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By Gregory Shultz

Sharing an Internet Connection Using Windows 98 Second Edition

The new Internet Connection Sharing feature in Windows® 98 Second Edition is a set of advanced home networking technologies that will enable you to configure multiple computers to use the same modem, the same phone line, and the same ISP (Internet Service Provider) account to simultaneously access the Internet. All you need to add is an inexpensive home networking kit.

In this article, we'll give you step-by-step instructions on how to set up and configure the new Internet Connection Sharing feature on your home network. As we do, we'll explain the technology that makes this feature work.

Internet Connection Sharing overview

Before we show you how to install the Internet Connection Sharing feature, let's take a brief look at what actually goes on behind the scenes. Doing so will help you to understand the Internet Connection Sharing feature as you install, configure and use it.

As you may know, when your computer dials an ISP and makes a connection, the ISP's server assigns your computer an IP address. This unique address is like a ticket that identifies your computer and allows it to access and communicate with other computers on the Internet. Without this IP address, your computer can't connect to the Internet.

With the Internet Connection Sharing feature of Windows 98 Second Edition, one computer establishes a connection to the Internet through the ISP and receives a unique IP address. This computer, known as the Connection Sharing computer, then lets the other computers on a network borrow its IP



Figure A. - Select the Internet Connection Sharing check box in the Internet Tools dialog box.

address. When the other computers, known as clients, borrow the IP address from the Connection Sharing computer, they can access the Internet over your home network without having a direct connection to the Internet or their own IP addresses.

Prerequisites

In order to install the Internet Connection Sharing feature, all your computers must meet certain prerequisites. First, each computer must have a network card installed and be connected to the home network.

The computer acting as the Connection Sharing computer must already be configured to connect to the Internet through an ISP. The client computers must be running Windows 98 or Windows 95 and be using version 3.0 or later of either Internet Explorer or Netscape Navigator. Each client computer must also have

the TCP/IP network protocol installed. (If you need assistance installing the TCP/IP network protocol, access the Windows 98 Help system, search for TCP/IP, and locate the topic titled "To install a network protocol.")

Installing Internet Connection Sharing

To set up Internet Connection Sharing, select the computer that will act as the Connection Sharing computer on your home network.

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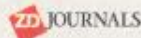
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Part Number: 0999 098-85607

Now, on this computer, open Control Panel and double-click on the Add/Remove Programs icon. When you see the Add/Remove Programs Properties dialog box, select the Windows Setup tab. Then, scroll through the Components list, select the Internet Tools component, and click the Details button. When you see the Internet Tools dialog box, select the Internet Connection Sharing check box, as shown in Figure A on page 1.

To continue, click OK twice — once to close the Internet Tools dialog box and once to close the Add/Remove Programs Properties dialog box. You'll then be prompted to insert your Windows 98 Second Edition CD-ROM and Setup will install the Internet Connection Sharing feature.

The Internet Connection Sharing Wizard

Once Setup finishes the installation procedure on your Connection Sharing computer, it launches the Internet Connection Sharing Wizard, which guides you through the process of creating the Client Configuration Disk. You'll use this disk to reconfigure the browsers on the client computers on your home network to communicate with the Connection Sharing computer.

The first screen in the Internet Connection Sharing Wizard is the introductory screen; read over the instructions before you proceed. When you click the Next button, the Internet Connection Sharing Wizard informs you that it's now ready to create the Client Configuration Disk.

When you click Next, you're prompted to label a floppy disk and insert it into your computer's floppy disk drive. When you click OK, the Internet Connection Sharing Wizard creates the Client Configuration Disk.

Once the Wizard creates this disk, it prompts you to remove it and click OK. Then, click Finish to complete the Wizard. At this point, you'll be prompted to restart your computer.

Configuring your clients

While your Connection Sharing computer is restarting, you can begin configuring the client computers. The first thing that you have to do on your client computers is to make sure that the TCP/IP settings for the network card are configured correctly. To do so, open Control Panel and double-click on the Network icon. When you see the Network dialog box, scroll through the list of components and select the TCP/IP component that's connected, or bound, directly to your network card.

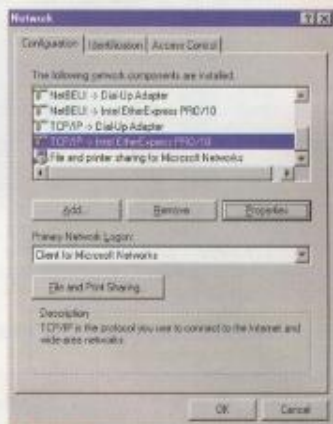


Figure B. - Select the TCP/IP component that's connected to your network card in the Network dialog box.

For example, if you have an Intel Ether Express network card in a client computer, you'd select the TCP/IP component that's bound to the network card, as shown in Figure B. Then, click the Properties button.

When you see the TCP/IP Properties



Tips & Techniques

Customizing the Quick Launch toolbar in Windows 98

If you like using the Quick Launch toolbar but wish that it didn't take up room on the taskbar, you'll be happy to know that you can easily move the Quick Launch toolbar to any other location on the desktop. Simply position your mouse pointer over the vertical bar on the left edge of the Quick Launch toolbar. When your cursor turns into a double-headed arrow, just drag the Quick Launch toolbar to any location on the desktop. You can anchor it to the top, left, or right edge of the desktop, and resize it like any other window. Once you have it positioned where you want, you can then right-click on the toolbar and select the Always On Top command so that you can always access the Quick Launch toolbar just like you can the taskbar.

To add application or file shortcuts to the Quick Launch toolbar, simply drag and drop an icon anywhere onto the toolbar, and drag them off onto the desktop or other location to remove them.

for more Windows 98 tips:
www.microsoft.com/insider/mi/windows98.htm

dialog box, as shown in **Figure C**, you need to make sure that the TCP/IP settings are correctly configured. On the IP address tab, make sure that the Obtain An IP Address Automatically check box is selected. Then, click the WINS Configuration tab and make sure that the Use DHCP For WINS Resolution check box is selected. Next, click the Gateway tab and make sure that the Installed Gateways list box is empty. Now, select the DNS Configuration tab and make sure that the Disable DNS option is selected.

To complete the operation, click OK twice — once to close the TCP/IP Properties dialog box and once to close the Network dialog box. You may then be prompted to restart your computer.

The Browser Connection Setup Wizard

Once you've made sure that your TCP/IP settings are correctly configured on your client computers, run the Browser Connection Setup Wizard on each client computer on your home network. To begin, insert the Client Configuration Disk into the floppy disk drive, access Start/Run, and type A:\mscset.exe in the Open text box. Now, click OK.

You'll see the Browser Connection Setup Wizard's introductory screen, which contains a few instructions that you should read over before you proceed. As the instructions state, make sure that the Connection Sharing computer is already connected to the Internet.

When you click Next, the Wizard will inform you that it will now check and change



Figure C. - You need to make sure that the TCP/IP settings are correctly configured.

your browser's connection settings. To continue, simply click Next again.

You'll then see the final screen in the Browser Connection Setup Wizard. Select the check box to immediately connect to the Internet through the Connection Sharing computer. Now, click Finish.

As soon as you do, the browser on your client computer will launch, connect to the Internet through the Connection Sharing computer, and open your home page. Once you run the Browser Connection Setup Wizard on all the client computers, you can surf the Internet from any computer on your home network. To do so, just connect the Connection Sharing computer to the Internet and then launch the browser on a client computer. ■

Show Me the Difference

Microsoft® Windows 98 Second Edition is the most recent version of the Microsoft Windows operating system. To learn more, visit www.microsoft.com/insider/mi/windows98.htm.

| | Windows 95 | Windows 98 Second Edition |
|-------------------------------------|------------|---------------------------|
| Enhanced user interface | ✓ | ✓ |
| 32-bit architecture | ✓ | ✓ |
| Plug and Play capability | ✓ | ✓ |
| Long filename support | ✓ | ✓ |
| Internet access | ✓ | ✓ |
| Improved multimedia support | ✓ | ✓ |
| Windows Maintenance Wizard | | ✓ |
| Automated Windows Update | | ✓ |
| FAT32 File system | | ✓ |
| HTML-based Help | | ✓ |
| Web TV® for Windows | | ✓ |
| Multiple monitor support | | ✓ |
| Internet Connection Sharing | | ✓ |
| Windows Media™ Player 6.1 | | ✓ |
| NetMeeting® 3 Conferencing Software | | ✓ |



Tips & Techniques

Upgrade easily to Windows 98 Second Edition

Whether you have Windows 98 or Windows 95, there's a fast and easy way to upgrade to Windows 98 Second Edition.

To upgrade from Windows 98, you can get the Windows 98 Second Edition Updates CD. The CD updates your system to include all the complete Second Edition features: Internet Explorer 5, Outlook® Express 5, NetMeeting 3, DirectX® 6.1, Windows Media Player 6.1, the Service Pack for Windows 98, better Year 2000 security, several system enhancements, Internet Connection Sharing, support for broadband Internet access, and more. You can only order the Updates CD online at www.microsoft.com/insider/mi/win98order.htm. The cost of the CD is \$19.95.

If you already have Windows 98, you can also download the components of the Windows 98 Service Pack from the Windows Update Web site (www.microsoft.com/insider/mi/winupdate.htm) or download Internet Explorer 5, NetMeeting, and Windows Media Player separately. Go to www.microsoft.com/insider/mi/win98sefaq.htm for more details.

To upgrade from Windows 95, you can get Windows 98 Second Edition Upgrade at shop.microsoft.com or at a retail store near you. The estimated retail price of the Second Edition upgrade is the same price of upgrading to the original Windows 98. Reseller prices may vary.

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