Create a Private Samba Share on Ubuntu 17.04 / 17.10 – Website for Students

Few days ago we showed students and new users how to create public Samba shares on Ubuntu 17.04 / 17.10 systems. The public share had no restrictions. Everyone and anyone could create, modify and delete content from the share.

In some environments, this setup is not very common. There has to be some level of restrictions to protect some information or so data can't get deleted mistakenly. This brief tutorial is going to show you how to create private shares so only those with permissions can create, modify or delete content from there.

For those who don't know, Samba is a opensource implementation of Microsoft SMB/CIFS protocol. It provides fast and secure files and print services for clients using the SMB/CIFS protocol. Simply put, it provides files and printer sharing between clients and servers.

To read our previous post on Samba, please click the link below.:

> Create a Public Samba Share on Ubuntu 17.04 / 17.10

To get started with creating private shares on Samba, follow the steps below:

To get started with creating a public share that can be fully accessed by everyone, continue with the steps below:

STEP 1: INSTALL SAMBA

The first thing you'll need to do is install Samba. To install it run the commands below.

```
sudo apt-get update
sudo apt-get install samba
```

The commands above install Samba and all other dependencies.

STEP 2: CREATE THE SHARE

First, create the folder you want to share with the public. The folder can be anywhere but set its permission so that everyone can access it. For this this tutorial, our share will be **/home/Private**

Run the commands below to create the folder you wish to share.

```
sudo mkdir /home/Private
```

Then set the share permission so everyone has full access to it.

Step 3: Create a private group

After creating the private share above, you should then create a private group that will have access to the shared folder. Only members in the group will be able to access or delete content.

Run the commands below to create a group called **security**

```
sudo groupadd security
```

Next, grant the group access to the folder.

```
sudo chgrp security /home/Private
sudo chmod -R 0770 /home/Private
```

STEP 4: CONFIGURE SAMBA

Now that Samba is installed, you must now configure it to provide file and print services to clients. This can be done by editing its default configurations file. First create a backup of the configuration file by running the commands below.

```
sudo mv /etc/samba/smb.conf /etc/samba/smb.conf.bak
```

Next, run the commands below to open/create a new configuration file.

```
sudo nano /etc/samba/smb.conf
```

Then add the content below into the file and save. Our share will be called Public as defined in the setting below [Private]

```
[global]
workgroup = WORKGROUP
server string = Samba Server %v
netbios name = ubuntu
security = user
map to guest = bad user
name resolve order = bcast host
dns proxy = no
bind interfaces only = yes

# add to the end
[Private]
   path = /home/Private
   writable = yes
   guest ok = no
   read only = no
   browsable = yes
   create mode = 0777
   directory mode = 0777
   valid users = @security
```

Save the file and exit

Step 5: Add members to group

Now that you've created and private group and only want certain users as member, run the commands below for each user you want to add to the group.

```
sudo usermod -G security richard
```

The commands above add the user name richard to the security group.

Then run the commands below for each member of the group to create a Samba password. This is required.

```
sudo smbpasswd -a richard
```

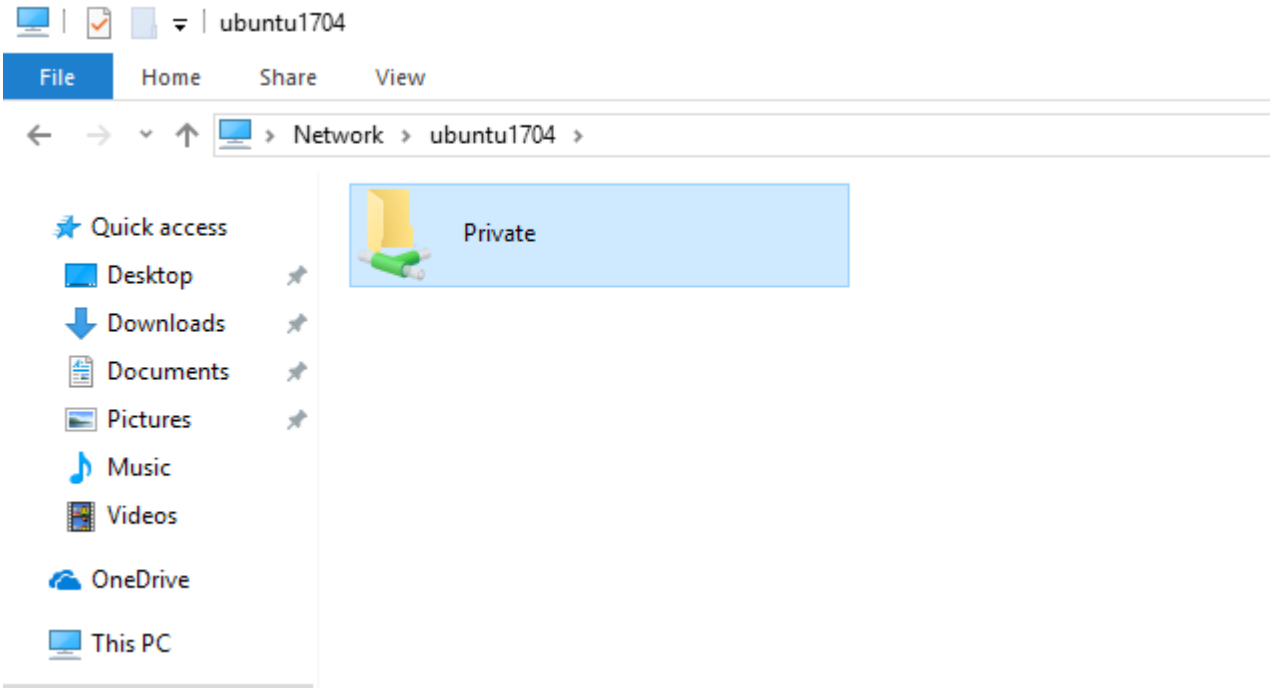
When prompted, create and confirm a new password for richard account.

STEP 6: RESTART SAMBA

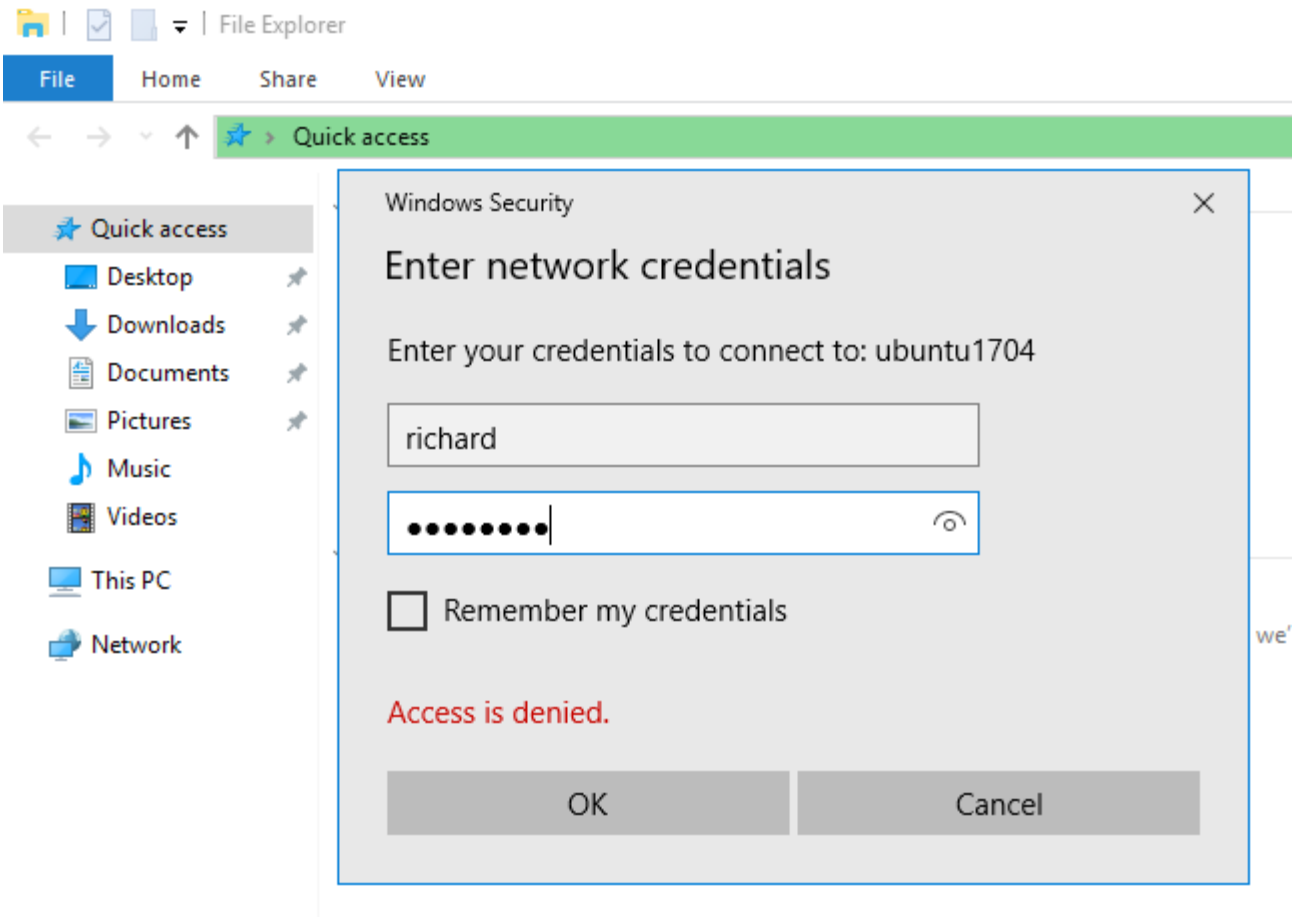
After configuring the setting above, restart Samba by running the commands below.

```
sudo systemctl restart smbd
```

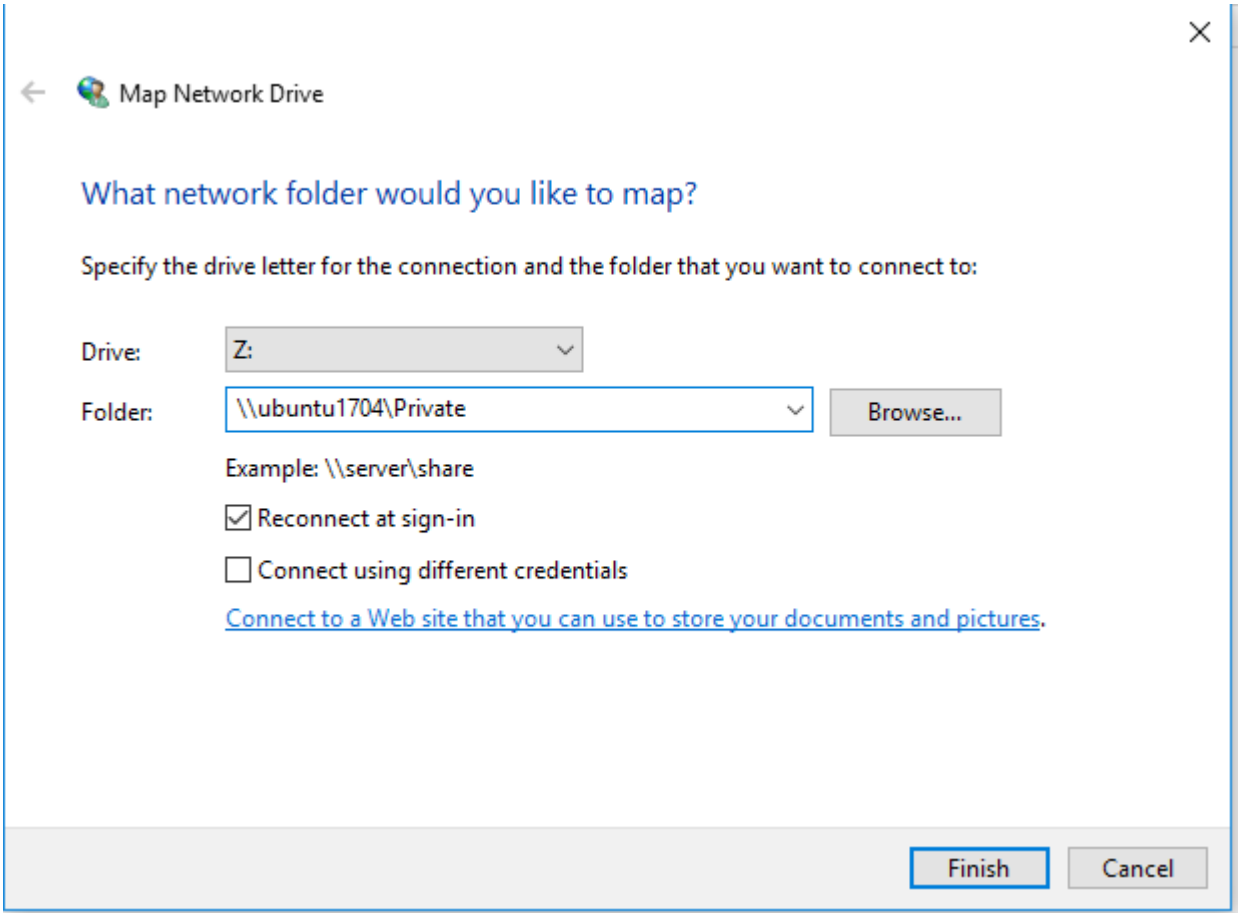
Now go and test the share using richard account.



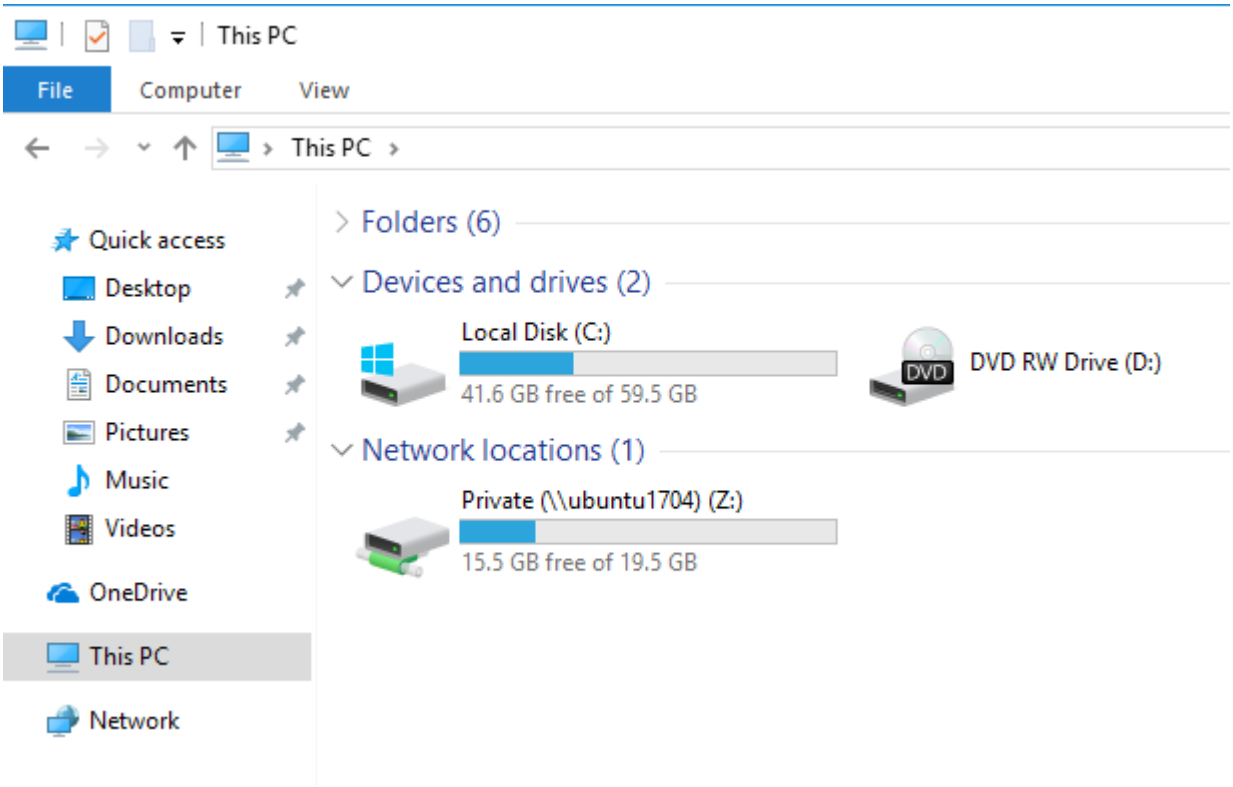
Type the account name and password to access.



You can also map the network location



Access the mapped drive anytime from Windows



That's it!

You may also like the post below:

> Upgrading from Ubuntu 17.04 to 17.10 (Artful Aardvark)

About The Author

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This post was not created by a robot! My name is Richard and spend my spare time searching for ways to help students and new users get to know and understand Linux, Ubuntu, Windows, and Open Source software.I try to write every article as simple-to-understand as possible so anyone can easily follow. This site is dedicated to IT students and new users who want to learn about these subjects. Thanks!