

## Networking Lab - Vista Public Network Sharing

After completing the lab activity, you will be able to:

- Explain the differences between Windows XP and Windows Vista network sharing.
- Explain the purpose of the Public folder.
- Change the Public folder permissions using the options available in Network and Sharing Center.
- View all shared folders on a workstation by using Computer Management interface.
- Identify common problems associated with Public folder shares.

In this lab activity, you will experiment with Windows Vista Public File Sharing.

Windows Vista uses two network sharing models, Public folder sharing and standard or traditional file sharing. Vista “Public folder sharing” is similar to Windows XP “Simple file sharing” model, except Vista Public file sharing can be used on the same machine that is running standard file sharing. Windows XP simple file sharing cannot be used on the same machine at the same time standard file sharing is used.

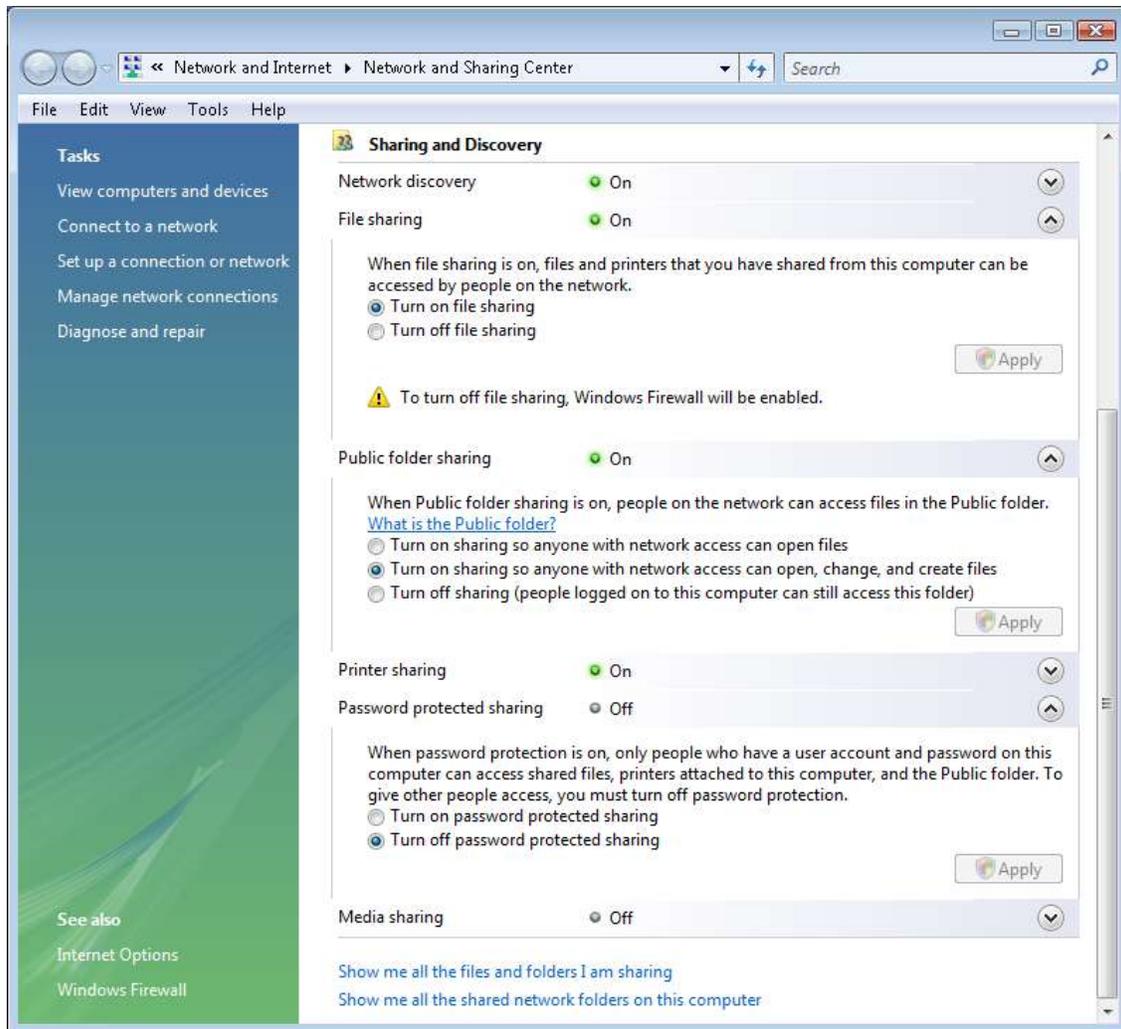
The Vista Network and Sharing Center interface contains the following options.

**File Sharing** – Will allow folders (directories) as well as individual files to be shared by the Host Share computer and be accessed by Clients computers on the network.

**Public folder sharing** – Can be configured in three different ways. First, allow anyone with network access to access the contents of the Public folder. Second, allow anyone with network access to change and create folders in the Public folder. Third, deny access to network users but still allow local computer users to access the Public folder.

**Password protected sharing** – When enabled only allows people who have a password protected local user account on the host computer to access the Public shared folder and or the Shared Printer.

The three Network and Sharing options, File Sharing, Public folder sharing and Password protection sharing work together to configure how shares and the Public shared folder and printer is accessed by local computer users and anyone who has access to the local network.



## Vista Sharing and Discovery

As you can see in the screen capture, the Public folder can be automatically reconfigured to accommodate the most common sharing scenarios encountered on a small home network. Microsoft does not recommend using the Public folder method of sharing for Business Office purposes. Public sharing is basically an all or nothing sharing model, which provides one of three share instances, Read only, full control and no access.

Looking once more at the Network and Sharing Center, locate the two links at the bottom. These two links will allow you to see what files and folders you are sharing and all the shared folders on the computer. This is a very handy option to help keep track of items being shared. You can also see a list of all shared files and folders in the Computer Management dialog box.

## **Public Sharing Common Problems**

Public sharing can be affected by configuring other items on the computer. For example, changing the computer location from Public to Private will enable the Firewall and may prevent other users from access a shared folder even if it is the Public folder.

Third party firewalls may prevent access to a share. Microsoft Firewall automatically changes the firewall configuration to allow for shares the first time shares are created. In lab settings, the proper firewall configuration may be changed when more than one student uses the same computer workstation.

Vista Standard Users cannot create shares or change share permissions on another network computer. Only an administrator, or equal to administrator, users can create or modify a share in the network. A standard user can create or modify a share if they know the administrator password.

Changing the directory location of a share after configuring the share changes the “path” to the share. Changing the path to the share can make the share in accessible.

Changing the Password requirement may cause other users not to be able to access a share. This is especially true if the user does not use a password for logon; they simply select their user icon, and then immediately access the desktop without the need of a password.

Change permissions on a file or folder can make the file/folder inaccessible by a particular user or group.

Placing a standard share type folder inside the Public folder can cause a conflict in folder access permissions.

Moving a share to inside a shared folder can cause a problem with access. For example, if a file with full access is placed inside a folder with read only access permission, the file will become read only.

Changing an account user name can make a share inaccessible. Also deleting a user account and then recreating an account using the exact same name will cause share access problems.

Change the network location from Private to Public can affect share access.

As you can see, there are many different possibilities that indirectly can change the accessibility of a shared folder or file.

To learn more about Windows Vista sharing conduct a Google search using the term “File and Print Sharing in Windows Vista bb727037”. The article is located on the Microsoft TechNet website and provides the latest information about Vista network sharing. Or use the following link.

<http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/bb727037.aspx>

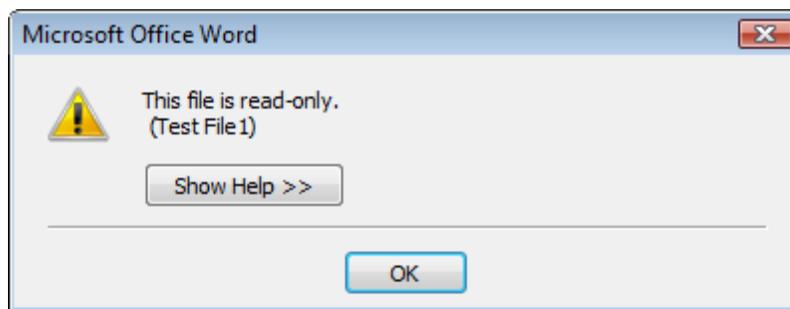
### **Materials Required**

- A Peer-to-peer network with two Windows Vista workstations.
- The lab activity can be further enhanced by adding an additional Windows XP workstation.
- The Share Host Computer requires a NTFS partition

This lab activity can be performed by two students, one as the designated Sharing Host and the other as the Share Client, then repeat the lab activity by reversing roles.

1. \_\_\_ Identify two Vista workstations connected as a peer-to-peer network. Identify one as the Share Host Workstation and the other as the Share Client. Boot both computers and inspect to verify proper working order.
2. \_\_\_ On both the Share Host Workstation and the Share Client, open the Network and Sharing Center, and check to see if Enable Network Discovery is enabled.
3. \_\_\_ At the Share Host workstation, turn on “File sharing” and at “Public folder sharing” select the first option “Turn on sharing” so anyone with network access can open files.”
4. \_\_\_ At the Share Host workstation, use Word pad to create a short document containing the following text “This is a sample file to share.” And then, save the file as “Test File 1” to the Public Document folder.
5. \_\_\_ From the Share Client workstation try to access and open the “Test File 1” located in the Public folder on the Share Host workstation. You can access it by first double-click on the “Network” located off the Start menu, and then double-click on the Share Host Computer icon. All the shares available should appear. Double-click the Public folder and then double-click the Public Documents folder. If you cannot access the shared folder or file, call your instructor for assistance.
6. \_\_\_ Change the contents of the “Test File 1” by typing the additional word “change” at the end of the sentence and then save the file. The permissions on the folder and file are such that you can change the contents of the file.

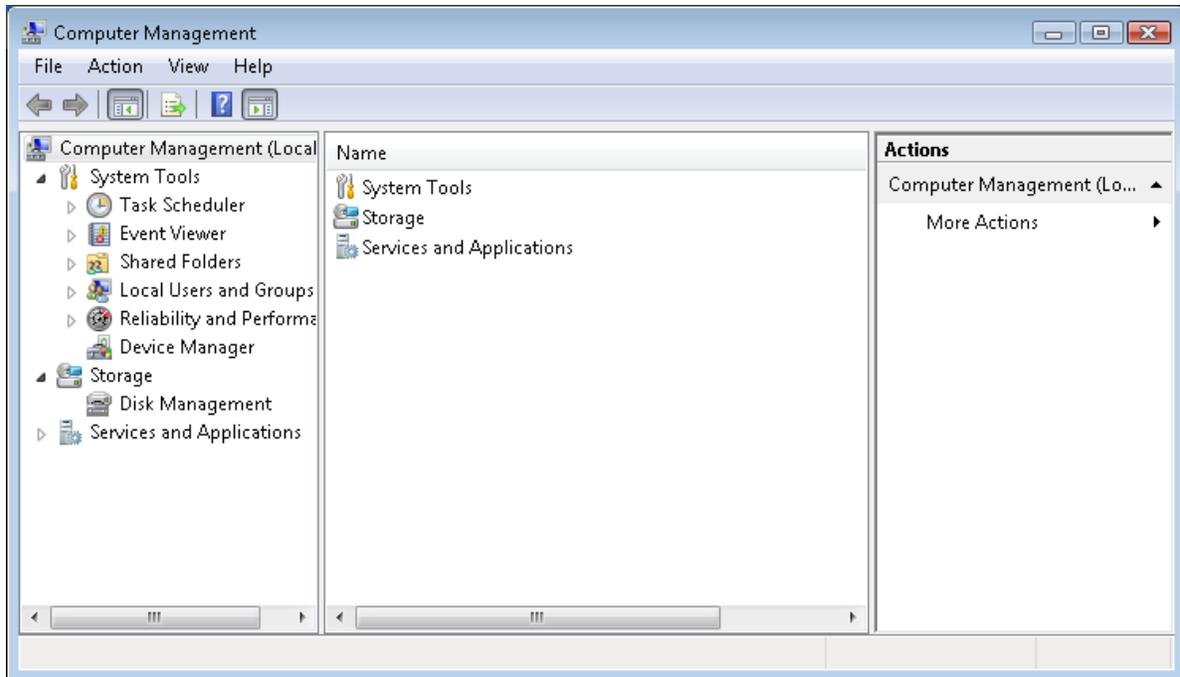
7. \_\_\_ At the Share Client. close the open file, and then close all dialog boxes.
8. \_\_\_ At the Share Host workstation, change the option of the Public Folder to read-only status. Changing the option in the “Public folder sharing” section to option one, “Turn on sharing so anyone with network access can open files.” And then, select the “Apply” button.
9. \_\_\_ From the Share client workstation, open the Public Documents folder located on the Share Host workstation once more. Change the contents of the “Test File1” document by deleting the contents of the file using Word, and then attempt to save the change. A message should appear on the screen similar to the one below, telling you that the file is “Read only” and you cannot change the contents.



File is Read Only

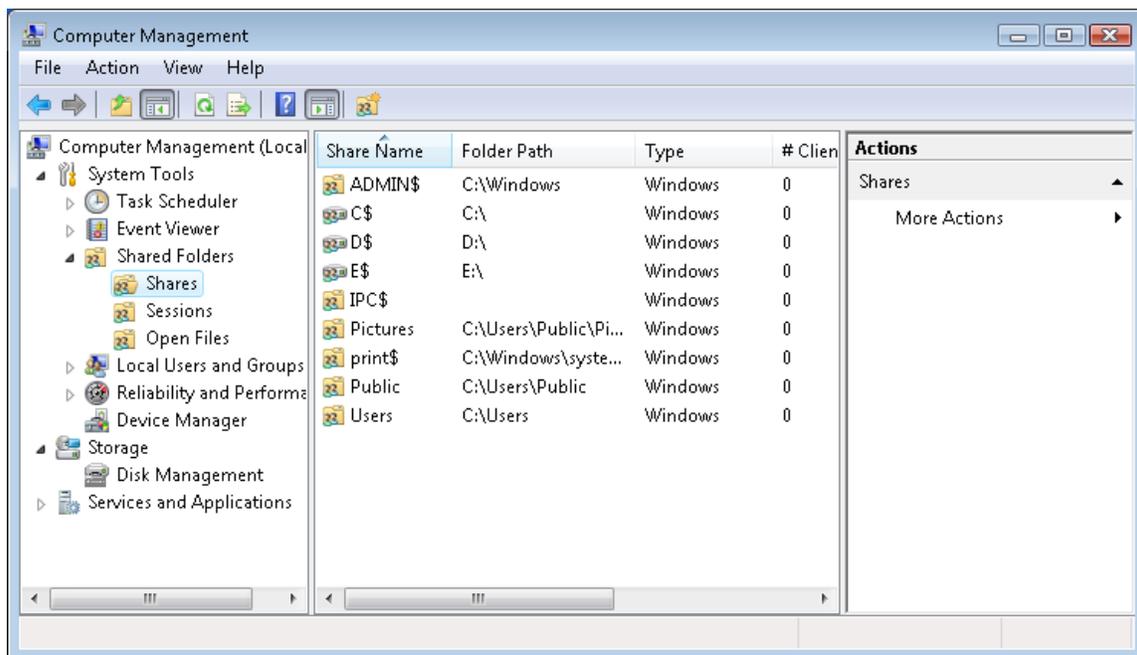
As you have experienced, you can view the contents of a “Read Only” file, but you cannot change the contents.

10. \_\_\_ From the same Share Client workstation, try to create a new folder in the Public Documents folder located on the Share Host workstation. You will see a message box informing you that you do not have the proper permission to perform this action.
11. \_\_\_ From the same Share Client workstation, try to delete the “Test File 1” on the Share Host workstation by right-clicking on the file, and then selecting the “Delete” option. Again you should be denied permission to delete the file.
12. \_\_\_ If two students are performing this lab activity, switch roles now, and repeat the lab activity.
13. \_\_\_ Now at the Share Host workstation, open the Microsoft Management Console Start | Right-click Computer and select the Manage option. You should see the Computer Management dialog box similar to the one in the screen capture.



Computer Mgmt

14. \_\_\_ Expand the Computer Management “Shared Folders” by double-clicking “Shared Folders” and then double-clicking “Shares”. The Shared Folders will expand to see all shares located on the computer in similar fashion as the screen capture below.



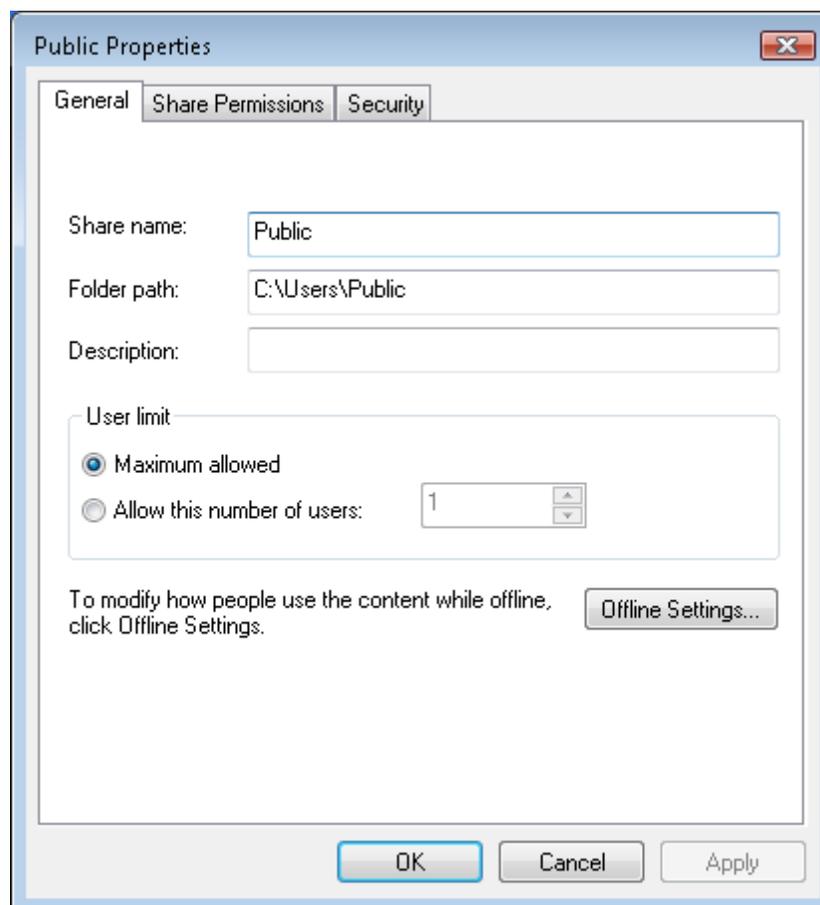
Comp Mgmt Expanded

You will be able to see all shared folders on the computer in the Computer Management dialog box after expanding the left panel tree directory.

You can see two other options in the left panel, “Sessions” and “Open Files”. These two options will show you shares being accessed and by who at this moment. It will also allow you to close shares or disconnect users from the share.

Take notice of the special folders that contain a “\$” dollar sign at the end of the folder name. The dollar sign indicates administrative folders. These folders are not for user access and are hidden folders that do not appear on the network when viewed from other computers.

15. \_\_\_ Double-click on the “Public” folder and the Public folder “Public Properties,” where dialog box will appear similar to the one in the screen capture.

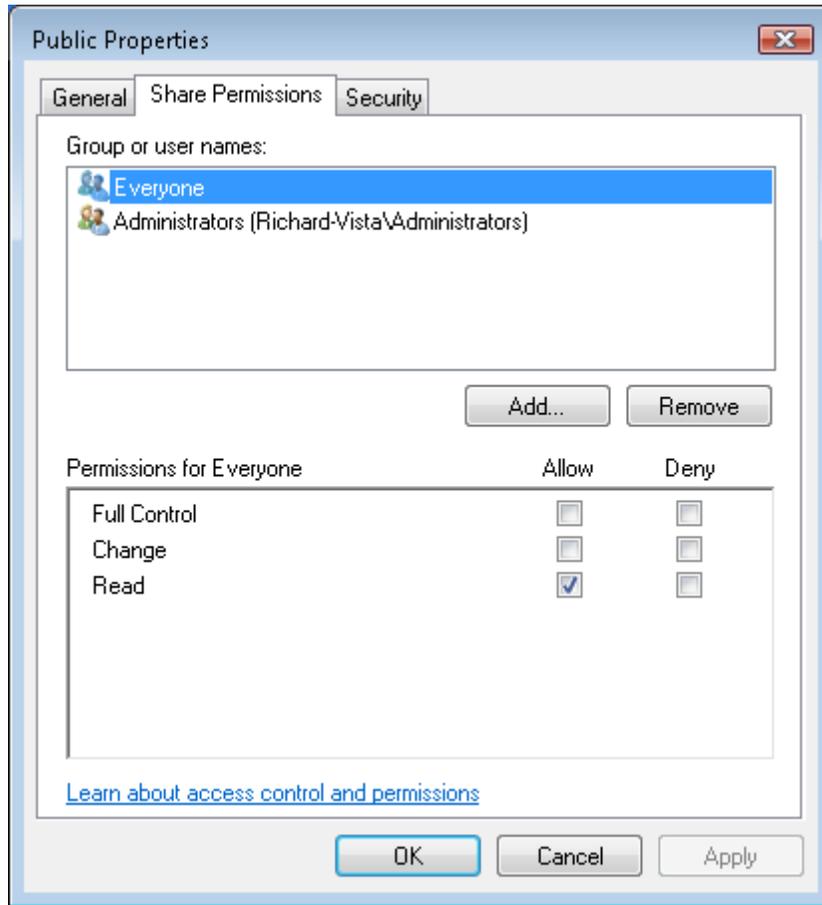


Public Properties Gen Tab

You will see the name of the share, the folder path and the number of users allowed to simultaneously access the folder. Microsoft uses the term “concurrent users” which

means simultaneous users. The maximum allowed is 10 by default but you have an option to permit a lesser number than ten.

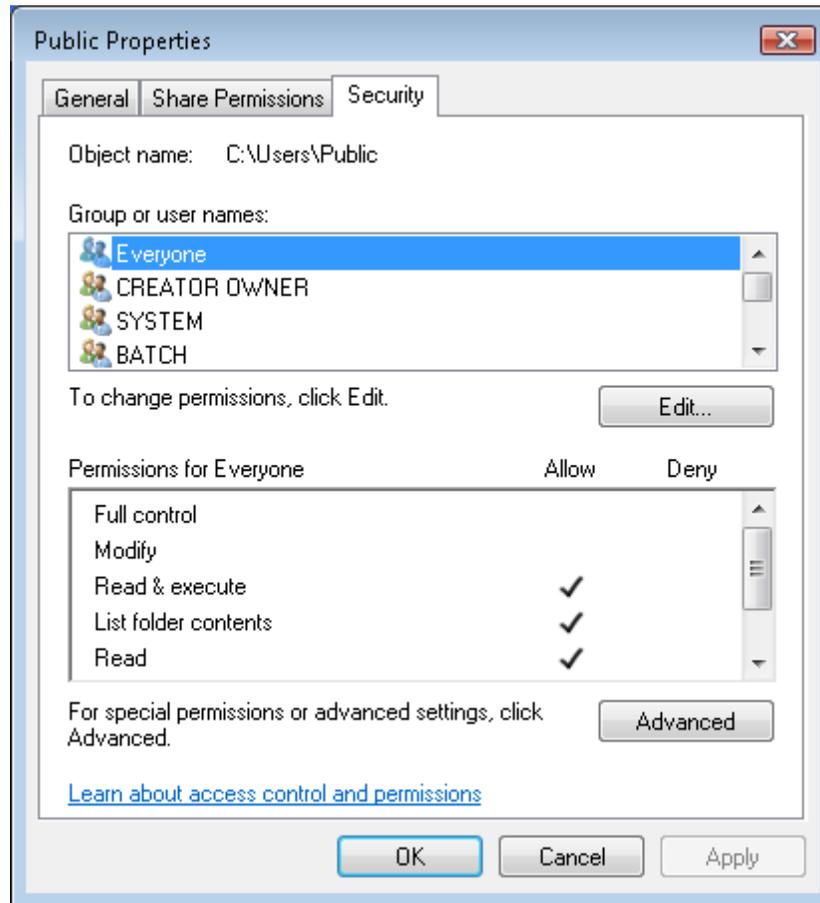
16. \_\_\_ Select the “Share Permissions” tab and you will see who has permission to access the folder and what the permission is set at for that user or group.



Public Properties Share Permissions Tab

As you can see in the screen capture, the group “Everyone” has “Read” permission only. Use the mouse to select the “Administrators” group and watch as the permissions change to “Full Control”, “Change”, and “Read”. You also have an option to add additional users to the list and assign permissions. The sharing properties under the Share Permission tab, is based on the Vista Public folder sharing model.

17. \_\_\_ Select the Security tab and you will see a more detailed set of permissions and users.



Public Properties Security Tab

This set of Users, Groups and permissions is based on the NTFS model of sharing. You will explore the NTFS model of sharing in the next lab activity.

18. \_\_\_ If time permits, you may take a few minutes to experiment with the file permissions before going on to answer the review questions.

19. \_\_\_ Close all dialog boxes at this time and then go on to answer the review questions.

## **Review Questions**

1. How does Windows Vista Public folder sharing differ from Windows XP Simple File Sharing?
2. What three major options in Network and Sharing Center affect how shares and the Public folder are shared in the local network?
3. What are the three options available for Public file sharing configuration?
4. Which Public file sharing option is the same as “read only”?
5. What are the three folder permissions associated with the Public folder?
6. What does the dollar sign signify behind a share name?
7. What affect does the Password Protected Sharing have on a share?

## Answers

1. Vista Public file sharing can be used on the same machine that is running standard file sharing. Windows XP simple file sharing cannot be used on the same machine at the same time standard file sharing is used.
2. File sharing, Public folder sharing, and Password protected sharing.
3. **Turn on so anyone with network access can open files. Turn on sharing so anyone with network access** can open, change, and create files. Turn off sharing (people logged on to this computer can still access this folder.)
4. The first option, "Allow anyone with network access to access the contents of the Public folder."
5. Full Control, Change, and Read.
6. The dollar sign indicates administrative folders. These folders are not for user access and are hidden folders when viewed on the network by other computers.
7. The share can only be accessed by users who use a password to logon to the computer.