

DFS Information

What is DFS?

Distributed File System (DFS) is a scalable Windows-based solution for file sharing. DFS allows files to be stored across multiple servers, while letting users access those files using simplified pathnames.

Why are we making the change to DFS?

Currently, your data is being stored on Steamboat and Admiralad. We are moving/migrating the data to a Microsoft DFS that we expect to provide a reliable and scalable solution for network file storage.

What changes can we expect with the move to DFS?

How Users Currently Access Files

Users access network-based files using a UNC (Universal Naming Convention) path that specifies where their files are located.

For Faculty and Staff, the K: drive points to `\\steamboat\username`. The **My Documents** folder resides there.

Shared departmental drives (N: through Z:) point to `\\steamboat\sh_deptshare` or `\\admiralad\sh_deptshare`, depending on where the share is physically stored.
(Note: New faculty/staff must explicitly request access to departmental shares)

UNIX home directories may be accessed using the UNC path `\\jinx.umsl.edu\username`

How Users Will Access Files Through DFS

With the conversion to DFS, faculty and staff will access files using simplified paths. It will no longer be necessary to know whether files are on steamboat or admiralad. Most of these changes should be fairly transparent in that we will manage system drive mappings to departmental shares and MyDocument redirection centrally.

Faculty and Staff K: Drives and My Documents:

The new path for John Adams (adamsj) would be `\\stl.umsl.edu\steamboat\a\adamsj`
(Hint: The "a" folder before "adamsj" contains all accounts that begin with "a")

More examples:

John Smith (smithjo) would be `\\stl.umsl.edu\steamboat\s\smithjo`

Thomas Jefferson (jeffersonth) would be `\\stl.umsl.edu\steamboat\j\jeffersonth`

DFS Information

Departmental Drives:

The new path for departmental shares `\\stl.umsl.edu\deptshare\sh_deptshare` (regardless of whether the share was on admiralad or steamboat)

Examples:

sh_aca would be `\\stl.umsl.edu\deptshare\sh_aca`

sh_gps would be `\\stl.umsl.edu\deptshare\sh_gps`

UNIX home directories:

You may continue to access your UNIX home directory from `\\jinx.umsl.edu\username`.

How will the transition occur?

The final phase will migrate any remaining files or updates to files that previously migrated. During this phase we will need to ensure that all files are closed and in a state in which they can be successfully migrated. We expect to schedule this task during off-peak hours so as to cause the least amount of disruption as possible, but it will be necessary to have everyone off of Steamboat and Admiral at that time. We plan to complete this process over the holiday break beginning the morning of Friday, December 26, 2008, and continue until complete. We expect to complete this process by Monday, December 29, 2008.

Windows Troubleshooting

We will update the drive mapping with the new UNC paths pointing to `\\stl.umsl.edu`. We have listed some issues that may occur after the change.

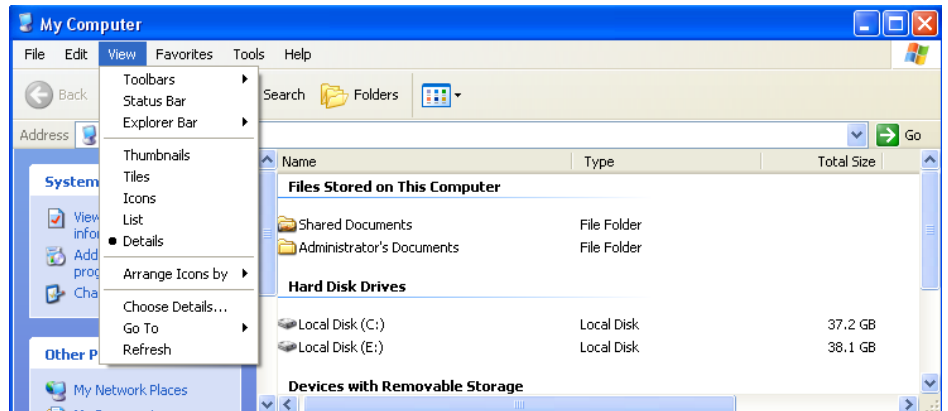
My Drives Disappeared, What Do I Do?

If mapped drives do not appear, you should be able to manually map drives.

- Check **My Computer** for Drive Mappings
 - a. If you are trying to access files from a personal drive (K:), check to see if the K: drive is present.
 - b. If you are trying to access files from a departmental drive (typically N: or higher), check to see if the N: drive is present.

DFS Information

- c. If the drive is present, click **View** -> **Details** to verify the UNC path of the drive.



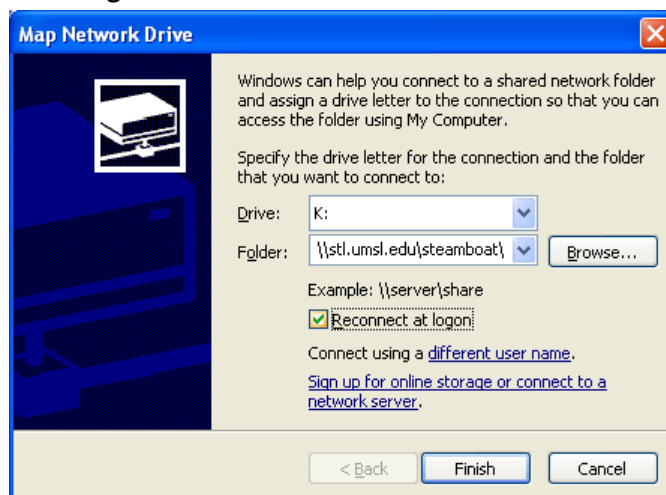
- Manually mapping the shared drive

- a. If you do not see the drive in My Computer, you can manually map the drive.

- i. If My Computer is open, click **Tools** -> **Map Network Drive**

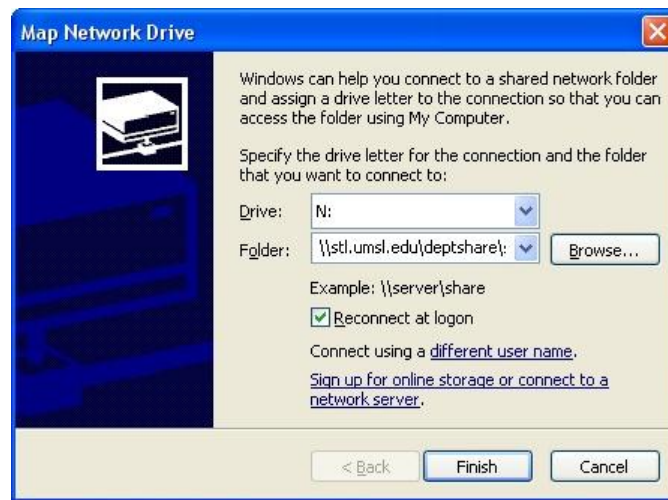


- ii. If your K: drive is missing, select K: for drive. For the folder, type in the UNC path `\\stl.umsl.edu\steamboat\first_letter_of_last_name\username`. Make sure **Reconnect at Logon** is checked.



DFS Information

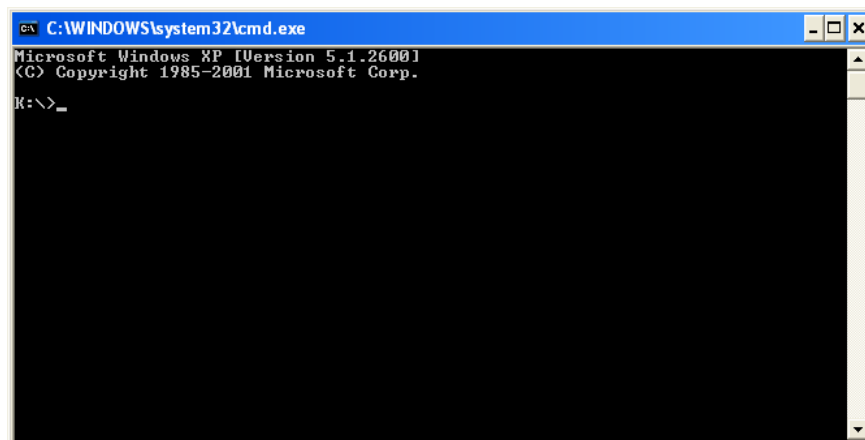
- iii. If your N: drive is missing, select N: for drive. For the folder, type in the UNC path [\\stl.umsl.edu\deptshares\sh_dept](https://stl.umsl.edu/deptshares/sh_dept). Make sure **Reconnect at Logon** is checked.



- iv.

Why is my command prompt pointing to the K: drive?

Due to some configuration changes for DFS, the K: drive will be the default directory when launching a command prompt. There should be no functional impact and this change is merely of a cosmetic nature.



I am unable to access my archives files in Outlook.

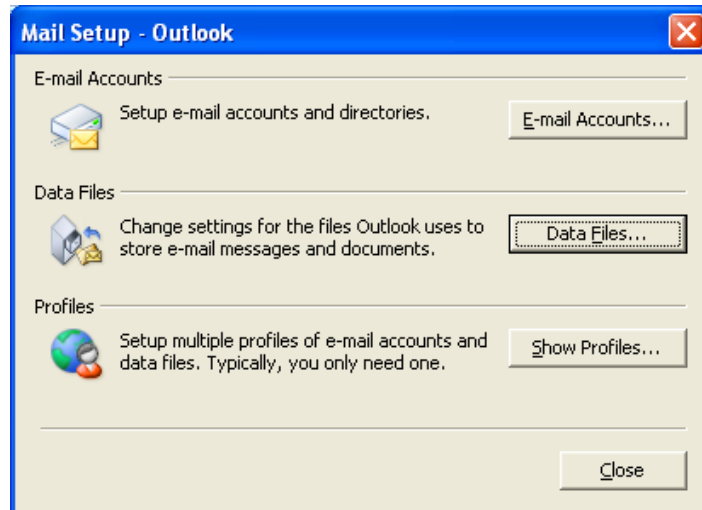
If you are using PST files in Outlook, and the PST files are stored on steamboat, you may need to update the location to the new DFS path.

If your PSTs are stored on your local C: drive, you should not need to change the path.

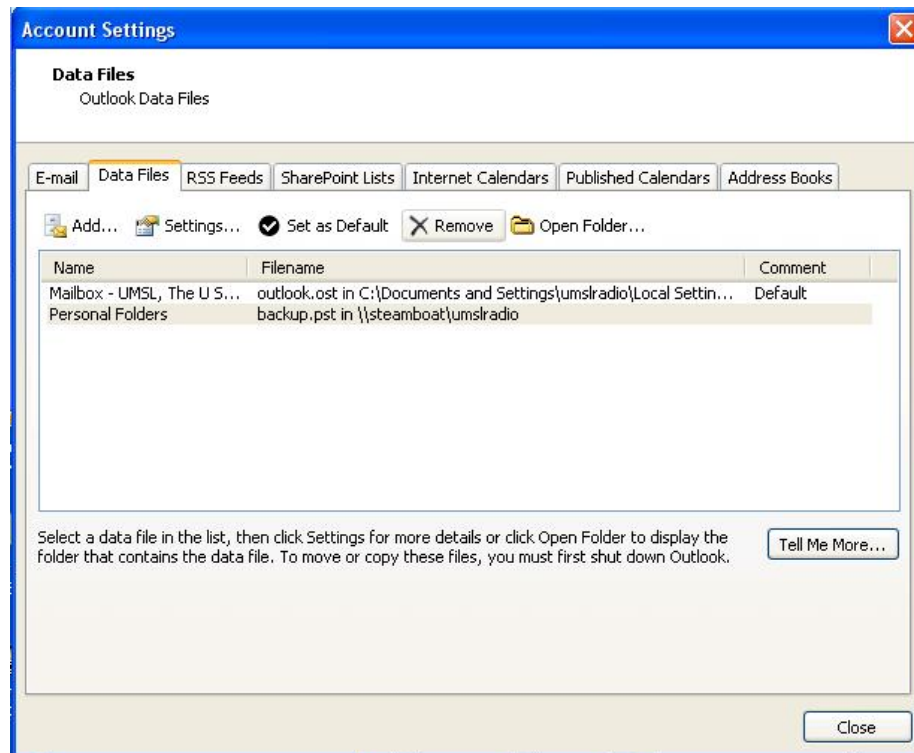
DFS Information

Updating your Outlook configuration to use DFS paths

1. Go to the **Control Panel** and open **Mail**
2. Select **Data Files...**

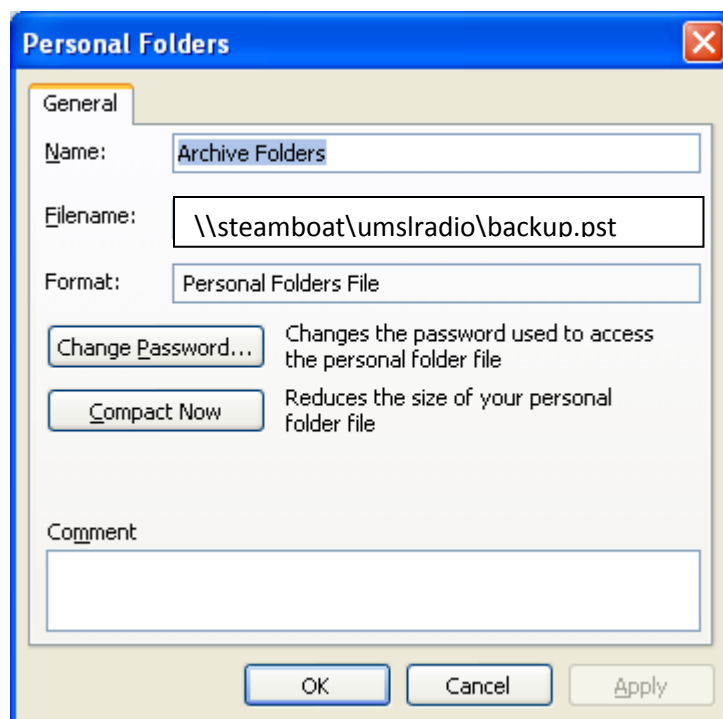


- a.
3. Select a PST file and click **Settings**



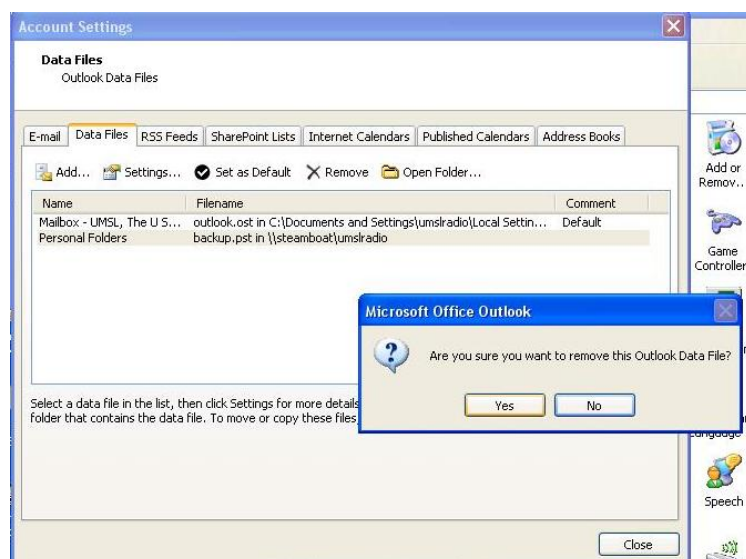
- a.

DFS Information



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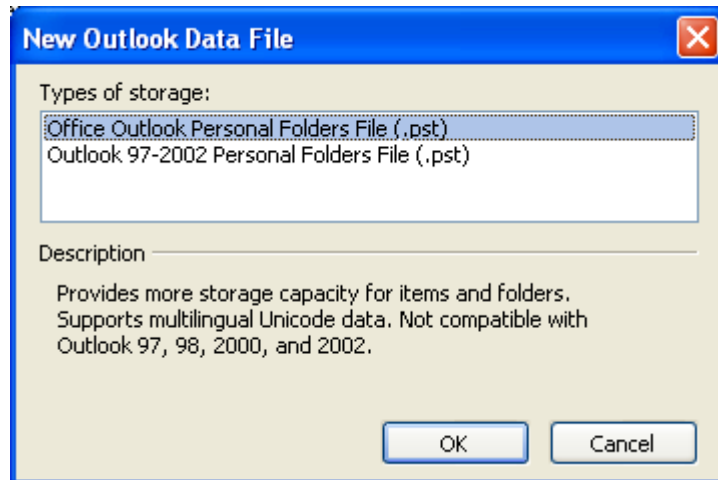
4. Select the text in the filename box and copy location
5. Click OK and then click Remove to remove this old location.



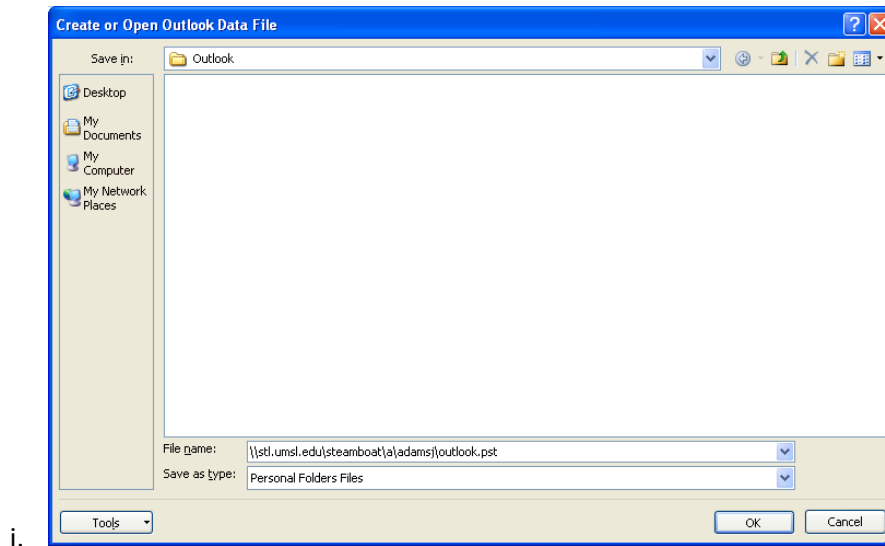
a.

6. Select **Add...** to set the new location and choose **Office Outlook Personal Folders File (.pst)**

DFS Information



- a.
7. Paste the location from the original location in the File name box.
8. Remove the \\steamboat and change the location according to information below:
 - a. Note the original location of the PST file. If the file location began with \\steamboat\username, the new location will begin with \\stl.umsl.edu\steamboat\first_letter_of_last_name\username
 - b. For example, if you stored a PST file at the root of the K: drive, the location would be \\steamboat\username\archive.pst. This will naturally be different if you stored the PST file in MyDocuments or another location.
 - c. If the file was in My Documents, the location would be \\steamboat\username\My Documents\archive.pst



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DFS Information

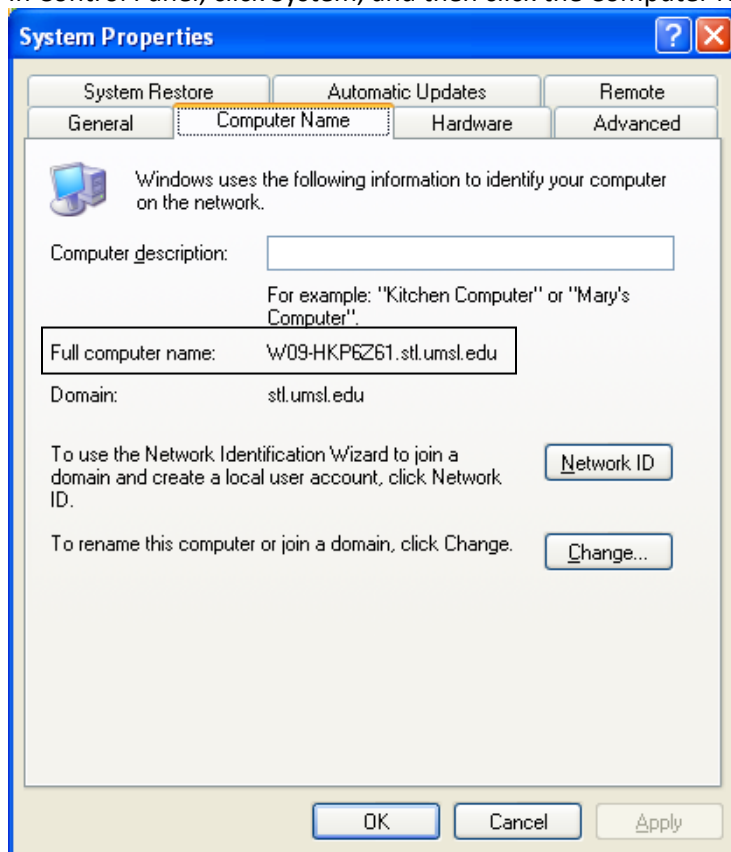
Accessing Your Files From Home

If there is a need to be able to access your network files from home, we suggest using Remote Desktop to connect to your office computer. With Remote Desktop, you can access your office computer and your files in DFS.

Before you do this, you will need to know the computer name for your office computer.

To find the computer name:

1. Click Start – Settings – Control Panel
2. In Control Panel, click System, and then click the Computer Name tab.



3. Write down the full computer name. You will need this name to connect to your computer remotely.

You will need to install the Cisco VPN client on your home computer. You can access directions for setting up Cisco VPN from <http://www.umsl.edu/technology/support/umslvpn/index.htm>

Once you have your Cisco VPN connection setup, you can now attempt to connect to your office computer.

DFS Information

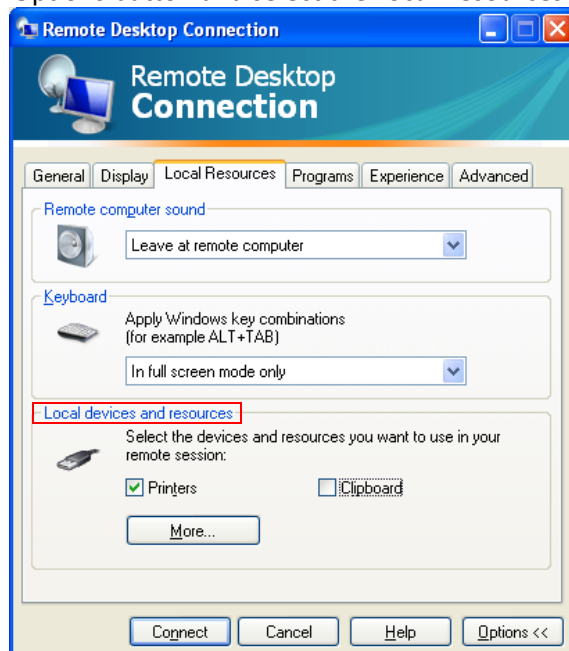
Using Remote Desktop Connection to Access Office Computer

To connect to your office computer, follow these steps:

1. On your home computer, click **Start, All Programs**, and then **Accessories**.
2. In the Accessories menu, click **Communications**, and then click **Remote Desktop Connection**.
3. In the Computer box, type the computer name which you wrote down earlier



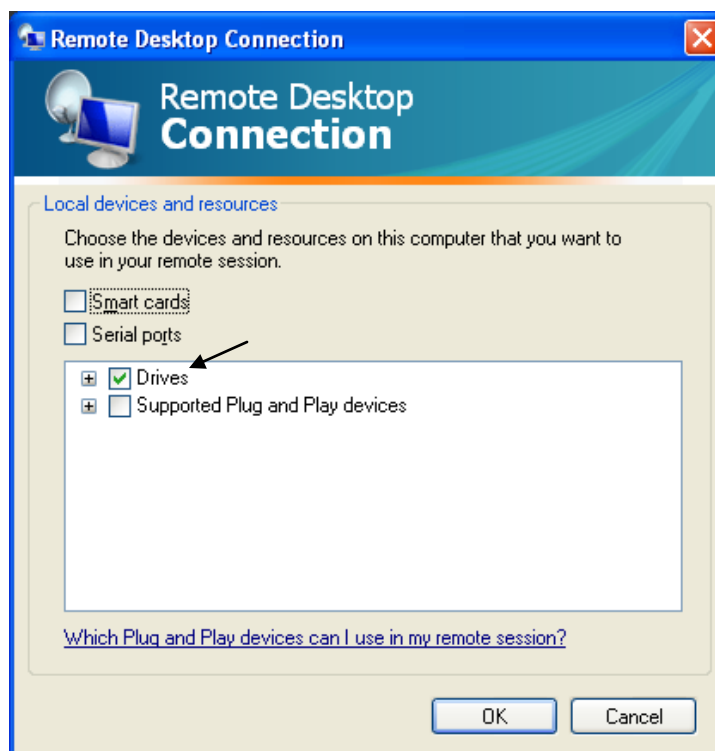
4. Click on Options button and select the Local Resources tab.



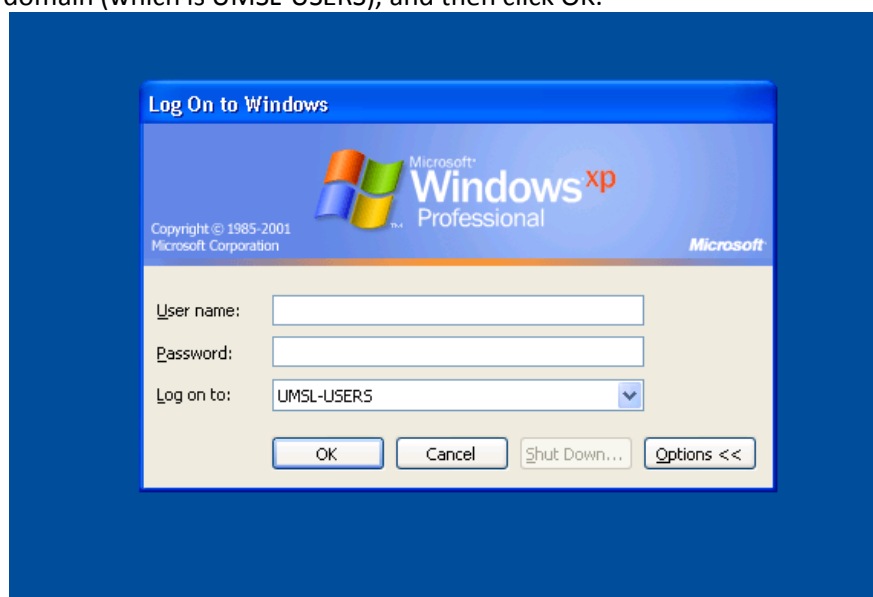
You can select Printers, under Local devices, if you would like to be able to print any documents from your office computer to your home printer.

DFS Information

5. Click More under “Local Devices and Resources” and select Drives.

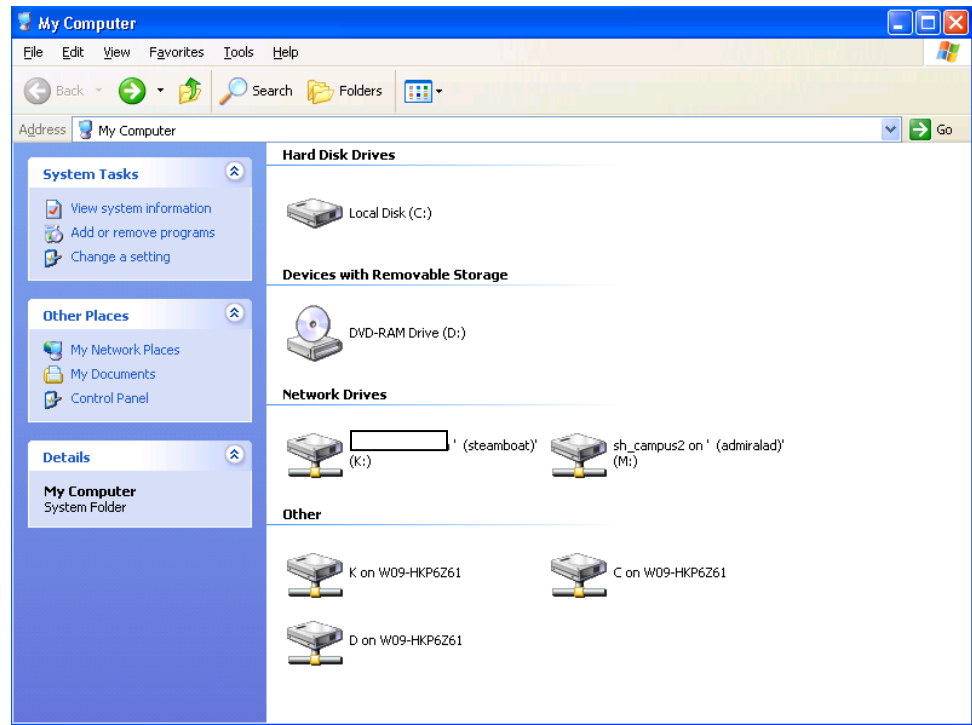


- a. This will connect your home computer drives to your office computer. This will allow you to be able to move files from your home machine to your office machine. Click OK.
6. Click **Connect**.
 7. When the Log On to Windows dialog box appears, type your user name, password, and domain (which is UMSL-USERS), and then click OK.



DFS Information

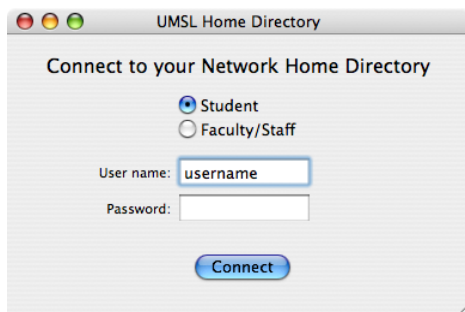
- When you log in, click on My Computer and you should be able to see your drives appear under **Other**. This will allow you to move files from your computer to your office computer .



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Macintosh Troubleshooting

These computers will use the UMSL Home Directory app to access their files.



This app prompts a user for their userid and password plus it prompts them for information on whether that person is a student or faculty/staff. Please note that the application UMSL Samba is being worked on and will be distributed to those persons needing it.

Users can download an updated version of this application on December 29, 2008 from the following link: <http://www.umsl.edu/technology/tsc/dfs.html>