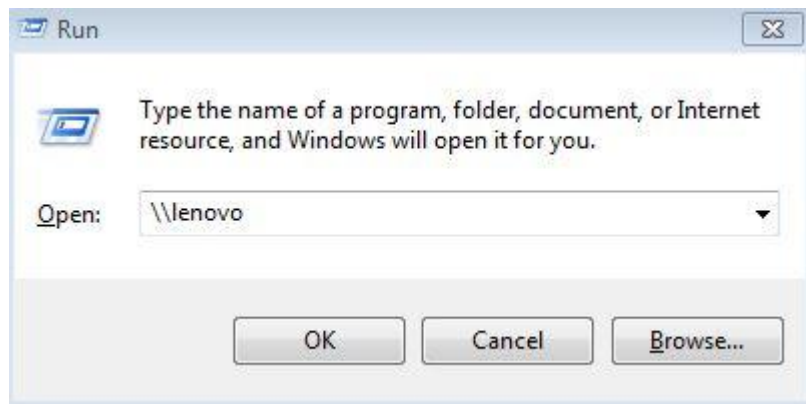


# CREDENTIAL MANAGER IN WINDOWS 7

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## What is Credential Manager

Whenever we try to access some resource, whether it is local or remote resource, Windows always validates our credentials to make sure we have rights to access that resource. To avoid entering our credentials every time, we can use Credential Manager to save our credentials. That way Windows will automatically use credentials from the Manager, instead of asking us to enter them. In our case we will try to access files on remote computer over network. The name of the remote computer is "lenovo". We will use the UNC path to access that computer. UNC path is:



UNC Path Example

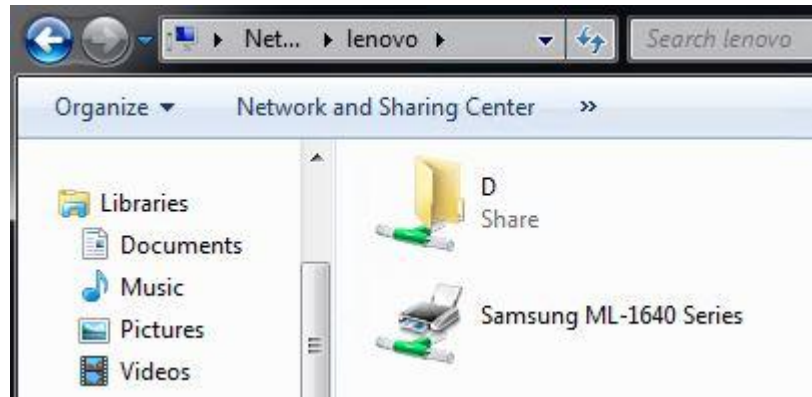
When we click OK, we will be asked to enter our credentials. We will do that now.



Credentials Entered

Notice that we can check "Remember my credentials" box. If we don't check that box, we will have to enter our credentials every time we want to access this resource. Remember that in this case our computers are not on a Windows domain. If we were on a domain, Windows would automatically check our credentials against Active Directory. Since we are working with local user accounts, we must specify the name of the computer where the user is located. This is because every computer in the Workgroup environment has its own users. That's why we have entered "lenovo\mediacenter" as the user name, "lenovo" being the name of the computer, and "mediacenter" being the actual username. So, we have to know the username and password information located on the computer that we want to connect to. This is how Workgroup environment works. We will also check the "Remember my credentials" box.

Once we click OK, if we entered credentials correctly, we will be connected to the Lenovo computer. We can see that there is one shared folder and one shared printer on that computer.



Connected to Lenovo

If you are unable to connect to the remote machine, and you are sure that you have entered username and password correctly, make sure that remote access and sharing is enabled on your remote machine. You can do that in Network and Sharing Center under Advanced Sharing Settings.

## Managing Credentials

Since we have chosen to save our credentials we will be able to access our remote resource without entering our credentials again. But the question is, where are those credentials saved? The answer is the Security Vault which we can manage using the Credential Manager located in Control Panel.

## Store credentials for automatic logon

Use Credential Manager to store credentials, such as user names and passwords, in vaults so you can easily log on to computers or websites.



[Back up vault](#) [Restore vault](#)

### Windows Credentials

[Add a Windows credential](#)

lenovo

Modified: Today



Internet or network address: lenovo

User name: lenovo\madiacenter

Password: ••••••••

Persistence: Enterprise

[Edit](#) [Remove from vault](#)

### Certificate-Based credentials

[Add a certificate-based credential](#)

No certificates.

## Credential Manager

Notice that under Windows Credentials section we have saved user name and password for the "lenovo" computer. Here we can edit that credential or remove it from the vault. We can even add additional Windows credentials by specifying the name of the server, username and the password.

Type the address of the website or network location and your credentials

Make sure that the user name and password that you type can be used to access the location.

Internet or network address

(e.g. myserver, server.company.com):

User name:

Password:

## Adding Credentials

We can also enter certificate credentials if we want to authenticate with the resource using certificates or smart cards. We can even enter generic credentials for non-Windows resources like websites or applications.

The screenshot shows the Windows Credential Manager interface. It is divided into three sections, each with a title and an 'Add' button:

- Windows Credentials:** Contains one entry for 'lenovo' with a 'Modified: Today' status and a dropdown arrow.
- Certificate-Based credentials:** Shows 'No certificates.'
- Generic Credentials:** Shows 'No generic credentials.'

## Different Credentials

We can always backup our vault. To do that we can simply click on the "Back up vault" option. In our case we will save them to the Desktop, but for restoring, it is better to save them to removable media.

### Where do you want to back up your stored logon credentials?

We recommend backing up user names and passwords on removable media instead of on your computer hard disk. This will make it easier to restore or transfer them if this computer is damaged.

Back up to:

This backup will include only logon credentials that you've asked Windows to remember. It will not include any credentials saved in your web browser.

## Vault Backup Location

When we click Next, we have to somehow protect those credentials. Before we enter the password for our file Windows 7 wants us to enter Secure Desktop and to

do that we are prompted to press Control+Alt+Delete. Once we are in Secure Desktop we can go ahead and enter a password for our backup file.

### Protect the backup file with a password

**Backup file:** C:\Users\Admin\Desktop\Vault.crd

**Password:**

**Confirm Password:**

Backup Password

Now that we have our credentials backed up, we can always restore them using the "Restore vault" option in Credential Manager.

In Windows 7 we can also link our Windows account to an online ID. With online IDs we can easily access online resources with our online ID. To link our Windows account to an online ID, we can simply click on the "Link online IDs" option.

### Link online IDs with your Windows user account

Linking an online ID with your Windows user account makes it easier to share files and connect to other computers on a network.

[How do I benefit from linking my online IDs with my Windows user account?](#)



Admin  
Administrator

#### → Add an online ID provider

Online ID provider must be installed on your machine in order to link an online ID to your Windows user account. [Click here to install online ID provider.](#)

OK

## Online ID

The first thing we have to do is install an online ID provider. When we click on the "Add an online ID provider" option, we will be redirected to a web page where we can download ID providers. At the time of writing this article there is only one option and that is Windows Live Sign-in Assistant.

### Windows 7 online ID providers

An online ID provider gives you an account for accessing online services, such as e-mail or instant messaging.

After you download online ID provider software, you can link an online user account to a user account on your computer. Once your online ID and your user account are linked, you can access certain features on your computer over the Internet, such as remote media streaming.



Windows Live

With Windows Live ID Sign-in Assistant 7.0, you can link a Windows Live ID to a Windows 7 user account, making it easier to share files and connect to other computers on a network.

[Download](#)

#### Web Page with Providers

So we will download that provider and install it. When the provider is installed, it will be available in the Online ID Provider list.

## Link online IDs with your Windows user account

Linking an online ID with your Windows user account makes it easier to share files and connect to other computers on a network.

[How do I benefit from linking my online IDs with my Windows user account?](#)



The screenshot shows the Windows Credential Manager interface for the 'Admin Administrator' user. It displays a table with two columns: 'Online ID Provider' and 'Online ID'. The 'Online ID Provider' column contains the Windows Live ID logo and the text 'WindowsLiveID'. The 'Online ID' column contains the text 'An online ID from this provider has not been linked' and a blue link 'Link online ID'. Below the table is a green arrow icon followed by the text 'Add an online ID provider'.

Online ID Provider	Online ID
 WindowsLiveID	An online ID from this provider has not been linked <a href="#">Link online ID</a>

[Add an online ID provider](#)

### Installed Providers

When we link our account with our Windows Live ID, we won't have to enter credentials for resources related with that online ID.

Source: <http://www.utilizewindows.com/7/security/473-credential-manager-in-windows-7>