J Drive – Remote Access - XP

By Eric Dietenberger, IT Consultant
Introduction

The purpose of this document is to provide information on accessing the SBA J drive using the Internet. The technique used to accomplish this uses a technology known as WebDAV (Web Distributed Authoring and Versioning). WebDAV is an industry standard technique that is implemented in many operating systems (For more information see www.webdav.org ). It was designed to make it possible to share and exchange documents over the Web. Microsoft has implemented WebDAV in Windows XP. Therefore in order to use the techniques described in this paper you must be running Windows XP. We do not support access to the T drive from other Windows versions (W98, W95, ME, etc.) other than Windows 2000 and Windows Vista. If you would like to access the T Drive with Windows Vista, please refer to the document J Drive – Remote Access - Vista.

Step One – Network Places

In WXP there are a number of ways to create a Network place. If you click on “Start” and it displays “My Network Places”, you can click on “My Network Places” to launch the Wizard. If you don’t see “My Network Places” in your Start Menu, you can access it by right clicking on “My computer”, then click Explore. You should now see “My Network Places” at the bottom of the folder/tree display.

- Right Click on “My Network Places” and click on “Open” and you should see a screen similar to the following:
Click on “Add a network place” to launch the wizard.

Click on “Next”
Step Two – Location

After you select “Choose another Network Location” and click on “Next” and you will see the following screen:

Enter the web site name http://jdrive.sba.uwm.edu/jdrive and click on “Next”.

Step Three – Authentication

At this point you need to enter your SBA userid and password. The user id should be prefixed with “sba\”. For example if your userid is efudd, then enter “sba\efudd” (without the quotes) as in the example. You may check or uncheck the “Remember my password” box as desired. Click on OK.

Note: You may be asked to enter your password twice.
Step Four – Connecting

You can call the Network place anything you want.

Finally, click on finish and you will get one screen similar to the following:

Click on Finish and you are done.
**Step Five – Using**

A Network place can be used through a Windows Explorer interface just as you would a local drive or folder. Simply open Network Places, click on the name of the Network place that you created in the steps above (If you have logged off, you may need to re-enter your userid and password) and you will see an display similar to the following:

![Network Place in Windows Explorer](https://example.com/network-place.png)

You can copy, create, delete, rename files/folders just as you would in Windows Explorer.

Many applications can save files directly to a network place. For example, from an Microsoft Office application, you can if you click on Save, you can select “Network Places” and then select the name that you assigned to your Network Place and store the file directly. Other applications such as Notepad cannot save directly to a Network Place. However, you may notice that saving directly from applications requires you to re-enter you userid and password multiple times. To avoid this simply use the explorer interface to copy, move, rename and delete files. It may take a little experimentation to find the best method of operation.

Finally be aware that while Network Places makes it look like you have a local folder, you are still subject to the limitations of your network link’s speed. In other words, if you try and copy/save a large file using a dial up connection, it will still take a long time.
General Notes

- This procedure may not work through all firewalls. The fact that it uses standard HTTP decreases the chances of problems due to firewalls. If you are having problems, however, you should try to temporarily disable your firewall to see if that corrects the problem.

- Network places are stored in a User’s profile. There is no equivalent of the “All Users” concept for Network Places. Therefore if you have multiple users on your computer, you will need to define Network Places for each user individually.

- If you are in a class where you have an individual homework folder and you are in another class where you have a team homework folder you will only be able to access one folder at a time. If you want to switch to the other id, you will need to logoff and re-logon. When you access Network Places, it will re-authenticate and you can now enter your other id and password.