

# Sharing Files with HomeGroup

New to Windows 7? Even though there's a lot in common with the version of Windows that you had before, you might still need a hand getting up to speed. This guide is filled with useful info about sharing files with others on your home network.

It covers the topics that Paul Pardi showed you in his video: Sharing files with HomeGroup.

<http://windows.microsoft.com/get-started>

Use this guide as a reference while exploring what you can do with Windows 7.

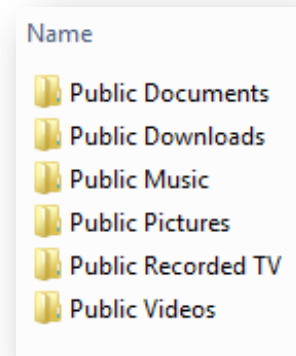
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## Share files using public folders

You can share files with other users on the same computer by placing those files in a public folder. Here's how:

1. Click the **Start** button, and then, in the search box, type **Public**.
2. Click **See more results**, and then, in the list of results, double-click **Public**.
3. Choose the public folder that best fits the type of file or files you want to share, and then drag your files and folders into that folder.

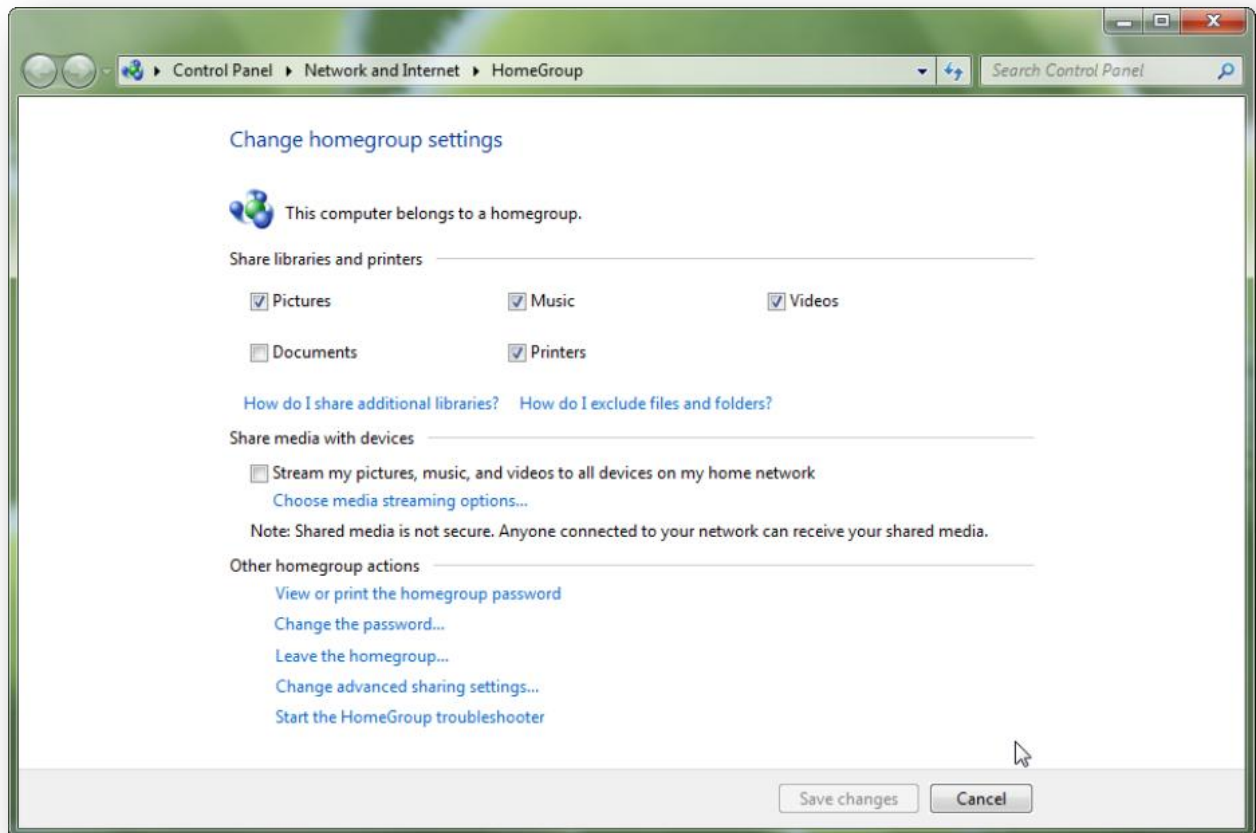


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## Create a homegroup

Using a homegroup, you can share files with others on your home network without having to move them around. If a homegroup doesn't exist on your network, you'll have to create one. Here's how:

1. Click the **Start** button, and then click **Control Panel**.
2. In the search box, type **homegroup**, and then click **HomeGroup**.
3. On the **Share with other home computers running Windows 7** page, click **Create a homegroup**.
4. Select the check boxes of the items you'd like to share, click **Next**, and then click **Finish**.
5. On the **Change homegroup settings** page, click **Cancel**.

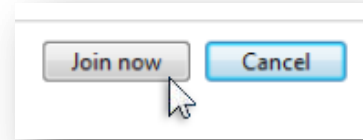


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## Join a homegroup

If a homegroup already exists on your network, you can join it to share files or your printer with other people—and even stream music, video, and pictures to others in your homegroup. Here's how to do this:

1. On a computer that wasn't used to create the homegroup, click the **Start** button, and then click **Control Panel**.
2. In the search box, type **homegroup**, and then click **HomeGroup**.
3. On the **Share with other home computers running Windows 7** page, click **Join now**.
4. Select the check boxes of the items you'd like to share, and then click **Next**.
5. On the **Type the homegroup password** page, type the password you received from the person who created the homegroup, and then click **Next**.
6. On the **You have joined the homegroup** page, click **Finish**.
7. On the **Change homegroup settings** page, click **Cancel**.



### Notes

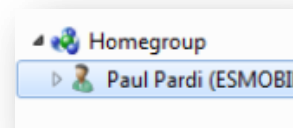
If you don't see the option to join a homegroup, then the homegroup has not been created yet.

If you haven't received the password, ask the creator of the homegroup to open HomeGroup on his or her computer, and then click **View or print the homegroup password**.

## View shared files

After you've joined a homegroup (and depending on your permissions), you can view or change files others have shared. Here's how:

1. Click the **Start** button, and then click **Computer**.
2. Under **Homegroup**, select the computer that has the files you want to view or change.
3. In the library pane (above the file list), click an item in the **Arrange by** list.

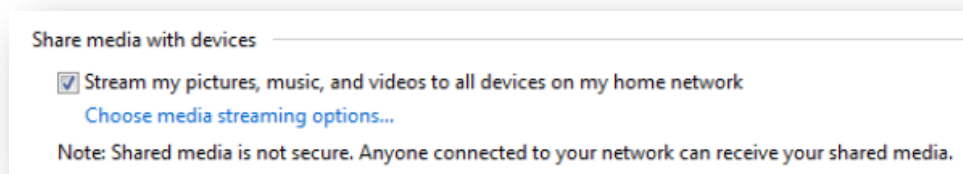


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## Stream media

You can send media, such as photos and music, directly to compatible programs and devices on your network. This is called streaming. Here's how you do it:

4. Click the **Start** button, and then click **Control Panel**.
5. In the search box, type **homegroup**, and then click **HomeGroup**.
6. Select the **Stream my pictures, music, and videos to all devices on my home network** check box, and then click **Save Changes**.



7. On another computer joined to your homegroup, open Windows Media Player by clicking the **Start** button, clicking **All Programs**, and then clicking **Windows Media Player**.

If the Player is currently open and you're in Now Playing mode, click the **Switch to Library** button in the upper-right corner of the Player.

8. Under **Other Libraries**, click the computer that is streaming media, and then double-click a category to see what media are available.
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