- Once OE's messages are imported they can remain in that location, or moved to a user created folder within an email account (WLM by design creates a folder structure for each unique email account), or moved to user created folder within the Storage folders.

MOVING MESSAGES FROM THE IMPORTED STORAGE FOLDER(S) LOCATION TO AN EMAIL ACCOUNT:

1. Drag the message from an imported folder to a sub-folder in an existing/created email account , or
2. Select a message (or group of messages) in an imported folder, then right click to make the context menu's options available (e.g. Move to folder or Copy to folder), then choose the option of your choice to move or copy the message to the desired location (i.e. a user created folder in the email account)

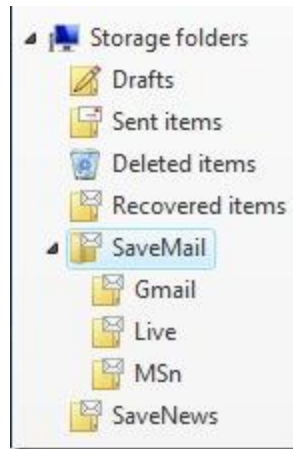


Note: The above methods for managing/archiving messages within an email account's sub-folders in WLM might be perceived as consistent with archiving messages in OE's Local Folders, though this approach may not be the most secure place:

- Removing (deleting) an email account in WLM also removes/deletes all folders and messages from WLM's message store on the hard drive, thus the following optional method (see below) is highly suggested.

MOVING MESSAGES FROM THE IMPORTED STORAGE FOLDER(S) LOCATION TO ANOTHER USER CREATED STORAGE FOLDER:

1. Drag the message from an imported folder to a folder/sub-folder in the Storage folder, or
2. Select a message (or group of messages) in an imported folder, then right click to make the context menu's options available (e.g. Move to folder or Copy to folder), then choose the option of your choice to move or copy the message to the desired location (i.e. a user created folder, e.g. SaveMail, in the Storage folders)



Note: Utilizing the Storage folder has the following benefits.

- The Storage Folders (and sub-folders) are not removed/deleted from WLM message store when an email account is deleted, thus inherently more secure
- A common location for archiving important messages external to an email account's default folders (i.e. Inbox, Drafts, Sent, etc)
- Message rules for Pop3 email accounts can also move messages to this location
- Easier to backup important archived messages instead of individual email accounts (e.g. The SaveMail folder and its' three sub-folders).

WHAT YOU NEED TO RUN WINDOWS 7'S HOMEGROUPS

The most misunderstood new feature in Windows 7 may be homegroups, which lets you share files, media, and printers across Win7 PCs quickly and easily — if you know a few tricks.

Here are the basics:

HOW TO CREATE OR JOIN A HOMEGROUP

Your PC must be running Windows 7

Systems running Vista and XP can't participate in homegroups, nor can Macs or Linux computers. That isn't as dire as it sounds, however.

Regardless of whether your Windows 7 PC is a member of a homegroup, it can still communicate with other computers on your network using the old-fashioned Windows sharing methods you've come to know and hate over the years.

Say your network consists of two Windows 7 PCs and an old XP clunker with an attached shared printer. The Win7 PCs can still use the printer. And the XP machine can retrieve data on the homegrouped Windows 7 PCs via the standard XP/Vista peer-to-peer sharing methods. The main difference is that Win7 PCs in a homegroup get folders and printers served up to them on a silver platter.

It's important to note that any Windows 7 PC can join a homegroup, but the system setting up the homegroup must be running a version of Windows 7 **other than** Starter or Home Basic.

HOW TO SET UP OR JOIN A HOMEGROUP

Your PC must be attached to a "Home" network

This sounds mysterious, but creating a Home network is really pretty easy. When you set up a network connection, Windows asks whether the link should be treated as a Public, Work, or Home network. Behind the scenes, choosing a network type is just a handy way of selecting a whole bunch of security settings. In Windows 7, choosing a Home network allows your PC to join or create a homegroup.

You say you don't know whether your system's on a Home network? Not to worry. Open the Control Panel. Under the Network and Internet heading, choose **View network status and tasks**. Below the heading "View your active networks" you'll see a house icon — how homey can you get, eh? — To indicate that you're hooked into a Home network. (See Figure 1.)

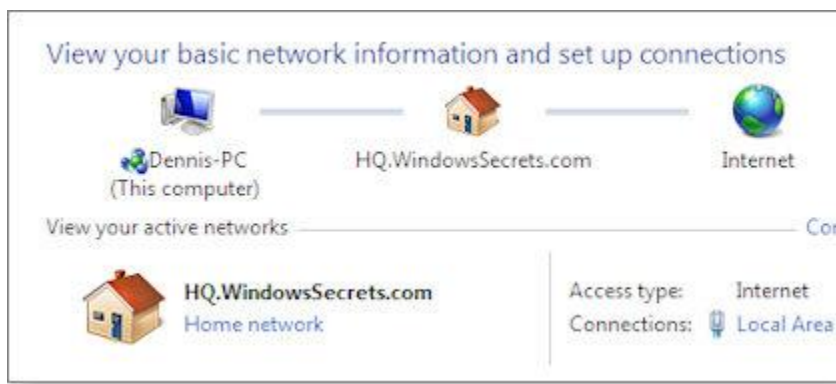


Figure 1. The house icon indicates that you're connected to a Home network in Windows 7's Network and Sharing Center.

If you're on a Work or Public network and want to change to a Home network, click either of the links labeled **Work network** or **Public network**, choose **Home network**, and click Close. Not quite rocket science.

Many folks are confused about Home networks. "Home" is just a *nom de guerre* for a bunch of security settings. You don't have to be at home to run a Home network, and a Home network can include Macs.

The term "Home" refers only to the way your PC treats the network. You wouldn't normally identify a network connection in a public place such as a coffee shop as a "Home" connection. But in most other cases, a Home network will suffice.

To join an existing homegroup

You have to know the password

Retrieving a homegroup password is easy. Sign in to a PC attached to the homegroup and click Start, Control Panel. Under the Network and Internet heading, click **Choose homegroup and sharing options** and then select **View or print the homegroup password**.

To use a homegroup

Your PC must be running IPv6

I've heard several complaints from Win7 users who claim homegroups don't work. In many cases, the situation can be described by the old Walt Kelly Pogoism, "We have met the enemy and he is us." If you haven't messed around with the innards of your Windows 7 machine, IPv6 is running by default. But if you've been fooling with Mother Nature, you may have turned off IPv6. Your bad.

Setting up a homegroup requires a wake-up call

Every time you attach a Win7 PC to a network and tell Windows you're using a Home network, the OS sniffs around the network to see whether there are any Windows 7 PCs attached to it. If there are, Windows then checks to determine whether any of the machines belong to a homegroup.

Several people have contacted me to complain that Win7 PCs that are newly attached to a network don't discover an existing homegroup. The most common reason for the failure? All the PCs in the homegroup are hibernating. To solve the problem, make sure at least one of the systems in the homegroup wakes up. It only takes one.

If Windows 7 doesn't detect any kindred spirits on the network that are connected to a homegroup, it offers to set up a homegroup for you.

To set up a new homegroup, you must first select which "libraries" to offer to other PCs. For most people, the big question about homegroups is whether you want to share your Documents library with other PCs attached to the homegroup. By default, Windows doesn't offer to share your Documents library. (See Figure 2.)



Figure 2. Using Win7's "Create a homegroup" dialog, select the folders you want to share with other PCs in your homegroup.

After you select which libraries you want to share, Windows provides a long password for the homegroup. (See Figure 3.) It's impossible to memorize this password, which is a pain because you have to enter it on each Windows 7 PC that you want to connect to the homegroup.

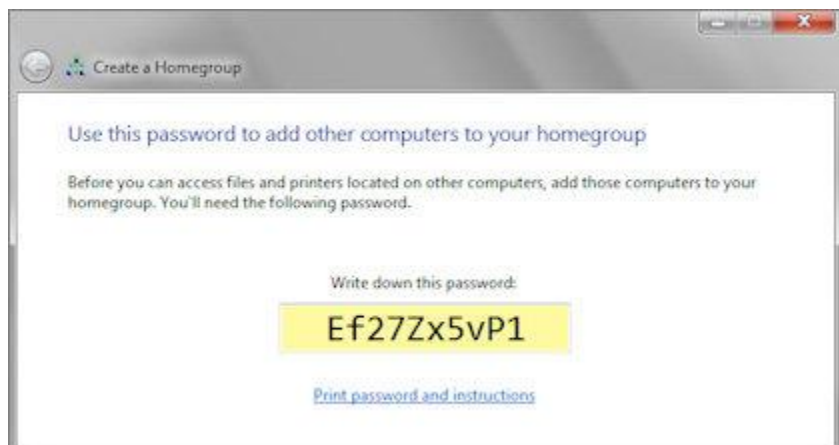


Figure 3. The homegroup password generated by Windows 7 is difficult to remember, but you can create a password of your own.

If you wish to change the password to something more reasonable, it's best to do so before any other computers are connected to the homegroup. **If you attempt to change the default password later, you'll have to change the password manually on each PC on the network.**

To set your own password, click Finish in the password box, choose **View or change homegroup settings**, and select **Change the password**. Follow the steps listed there to enter your own password.

After the homegroup has been established, adding new Windows 7 PCs to the network is a breeze. Simply attach the Win7 computer to the network and identify the network as the "Home" variety. Windows sniffs and sees a homegroup already established, asks whether you want to share your Documents library, and prompts you to type in the homegroup's password. Ta-da!

NOW IT'S TIME TO PUT YOUR HOMEGROUP TO USE

Homegroups are baked into every nook and cranny of Windows 7. For example, when you click Start, Documents, a homegroup list appears on the left. The same thing happens when you select Pictures, Computer, or Music. If you fire up Word 2007 and click File, Open, the homegroups are right there.

Navigating to a homegroup — or a folder in a shared library within a homegroup — is as easy as opening a folder or file on your computer. Media streaming from homegroup computers works in a flash. You can connect to printers on homegroup computers just as easily as setting up a printer on your own computer.

To make a folder available to everyone in your homegroup, simply add the folder to one of your shared libraries. If you share your Documents library, for example, add the folder to your personal Documents folder or to the PC's Public Documents folder to allow everyone in your homegroup to read, modify, or delete items in the folder.

Sometimes you may want to share a folder with your homegroup without adding it to a shared library. For example, you might want to share your Downloads folder with everyone in the homegroup.

To do so, navigate to the folder, click it once, choose the **Share with** button at the top of the screen, and select either Homegroup (Read) or Homegroup (Read/Write), depending on how much you trust the other folks in your homegroup. (See Figure 4.)

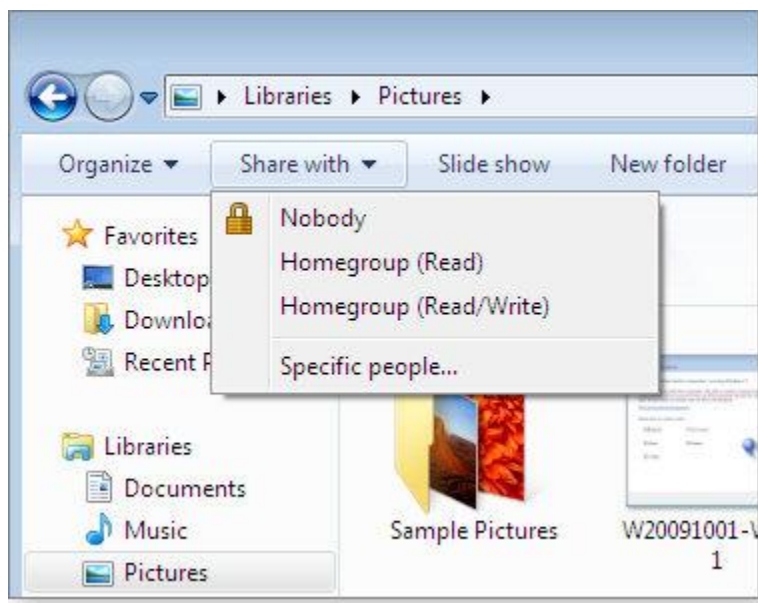


Figure 4. Sharing a folder with other PCs in your homegroup is as easy as selecting it, choosing "Share with," and clicking one of the four options.

If you want to discontinue sharing a folder with a homegroup, navigate to the folder, click the **Share with** button, and choose Nobody.

More than one homegroup can exist on a single network, but things quickly get complicated. A particular computer can be part of only one homegroup at a time. You can leave one homegroup and join another, but you can't be a member of two homegroups at once. (BTW, homegroups work great with Windows Home Server.)

The benefits of homegroups on Win7 far outweigh the quibbles. After the hassles we've all experienced when attempting to share files and printers on older versions of Windows, I bet you'll find homegroups a breath of fresh air.

H/P WINDOWS 7 PRINTER DRIVER RESOURCE PAGE

Want to know if your HP printer is supported by drivers that will work with Windows 7? Visit the following link to find out:

<http://h20000.www2.hp.com/bizsupport/TechSupport/Document.jsp?lang=en&cc=us&taskId=120&prodSeriesId=3463669&prodTypeId=18972&objectID=c01856597>

VIDEO LINKS

Demos :

<http://www.engadget.com/2009/08/12/windows-7-review/>

<http://www.engadget.com/2009/05/27/microsoft-touch-pack-brings-surface-experience-to-windows-7/>