

Acronis Files Connect 10.6

(formerly ExtremeZ-IP)

Trouble-Free File Server Access and Search for Macs

Acronis Files Connect (formerly ExtremeZ-IP) is the only solution that provides the rich experience Mac® users demand when connecting to Windows® or Network Attached Storage (NAS) file servers, while maintaining the compatibility required by IT. At its core, Acronis Files Connect is an Apple File Protocol (AFP) file-sharing and full-content search service that runs on your Windows server and enables Macs to connect to file shares and NAS via AFP instead of the Server Message Block (SMB) protocol.

An AFP Solution to Address SMB Problems

macOS has always supported two network protocols:

- AFP, Apple's® native file-sharing protocol for Mac
- SMB, the native file-sharing protocol for Windows and typically used for NAS storage

With each macOS update, Apple has attempted to improve Mac SMB compatibility. But even with the SMB3 support in macOS High Sierra 10.13, Mac users continue to report frustrating problems, especially with key applications such as Microsoft Office and Adobe® Creative Suite.

Acronis Files Connect AFP support solves common Mac SMB problems, including:

- Long delays mounting shares, browsing folders, opening files
- File corruption
- Disappearing files
- Crashing applications
- Permissions problems
- Disconnected sessions
- Locked files and file naming issues

IT managers across thousands of companies have found that by connecting to shares using the native AFP protocol, their Mac users stop suffering these types of SMB problems, which improves productivity while reducing frustration and Help Desk calls.

IMPROVED! Nearly Instant Spotlight® Searching

When Mac users connect over SMB to a Windows or NAS file share, they lose the Spotlight filename and content searches. Acronis Files Connect solves this problem by linking Spotlight searches to a server-side index.

For files on Windows servers, Acronis Files Connect links with the native Windows Search service. Since the Windows Search service cannot index NAS shares, Files Connect includes an additional option — Acronis Content Indexing — which can index filenames, content, or both, making searches hundreds of times faster.

Mac/Windows Integration

Acronis Files Connect easily integrates with key Windows infrastructure elements, including:

- Kerberos®/single sign-on
- Distributed File System (DFS)
- Home directories
- Clustering
- Quotas
- File name policies

The solution also supports the Mac features that end users expect:

- Time Machine® backups
- UNIX®/Access Control List (ACL) permissions
- Print queue support
- Domain password change

THE CHALLENGES OF A MIXED MAC-WINDOWS ENVIRONMENT

If your organization is one of the estimated 91 percent of enterprises that have Mac users who need to access files and documents in a mixed Mac-Windows environment, you know firsthand that Windows and Macs communicate with one another differently.

When Mac users try to access Windows file and print servers, they typically encounter problems with performance, data integrity, and many other issues that can impact your business. For example, in a Windows environment, Mac users:

- Suffer crippling slow, filename-only search of file shares
- Struggle with file corruption, file permissions, application incompatibilities, files disappearing, locked files, and disconnected sessions
- Experience issues with the same access to file and print resources as PC users
- Experience reliability problems when mounting and accessing shares from servers and NAS within the enterprise
- Heavily rely on the Help Desk, increasing support

WHAT'S NEW IN ACRONIS FILES CONNECT 10.5 & 10.6

Mac client application

A Mac client application acts as a handy unified interface to quickly locate and access all file shares and DFS resources available on your network via both AFP and SMB.

EXCLUSIVE! Simplified file share and printer location

- Connect via both AFP and SMB
- Eliminate individually mounting file shares
- View and manage all available resources via one simple window
- Browse a list of all network printers and quickly add them to your Mac

EXCLUSIVE! Fast, powerful search capabilities

- Perform Spotlight searches of SMB file shares using a new Mac menu bar tool or the Mac client application interface
- Target one, many, or all available file shares
- Enjoy advanced search query parameters, including Windows and Mac file tags

Spotlight search improvements

- Real-time search index updates
- File content indexing limits
- File indexing exclusion rules
- Intelligent handling of archived files
- Integrated Windows Search controls
- Windows and Mac file tags support

Smart handling of Windows URL shortcuts

Acronis Files Cloud features a Volume Properties option that converts Windows URL shortcuts to a Mac alias so that Mac users can simply double-click the URL to open it.

KEY FEATURES

IMPROVED! AFP and SMB connection to file shares

With Acronis Files Connect, Macs can connect to and mount file shares on Windows file servers and NAS as native AFP volumes or via the SMB protocol.

IMPROVED! Full content Spotlight searching

Acronis Files Connect links Mac Spotlight to a server-side index that seamlessly integrates with the native Windows Search service or a built-in Acronis content they have always used.

ShadowConnect for Mac users

With Acronis Files Connect, Mac users can use ShadowConnect to browse previous versions of files and folders using familiar Mac OS features. After locating the desired version, Mac users can restore the file or folder to its original location or make a copy to store in any location.

Network Reshare and DFS support

With the Network Reshare feature, Mac clients can use AFP file sharing to connect to one Acronis Files Connect server, and access files and folders located on additional SMB file servers, NAS devices, and DFS file shares.

File name policies support

Acronis Files Connect can be configured to prevent Mac users from actively saving, creating, or renaming files with characters that are “illegal” in Microsoft applications, or with file names and path lengths that can cause issues for Windows users.

Active Directory® support

Acronis Files Connect maps Active Directory permissions to effective Mac permissions. This allows Mac users to use their existing network accounts and a Kerberos-based single sign-on to access network files, ensuring workstation security.

Acronis

For additional information, please visit www.acronis.com

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System requirements

Server

- Operating System: Windows Server® 2016, 2012 R2, or 2008 R2 recommended
- Windows 10, 8, 7
- Processor: Dual or quad core recommended
- RAM: 2 GB minimum; 4 GB recommended
- Files Connect volumes must be on NTFS formatted drives

Mac

- Mac OS X 10.2.3 or later supported, including macOS High Sierra 10.13
- No Mac software installation is required, some features require Mac client software

Mobile

- Acronis Files Advanced mobile app running on iOS, Android®, or Windows tablet