

SMB Client on macOS

Settings for the macOS smb client

1. Create the file `/etc/nsmb.conf` file with the following content

```
[default]
streams=yes
notify_off=yes
soft=yes
port445=no_netbios
protocol_vers_map=6
mc_on=yes
mc_prefer_wired=yes
dir_cache_max_cnt=0
```

2. In a terminal, execute `sudo defaults write com.apple.desktopservices DSDontWriteNetworkStores -bool TRUE`. This disables the creation of `.DS_Store` files on network shares
3. Restart the machine
4. Reconnect all smb shares afterwards.

Details of the `/etc/nsmb.conf` settings

| Setting | Value | Description |
|-------------------------|------------------|---|
| <code>streams</code> | <code>yes</code> | Enables support for NTFS alternate data streams, allowing macOS to read and write metadata and resource forks on SMB shares that support this feature [^1]. |
| <code>notify_off</code> | <code>yes</code> | Disables file and directory change notifications from the server, which can reduce network traffic and prevent unnecessary refreshes in Finder [^4]. |

| Setting | Value | Description |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| <code>soft</code> | <code>yes</code> | Configures soft mounts, meaning that if the server becomes unresponsive, operations will fail quickly instead of hanging indefinitely, improving user experience during network issues [^1]. |
| <code>port445</code> | <code>no_netbios</code> | Specifies that connections should use direct TCP on port 445 without falling back to NetBIOS over port 139, streamlining the connection process [^2]. |
| <code>protocol_vers_map</code> | <code>6</code> | Sets the SMB protocol version compatibility bitmap; <code>6</code> to force SMB 2 or 3 only [^3]. |
| <code>mc_on</code> | <code>yes</code> | Enables SMB Multichannel, allowing multiple connections between client and server to increase transfer speeds and provide redundancy [^7]. |
| <code>mc_prefer_wired</code> | <code>yes</code> | When SMB Multichannel is enabled, this setting prioritizes wired network interfaces over Wi-Fi for better performance and stability [^5]. |
| <code>dir_cache_max_cnt</code> | <code>0</code> | Disables local caching of directory listings, ensuring that you always see the most current files and folders on an SMB share [^6]. |

After modifying `/etc/nsmb.conf`, disconnect and reconnect any mounted SMB shares for the changes to take effect [^8].

[^1]: [MacOS und SMB nerven | Das deutsche Synology Support Forum](#)

[^2]: [nsmb.conf\(5\) man page](#)

[^3]: [How to disable SMB 1 or NetBIOS in macOS](#)

[^4]: [DSM 7.2 - Dateien erscheinen nach dem Löschen wieder und lassen...](#)

[^5]: [Das Verhalten von SMB Multichannel konfigurieren - Apple Support \(LI\)](#)

[^6]: [Disable local SMB directory enumeration caching](#)

[^7]: [Configure SMB Multichannel behavior](#)

[^8]: [Apple macOS smb and /etc/nsmb.conf information - GitHub](#)

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