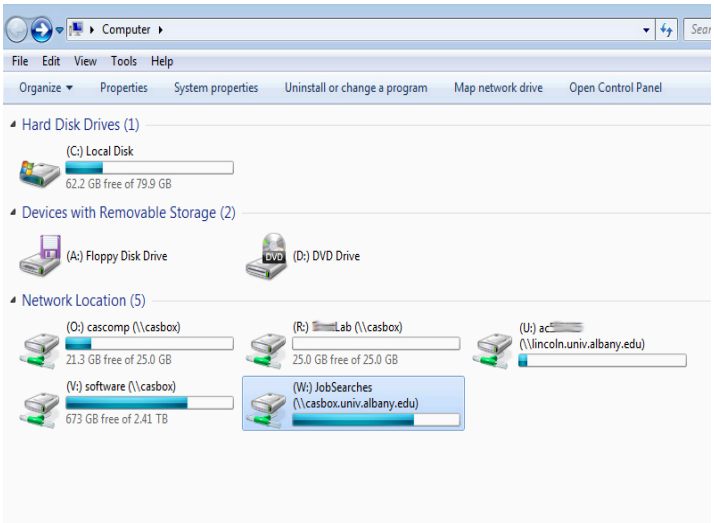
Auto-Mapping Network Shares Exceptions

When University employees of the College of Arts and Sciences log onto any University computer running Windows and connected to the campus Ethernet, several processes will automatically connect (or "map") them to many (or all) of the network shares for which they have been granted access.



These shares include a personal share (often called the "U-drive"), and often, a departmental or office share ("O-drive") and/or one to three research shares ("R-drive", "S-drive" and "Q-drive"). There may also be an additional share or two depending on special access rights assigned to the user.

CAS Computing does provide a way to prevent any shares from automatically mapping because there may be situations in which a user wishes to prevent shares containing sensitive information from appearing by default. For example, logging into a teaching lab or classroom where it can be difficult to keep an eye on the computer the entire time or is easy to overlook logging out.

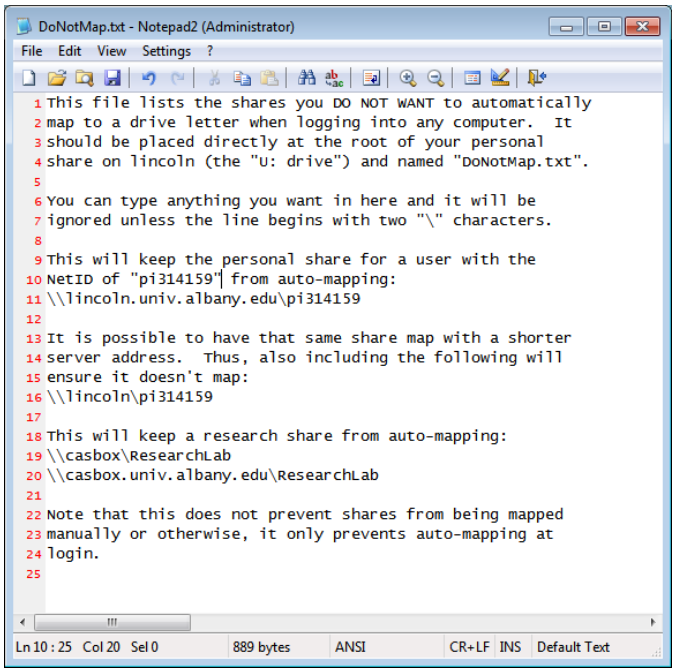
Note**: Not having shared folders mapped is only obfuscation and doesn't truly protect the files therein. The shares can still be mapped manually or accessed at any time without re-entering the username and password; Shares simply will not be assigned to a drive letter and will be non-obvious to most users. **ONLY LOGGING OUT WILL FULLY PREVENT ACCESS TO SENSITIVE NETWORK SHARES.

To prevent specific shares from automatically mapping:

- Create a "DoNotMap.txt" file at the root of the user's personal share ("U-drive"). The file must be plain text. Microsoft Word can save as .txt, but Notepad may be a simpler means for this simple file.
- The file must contain each share path (one per line) which should not be auto-mapped. See below for how to identify a share path. Any additional lines of text will be ignored. An example file is shown to the right.

To identify a share path:

- Look at the network drives on your computer
- Note the name and the server (shown in parenthesis)
- The path is the server concatenated with the name. For example, the O: drive in the picture above, the path is "\\casbox\cascomp".



CAS Computing also provides a way to keep auto-mapped shares on specific computers

To allow specific shares to auto-map on a particular machine:

- Create a "KeepMapped.txt" file in the "C:\Users\<User's NetID>\AppData\Roaming\" folder. Note that this file is on the local computer's hard drive, so no other computers will know of it.
- The format is exactly as the "DoNotMap.txt" file. Only lines starting with "\\" will be read, and any potential share paths they identify will be allowed.
- Share paths listed here are not necessarily mapped; They just won't be blocked from mapping should they also be in the "DoNotMap.txt" list and the system would normally map the share.

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