LogMeIn Hamachi User Manual

PUBLISHED BY

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What is Hamachi?

Hamachi is a zero-configuration virtual private networking (VPN) application.

In other words Hamachi is a program that allows you to arrange multiple computers into their own secure network just as if they were connected by a physical network cable.

Hamachi gives you LAN over the Internet. Virtually any application that works over local/home networks can also be used over Hamachi networks.

Hamachi is a UDP-based virtual private networking system. Its peers utilize the help of a third node called a *mediation server* to locate each other and to bootstrap the connection between them. The connection itself is direct and once it is established, no traffic flows through our servers.

Hamachi is not just truly peer-to-peer; it is verifiably secure peer-to-peer.

Once you have computers hooked up via Hamachi, they will be tricked into thinking that they are on the same local area network (LAN). This leads to a number of wonderful things; some of which are obvious, some not.

LAN Applications

Applications that are designed to work over a LAN will work in the same way over Hamachi. Some notable examples include iTunes, Windows File Sharing and nearly all multiplayer games.

Furthermore, by mounting remote computer shares via Windows File Sharing, Samba or NFS, even LAN-unaware applications can be made to access data over the Internet.

Server Applications

Hamachi builds an analog of a local network, which means that all its computers can act as servers.

This comes in handy when using Hamachi with Windows Remote Desktop and VNC, especially when the target machine is located behind a NAT device.

Private Networking

The Hamachi networking environment is isolated from the Internet and all its traffic is encrypted. Comprehensive security provisions, as well as the direct connectivity nature of Hamachi ensure both the privacy and security of all peer-to-peer communications.

This allows the setting up of private networking services for closed/restricted groups of people ranging from simple FTP or HTTP servers, to other scenarios such as private Torrents, Jabber, TeamSpeak and even network radio stations.

Hamachi is a fully-featured tunneling system that can handle arbitrary network traffic exchanged by Hamachi peers as governed by their routing setup. In particular this feature can be used for:

- Accessing networked devices, such as NAS and printers, that cannot be setup to run Hamachi on their own
- Connecting LAN *segments* via a single Hamachi computer on each LAN
- Setting up secure Web browsing or email access for roaming users

Hamachi also includes a simple traffic shaper and a built-in web proxy.

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How Hamachi Works

Hamachi is a zero-configuration virtual private networking application with an open security architecture and NAT-to-NAT traversal capabilities.

Hamachi is the first application to mix seemingly unrelated networking technologies in one powerful package to deliver an unprecedented level of *direct* peer-to-peer connectivity.

Hamachi is secure. All Hamachi communications are encrypted and authenticated with industry-standard algorithms and protocols. Nobody will be able to see what two Hamachi peers are talking about. Not even us.

However what is equally important; Hamachi security architecture is completely **open** meaning that its detailed description is available to anyone interested in reviewing and validating it.

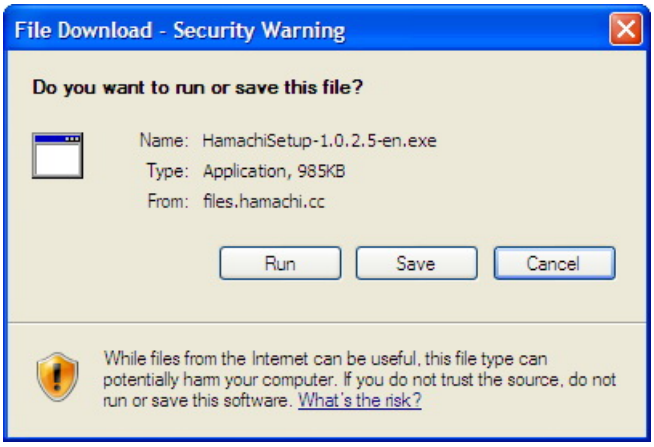
Great effort went into designing and polishing the Hamachi user interface. The result is sleek, simple and intuitive; yet still very functional. Everything you need, nothing you don't.

Hamachi software contains no spyware, bannerware or any other -ware unrelated to its purpose.

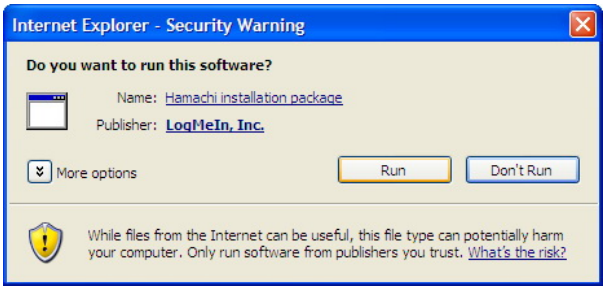
Download

Start by going to the LogMeIn Hamachi home page at https://secure.logmein.com/products/hamachi/vpn.asp, where you should select the Download Now link.

The File Download – Security Warning dialog box will appear. Select Run.



A Security Warning dialog box will appear. Select Run.



The download will start and a progress box will be displayed to inform you of the download status. The file is

<1 MB, so it is usually a short download. A progress bar is displayed during the download:

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Installation

Assuming all runs well, the Hamachi Setup Wizard will appear. To install the program, simply follow the on-screen instructions in the dialog boxes.

You will need to check the I accept the agreement box to be able to continue with the installation.

The file is installed into your Program Files folder by default. You can also select whether to automatically start Hamachi every time you log into Windows and to have the Hamachi shortcut icon, , on your desktop.

First time users should be cautious about leaving the Disable vulnerable Windows services over Hamachi box unchecked. If unchecked this means that other members of the networks you join or create will be able to view any of your shared folders.

There are a number of Support topics regarding file sharing on the Hamachi FAQ and How To? Pages:

http://forums.hamachi.cc/viewtopic.php?t=10109

http://forums.hamachi.cc/viewtopic.php?t=3157

If in doubt, check the Disable vulnerable Windows services over Hamachi box and learn more about the subject before allowing others to access your shared folders.

If you are satisfied that all your settings are fine, select Install and Hamachi will be installed on your machine in the specified folder and with the chosen settings.

You will be notified when the installation is complete:

Exit the setup process by selecting **Finish** and choose whether or not to launch Hamachi on exit. You may be required to reboot your computer to finish the installation. If so, ensure that you save all open files and continue.

Once Hamachi is installed, it may trigger the Windows Security Alert dialog box below. To allow Hamachi to function, so you must unblock Hamachi if the Windows Firewall blocks it. Select Unblock.

Firewalls

If you are running the Windows Firewall, you may be presented with the dialog box below. If so, you need to select **Unblock** to allow Hamachi to access the Internet.

If running other, third-party Firewall applications, you should also ensure that Hamachi is able to run and access the Internet.

If you encounter difficulties with hamachi trying to access the Internet, go to the Hamachi forums pages to see if your Firewall package is covered in the forums.

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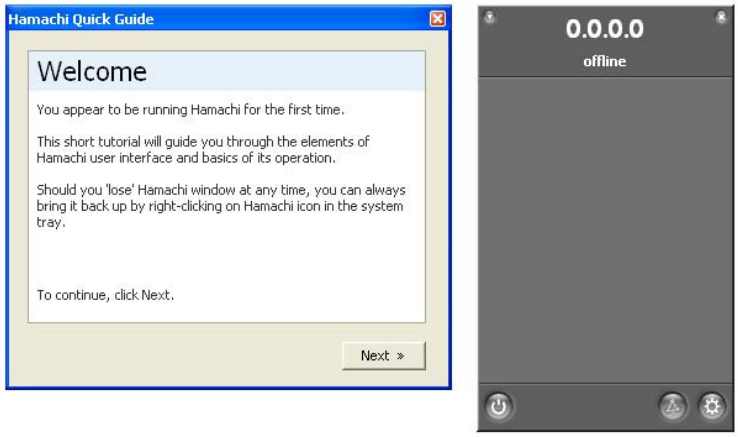
The Hamachi Quick Guide

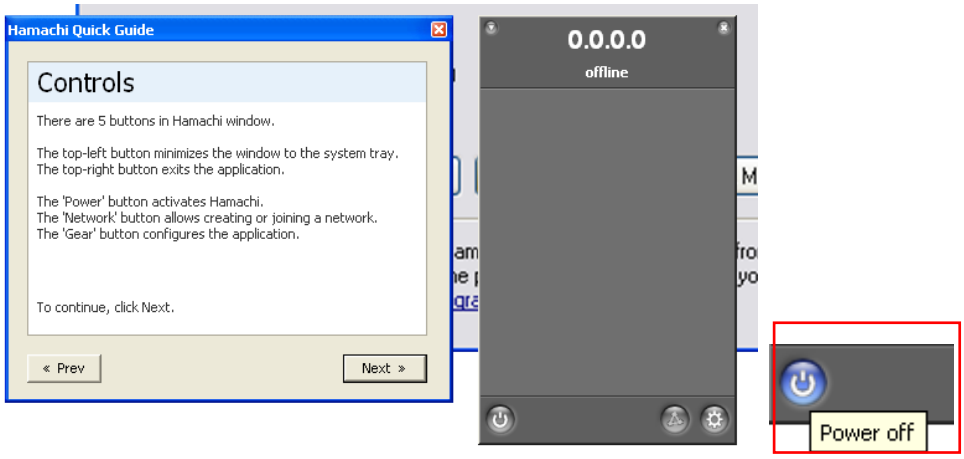
Hamachi detects if you are running the program for the first time and runs a Quick Guide for new users to acquaint themselves with the program basics.

Here is the welcome screen of the mini guide alongside an empty Hamachi user interface. We highly recommend that you follow the guide, as it will show you how to join and create networks. If you do not wish to follow the guide, select .



The first part of the Quick Guide detail the simple user interface (UI).

If in doubt about the location of the various buttons, there are tooltips to ensure you know the function of each button;



Getting a Hamachi Address

Once you are familiar with the layout of the controls, the next stage is to get a Hamachi address.

The figure, 0.0.0.0, at the top of the UI shows that you do not currently have a Hamachi address and you are subsequently offline. Continue by clicking the Power button (highlighted).

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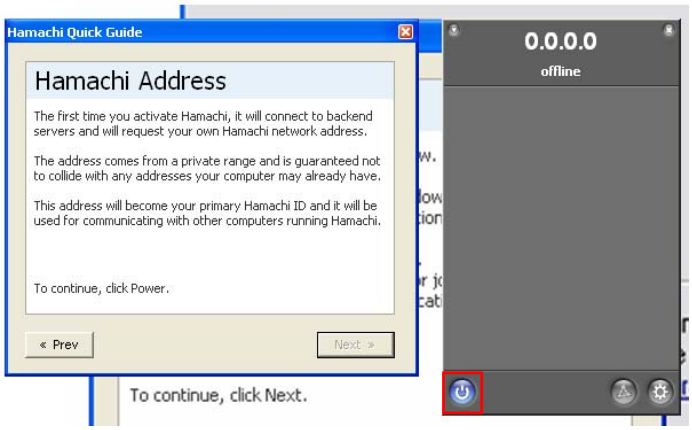
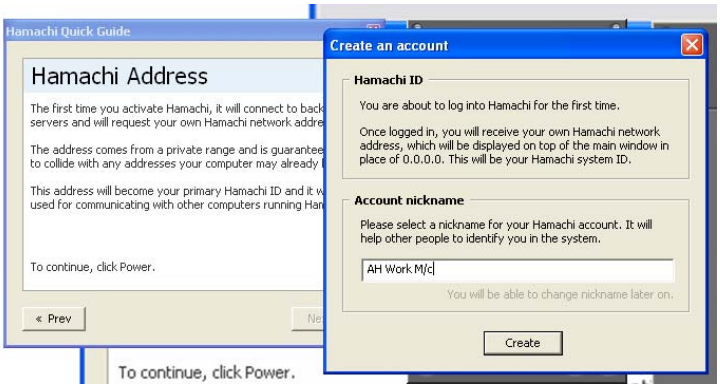
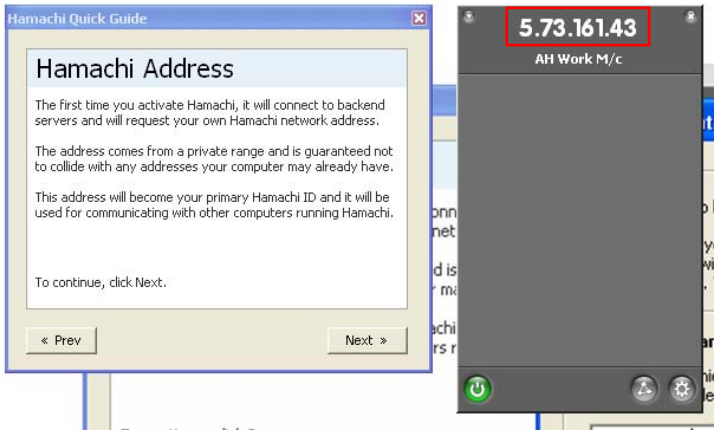


You will need to name your network in the field provided, then select Create.



Hamachi will automatically generate an address for you. This will be the number that appears at the top of the UI, above the network name you created.



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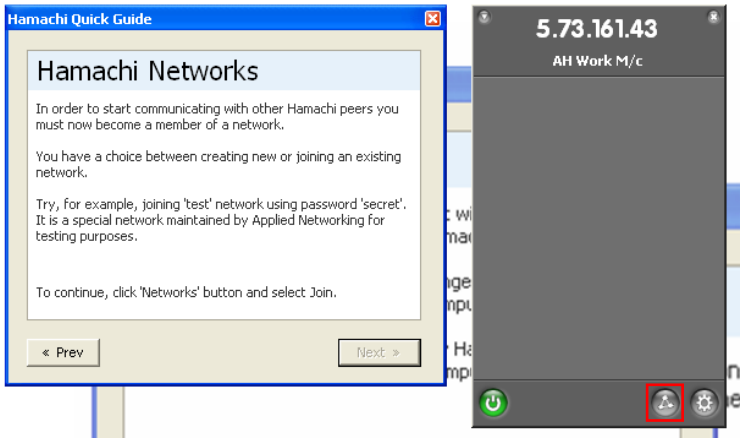
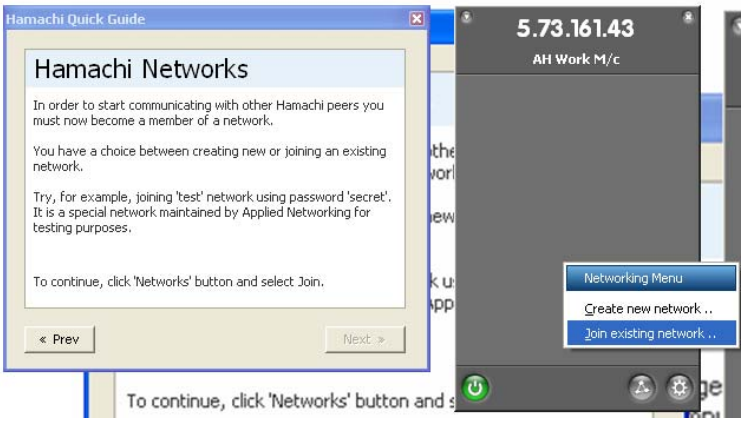
Joining a Network

The next step is to become a member of a network, or to create one yourself. Both steps are simple.

First, click on the Networks button.



In the menu that appears, select Join existing network.



The Quick Guide gives you an example network, test, to join; with secret as the password. In the Join the network dialog box, input the details in the fields and select Join.

The test network then appears in your UI network field, showing that you have joined the network.

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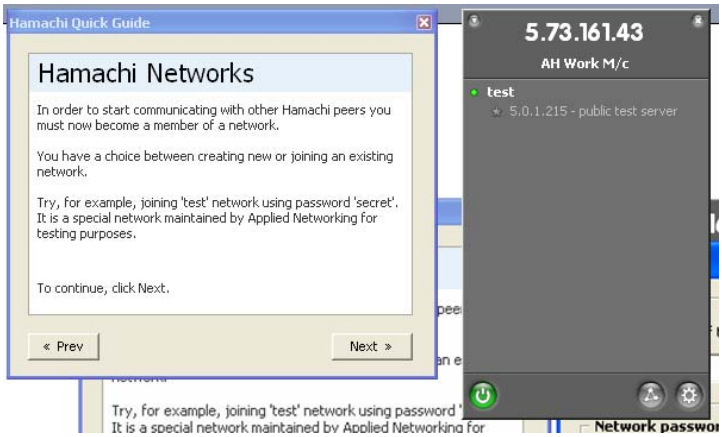
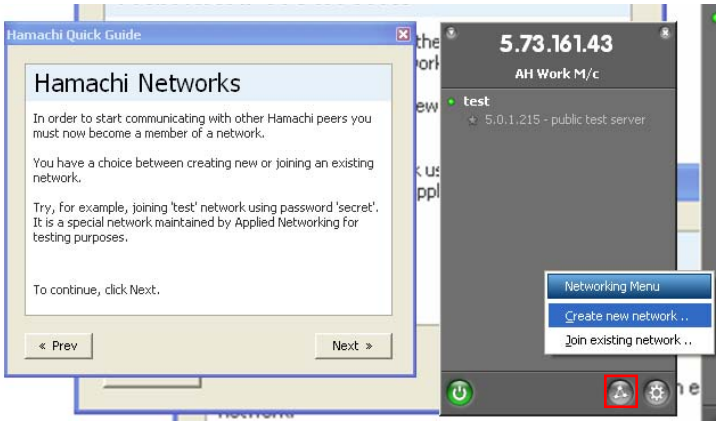
(Of course, if you know the details of another network, feel free to input these into the fields in the Join the network dialog box.)

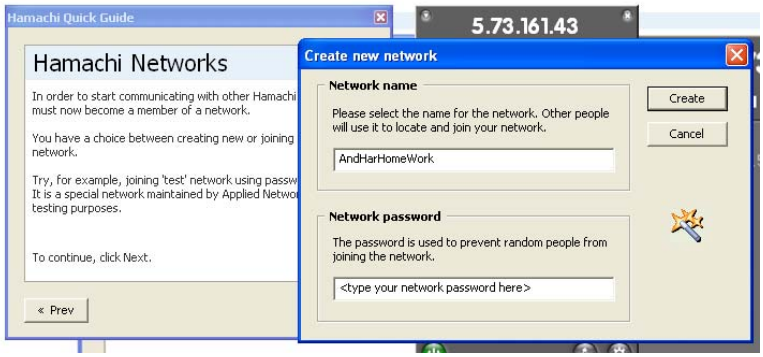


Creating a Network

You may also wish to create your own network. This is done by selecting the Networks button and then the **Create** new network option.



In the **C**reate new network dialog box, you will need to name your network and create a password (between 4 and 64 characters in length) for it. Once you have done this, select Create.



If you try to select Create without creating a name, this will be the result:

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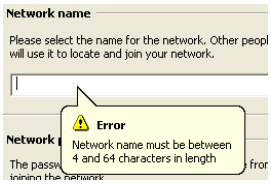
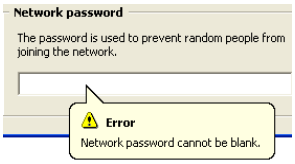
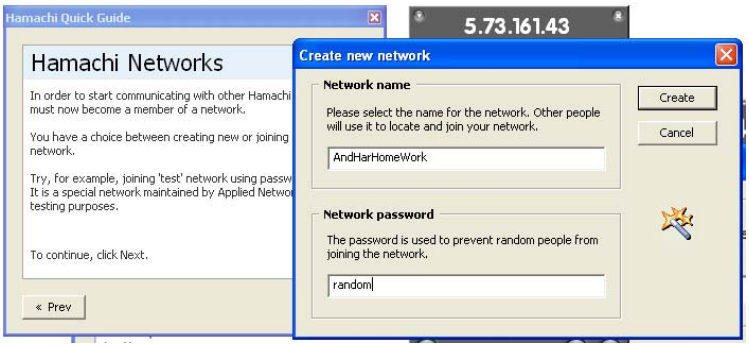


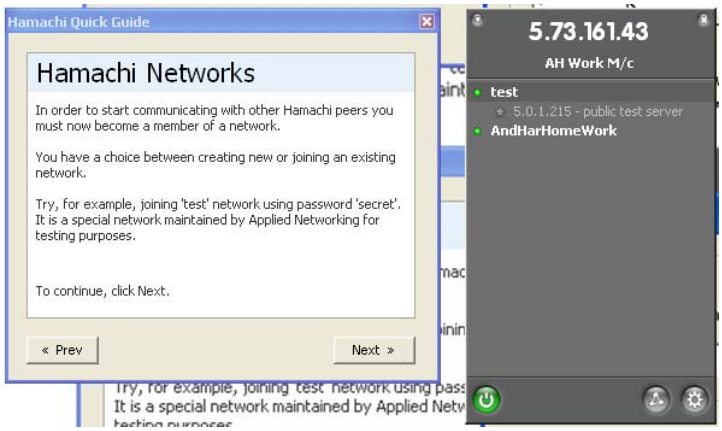
If you try to select Create without creating a password, this will be the result:



Here is an example of a valid network name and password:



The new network now appears in the UI network field. Select Next in the Mini Guide.



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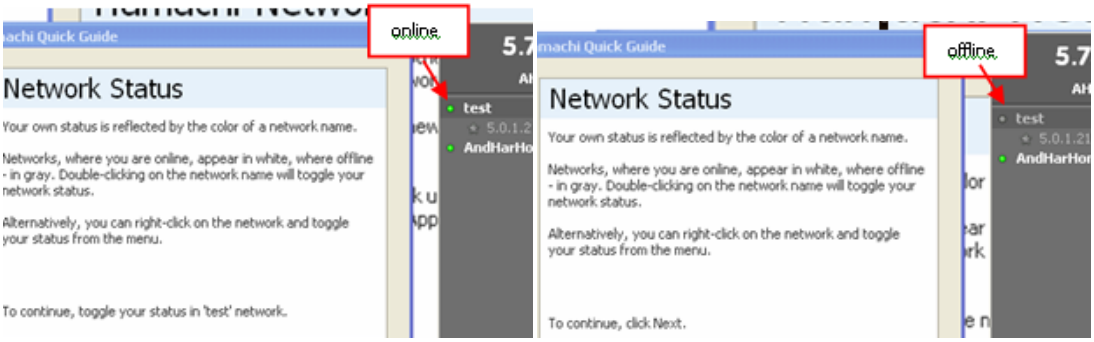
Toggling

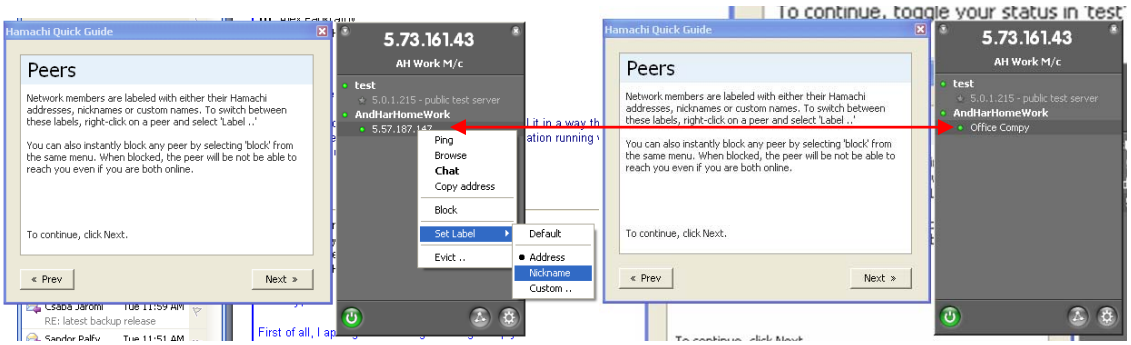
Try toggling your status in a network. Use the Mini Guide example to toggle your status in the test network by double clicking on the network name.



Network Peers

"Peers" are members of a network. You can select how they are displayed in the UI. The choices are to use their Hamachi address, which can seem impersonal, or to use the nickname they have given themselves.

Right click on a peer and select Set Label and then the label you wish to apply. In this example, Nickname has been selected in the UI on the right.



Leaving a Network

Leaving a network created by someone else is done by right clicking on a network in the UI and selecting Leave network.

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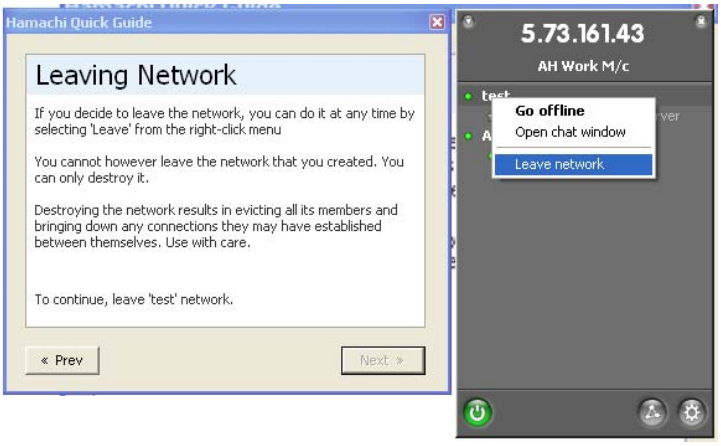
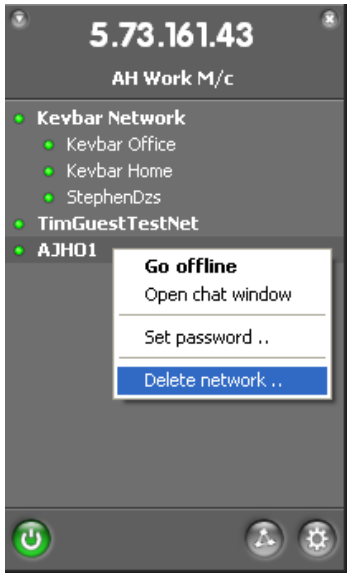


Deleting Your Networks

If you wish to leave a network that you created, the situation is different. In effect, you do not leave a network in this case, but you destroy it. Be careful with this option, as it will completely sever all the connections between all other members of that network and is irreversible.

It is done by right clicking on your network and selecting Delete network.

Once you confirm the action, the network will disappear from the UI.



Telling others about your network

And that's it! You now have a Hamachi address that you can give to other people. Your Hamachi network will allow you to interact with network peers just as if they were on a LAN.

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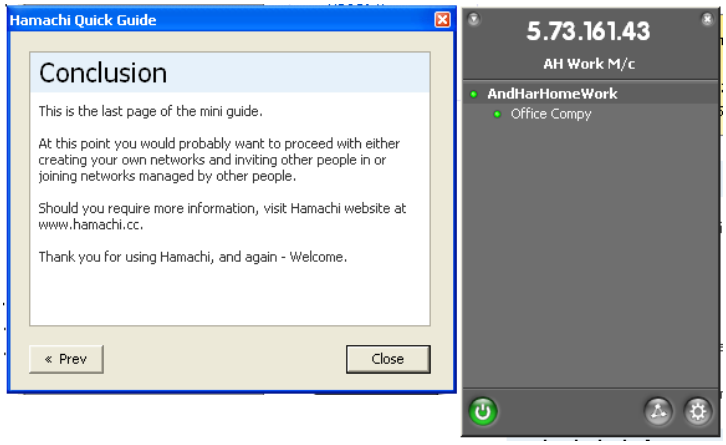
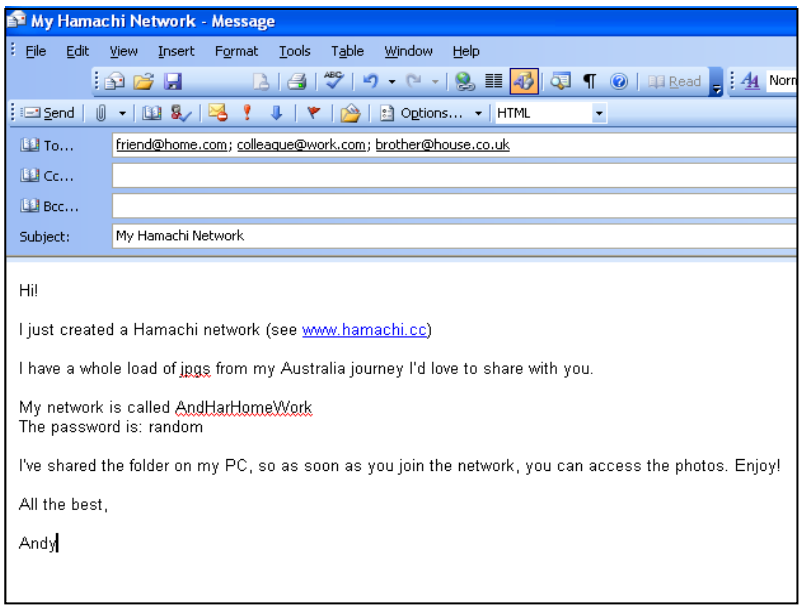


You can send out your network details to anyone you wish using your email client. Just remember to give the recipients the network name and password:



You can now share files (if you opt to enable this feature), play games and interact with peers, among many other things.

This guide is intended to just cover the basics of establishing a Hamachi address and setting up networks. There is a whole lot more that can be done with Hamachi and much of what is possible is detailed on our user forums. Why not pay a visit and check out the possibilities?

Preferences

The Hamachi preferences options are accessed by clicking on the “gear” button and selecting “Preferences”.

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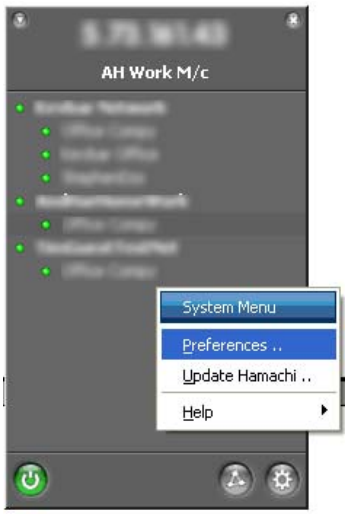
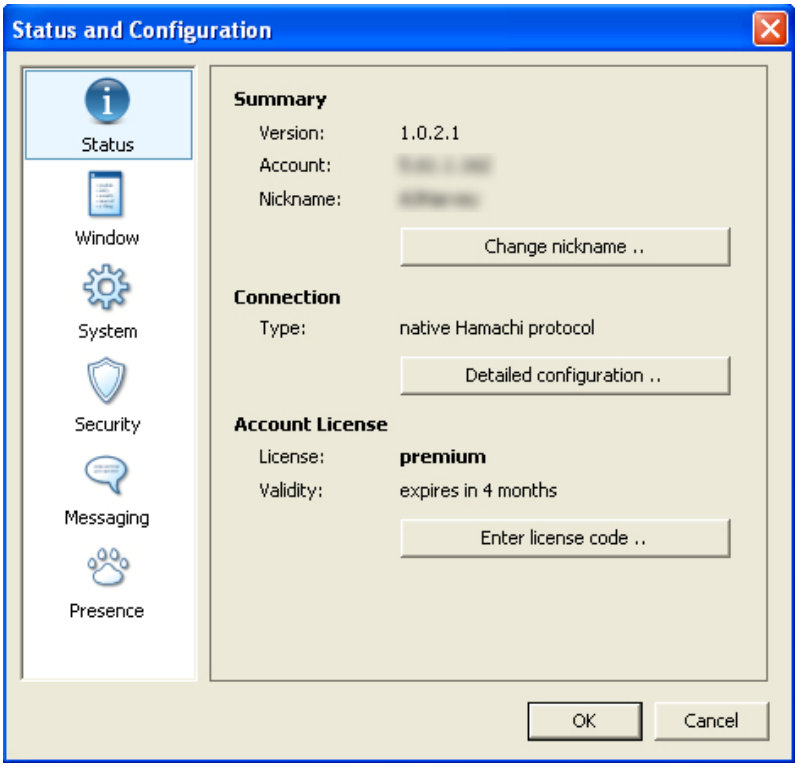


Status Page



Summary

Clicking on Preferences in the drop-down menu opens the Status page, where you can see the version of Hamachi that you are running and your account details at the top of the page.

By selecting Change nickname you are able to change the nickname for your account that peers are able to see on their UI.

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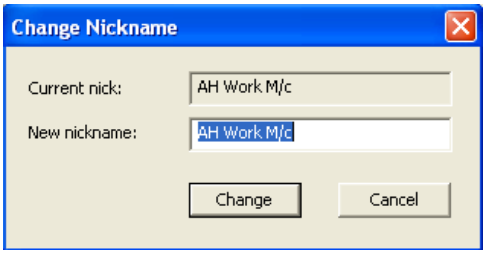
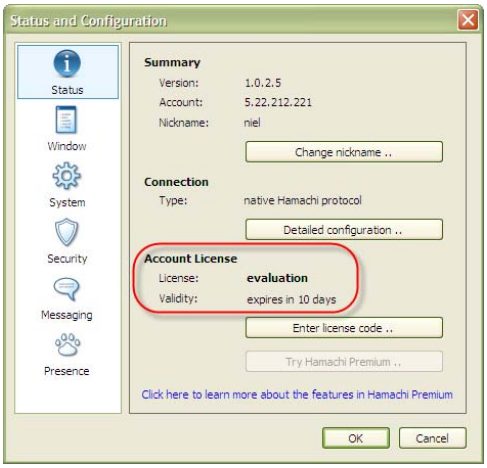
Simply enter the new nickname in the New nickname field and select Change.



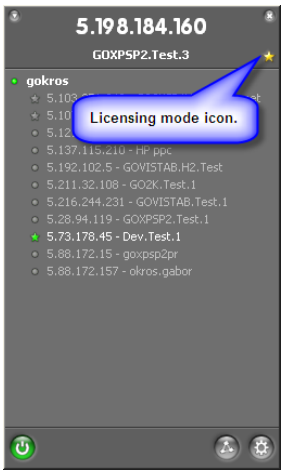
Account License

This area of the Status page contains details of your Hamachi account.



Users who upgrade to the Commercial version of Hamachi will be given a license code via email. To complete the upgrade, you should:

- Select the Enter license code button on the Status preferences page
- Input your license code in the field in the License dialog box
- Select Submit



The account will automatically be upgraded to the Commercial version. The only visible sign of this is that a yellow star will appear on your UI to denote Commercial status and network peers will also see a yellow star next to your account on their UIs.

Evaluation

Commercial

Non-Commercial

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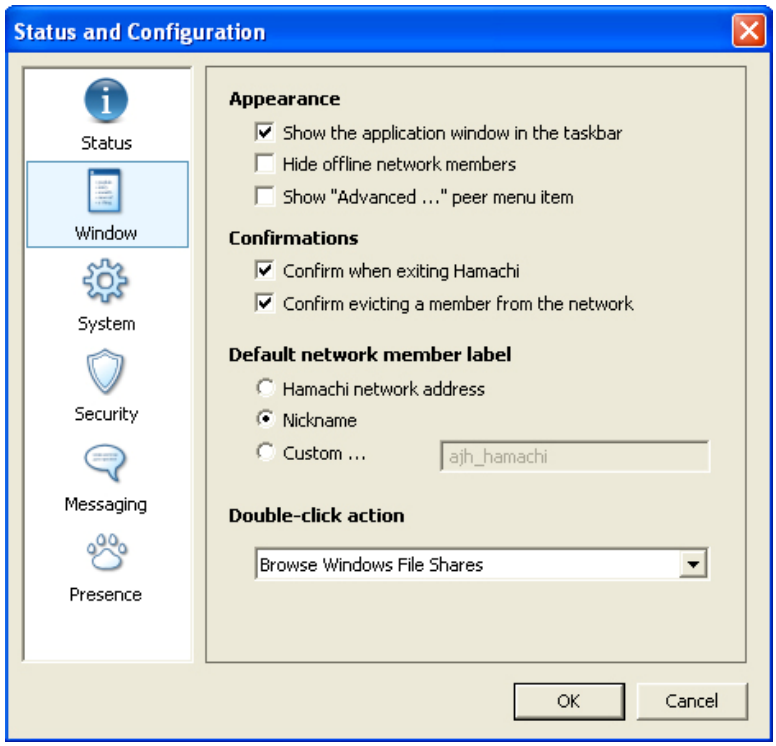
Window Page



Appearance

There are three choices here:

1. Whether or not to Show application window in the taskbar.
    a. If you will be working a lot with Hamachi, we recommend that you check this box. It gives easier access to Hamachi.
2. Whether or not to Hide offline network members.
    a. We recommend that you check this box if you have a large number of networks or networks with many members, otherwise your Network field in your Hamachi UI will become very crowded.
3. Whether or nor to show the "Advanced…" peer menu item. This enables the "Advanced" options when you right-click on a peer. These include alias addresses, peer VPN addresses, local forwarding, remote forwarding and encryption.

Confirmations

There are two choices here:

1. Whether or not to Confirm exiting Hamachi.
    - If you will be running applications via your Hamachi network that may depend on the network being active, we recommend that you check the box.
2. Whether or not to Confirm evicting a member from the network.
    - Only you, as the network owner, can evict members from your networks and it is a drastic step to take, so check the box if you wish to confirm this action.

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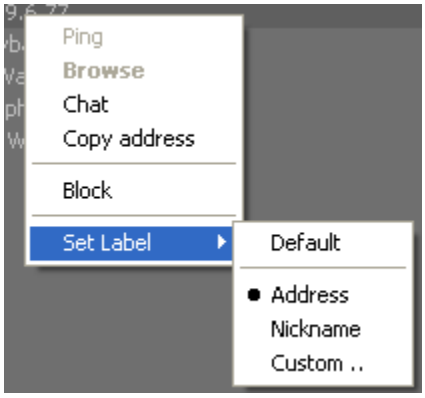
Default network member label

Here you able to choose between:

- Network address, in which case the "5." Hamachi addresses of peers will be displayed.
- Nickname, where the name created by the peer will be shown.
- Custom, where you input the name you wish peers to be displayed as. This is done globally for all networks.
    - If you wish to do this for an individual peer, select a peer in your networks field and right-click on the label…



…then select the label type you wish to apply to the peer.

Double-click action

This will define the action that is carried out when you double-click on a peer in your network field. The four options are:

1. Do nothing, where the name is self-explanatory
2. Ping peer, where you ping a peer to check the status of a connection, for example.
3. Send instant message, where you open a text chat conversation with the peer.
4. Browse Windows File Shares, allowing you to view any shared folders on the peer's machine for which you have permission.

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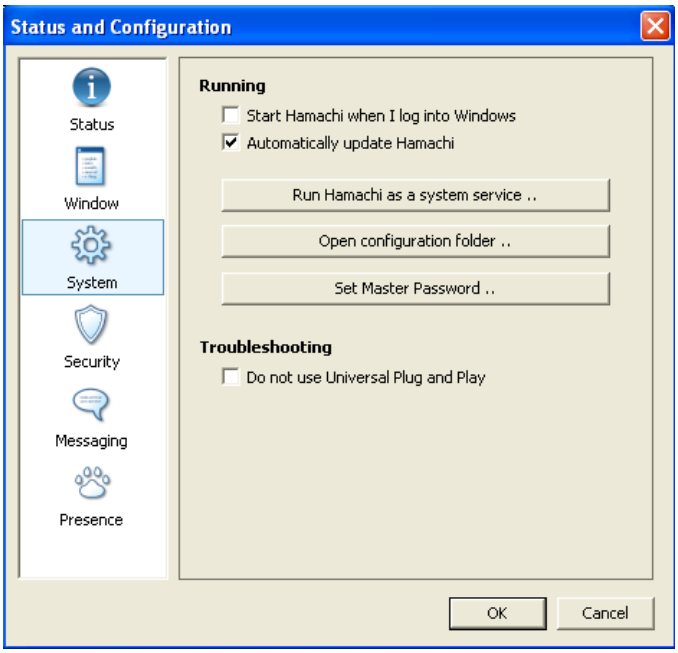
System Page



Running

If you wish Hamachi to start when you log onto Windows, check the Start Hamachi when I log into Windows box. If you wish to choose when you start Hamachi, leave the box unchecked.

Checking the Automatically update Hamachi box will enable Hamachi to check periodically for updates to ensure that you will always be running the most up-to-date version of the application.

Run Hamachi as a system service: If you wish to run Hamachi as a Windows system service, check the box. This will require you to restart Hamachi.

> **Note**: Before doing anything, read the Hamachi support pages to see what the options are here: http://forums.hamachi.cc/viewtopic.php?t=7280

The Open configuration folder does exactly as its name suggests if you click on it. Here are the contents of a typical configuration folder:

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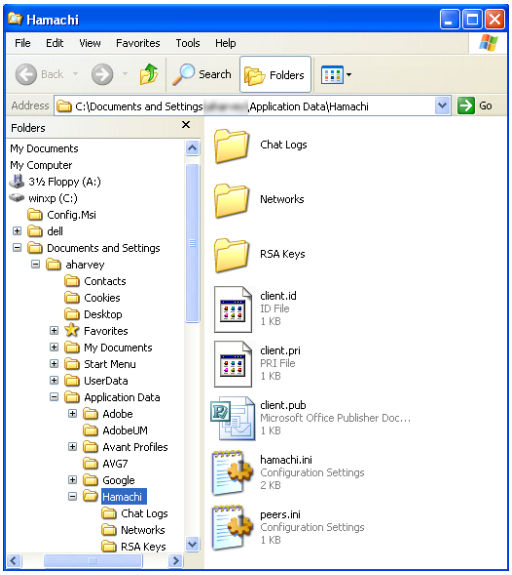

Clicking the Set Master Password box opens a dialog box where you input any current Master Password you may have and then to create a new one. If you ever need to recreate an account you are only able to do this by giving your master password.

Troubleshooting

If Hamachi is not able work with the router it is behind, it will try and use universal plug and play – a framework of commands to try and figure out port forwarding on the router. Checking the Do not use Universal Plug and Play box disables this feature.

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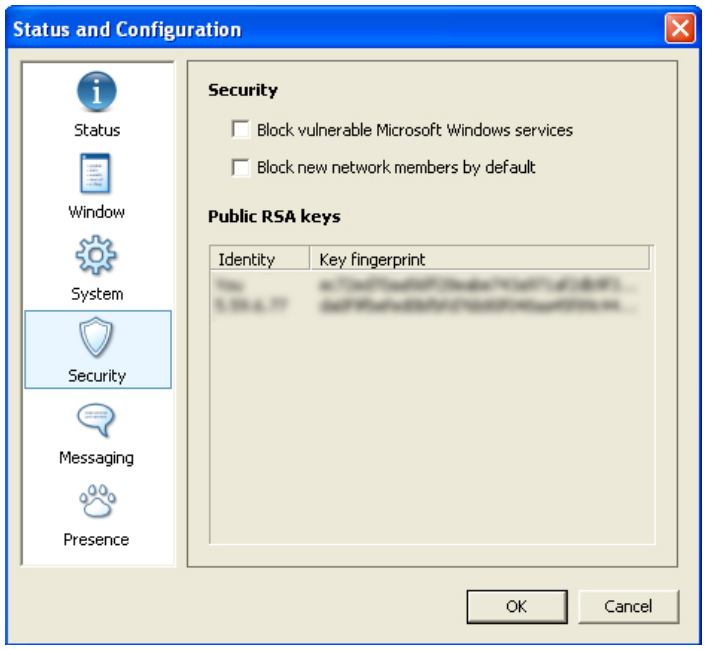
Security Page



Checking the Block vulnerable Microsoft Windows services box will enhance your security, as these services will be blocked. However, if you decide to check this box you will be disabling certain features that may be very beneficial, such as Windows File Sharing.

Block new network members by default, when selected, means that anyone trying to join your network will be blocked until you specifically approve their request to join. This stops unwanted people joining your network.

Public RSA keys

This is the fingerprint of the files stored in the RSA keys folder and is for verifying the files stored there.

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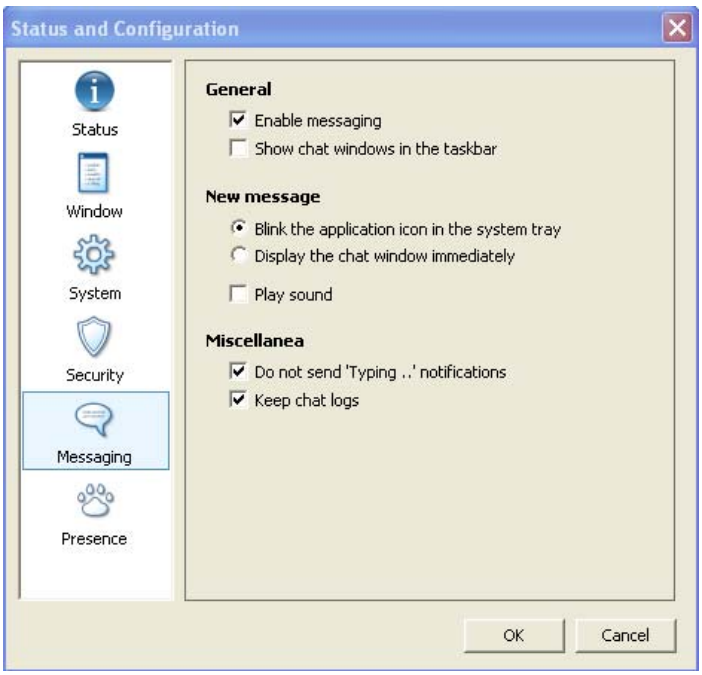
Messaging Page

The Messaging service is a very convenient way of contacting your network peers and is similar in operation to many other such services.

General



Check Enable to allow the Messaging feature to run.

Check Show chat windows in taskbar to show open chat sessions as a window in your taskbar.

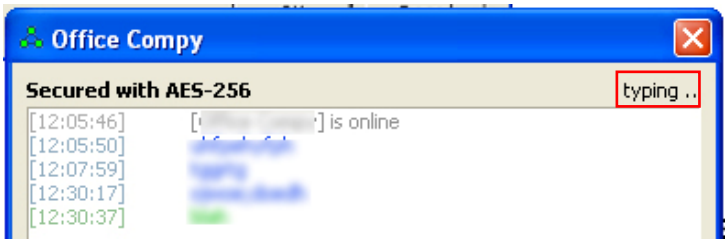
New message

Selecting the Blink application icon in system tray radio button allows you to see that you have an incoming message by flashing the Hamachi icon ( ) in your system tray. Alternatively, select Display chat window right away for chat windows to open up immediately when a network peer starts a chat session with you. The latter option may not be such a good idea if you are running a presentation or other applications where a chat box might be inconvenient.

If you wish to have audible alerts during your chat activities, check the Play sound box.

Miscellanea

Checking the Do not send 'Typing .. ' notifications box stops showing you when chat messages are being typed by the other chat party.



Checking Keep chat logs saves your chat session logs as a .txt file in the configuration folder. To access the folder, go to Preferences > System > Open Configuration Folder.

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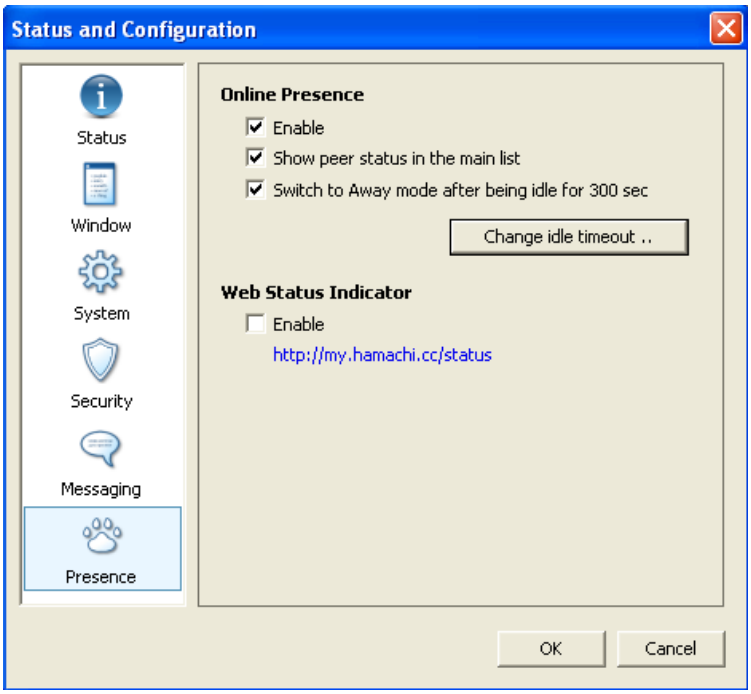
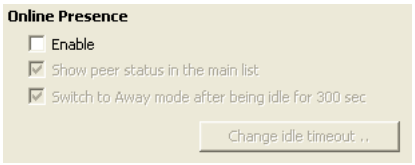
Presence page





Presence describes your Hamachi online status and can be set by the user or it can be defined by Hamachi if your machine has been idle for a specified length of time (by default 300 seconds).

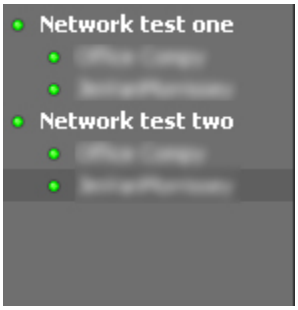
Online Presence

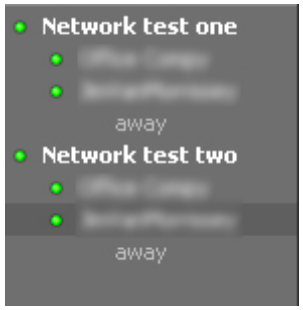
If the Enable box is checked, a new icon ( ) will appear in the Hamachi UI:

Online Presence Disabled

Online Presence enabled

If the Show peer status in the main list box is checked, your network peers' Online Presence is displayed in the UI:





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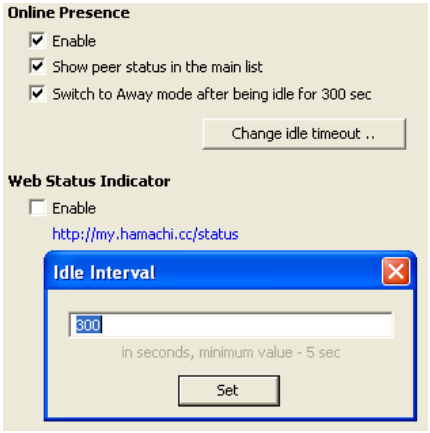
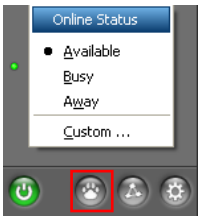
If you wish to display your status as “Away” after a period of inactivity on your machine, check the Switch to away mode after being idle for 300sec box. In addition, if you click the Change idle timeout box, you can define the interval after which your status is shown as “Away”.

Web Status Indicator

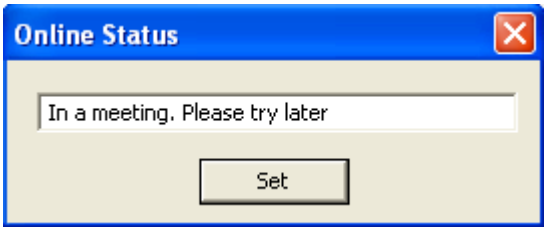


You may also define your online presence by clicking on the icon in the main Hamachi UI. This gives you the options, as shown:

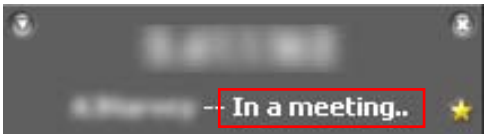


You may choose from the standard settings, or, if you have a Commercial account, create your own status message by selecting Custom.

In the dialog box that appears, input your message into the field and select Set.



At the top of the Hamachi UI, next to your Hamachi ID and network name, your custom status will be displayed:



We believe this user guide covers every day-to-day usage scenario you will encounter when using Hamachi.

However, this document is just one tier of our support system. We have FAQ pages and user forums where (probably) every Hamachi issue has been raised before.

We suggest that you contact these pages before contacting our support staff, but should you not find a solution, do not hesitate to contact us. All contact details can be found on the Hamachi website.

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