https://techcommunity.microsoft.com/blog/filecab/accessing-a-third-party-nas-with-smb-in-windows-11-24h2-may-fail/4154300

How to solve the issues

To solve these issues, we recommend you do the following in this order. It's ordered from the safest to the least safe approach, and our goal is for your data to be protected, not to help third parties sell you unsafe products.

1. Enable SMB signing in your third-party NAS. Your vendor will have steps to do this online if it's possible in the device's management software.
2. Disable guest access in your third-party NAS. Your vendor will have steps to do this online if it's possible in the device's management software.
3. Enable a username and password in your third-party NAS. Your vendor will have steps to do this online if it's possible in the device's management software.
4. Upgrade your NAS if you cannot enable signing, cannot disable guest, or cannot use a username and password. The NAS will usually have an upgrade option in its management software, possibly labeled as "firmware update."
5. Replace your NAS if you cannot upgrade your NAS software to support signing and credentials (you will need to use steps 6 and later to copy your data off of it to your new NAS first)

Now we're into the less recommended steps, as they will make your Windows device and your data much less safe. They will, however, let you access this unsafe NAS.

6. Disable the SMB client signing requirement:

a. On the Start Menu search, type **gpedit** and start the **Edit Group Policy** app (i.e. Local Group Policy Editor). If you are using *Home* edition, skip to step 8.

b. In the console tree, select **Computer Configuration > Windows Settings > Security Settings> Local Policies > Security Options**.

c. Double-click **Microsoft network client: Digitally sign communications (always)**.

d. Select **Disabled** > **OK**.

7. Disable the guest fallback protection:

a. On the Start Menu search, type **gpedit** and start the **Edit Group Policy** app (i.e. Local Group Policy Editor). If you are using *Home* edition, skip to step e.

b. In the console tree, select **Computer Configuration > Administrative Templates> Network > Lanman Workstation.**

c. Double-click **Enable insecure guest logons**

d. Select **Enabled** > **OK**.

8. If you're running Windows 11 *Home edition*, the guest fallback option is still enabled by default, so you're probably not reading this blog post. But if for some reason it is on, or you need to turn off SMB signing due to some third-party NAS, you will need to use PowerShell to configure your machine because there is no gpedit tool by default. To do this:

a. On the Start Menu search, type **powershell** then under the **Windows PowerShell** app, click **Run as administrator.** Accept the elevation prompt.

b. To disable SMB signing requirement, type:

Set-SmbClientConfiguration -RequireSecuritySignature $false

d. Hit enter, then hit Y to accept.

c. To disable guest fallback, type:

Set-SmbClientConfiguration -EnableInsecureGuestLogons $true

e. Hit enter, then hit Y to accept.

At this point you will be working if Signing or Guest were your real problems.

Important: **we have not removed your ability to enable SMB1.** All editions of Windows 11 have SMB1 disabled by default - this has been the case for over a year now and, in some editions, going back to Windows 10 - but you are free to re-enable it if you have a third-party NAS that only supports SMB1. *SMB1 supports signing but your NAS may not*, so the steps above for disabling signing can still apply. SMB1 always allows guest fallback and it cannot be stopped, so the guest steps are not applicable. If your third-party NAS still requires SMB1, it's likely listed here https://aka.ms/stillneedssmb1. If you find that it *also* doesn't support SMB signing, please let us know with the email address below.

https://www.minitool.com/news/cannot-access-nas-with-smb-in-windows-11-24h2.html

Fixed: Cannot Access NAS With SMB in Windows 11 24H2

By Shirley | Follow | Last Updated February 5, 2025

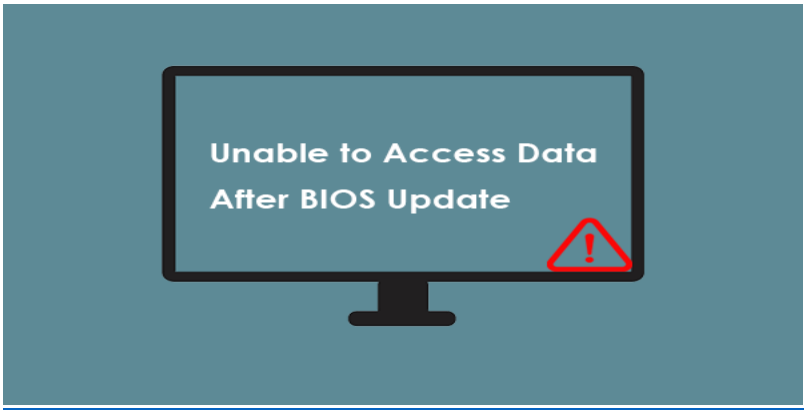
Recently some users reported that they **cannot access NAS with SMB in Windows 11 24H2**. What are the reasons behind this situation? What should you do if you encounter an SMB signing error to access NAS on Windows 11 24H2? Keep reading this MiniTool guide for details.

On This Page :

Why You Cannot Access NAS With SMB in Windows 11 24H2

Microsoft introduced many features and security precautions in Windows 11 24H2. One of them is to force all SMB connections to have SMB signing enabled. This may cause you to be unable to access NAS after installing Windows 11 24H2. To be specific, when you try to access a NAS device using the SMB protocol, you may encounter various errors such as 0xc000a000, STATUS_INVALID_SIGNATURE, the network path was not found, and more.

Microsoft's move is mainly to prevent data from being tampered with during transmission, which helps protect the integrity of the data. However, the resulting inability to access the NAS is also very annoying. Here are some ways to help you get rid of this issue, and you can try them one by one.



Easy Solutions: Unable to Access Data After BIOS Update

If you are unable to access data after BIOS update on Windows, use the methods outlined in this guide to restore your files.

Read More

How to Fix SMB Signing Error to Access NAS on Windows 11 24H2

The following methods may reduce computer security. Therefore, you need to consider carefully before proceeding.

Fix 1. Use Local Group Policy Editor to Disable SMB Client Signing Requirement

The first way you can try is to disable the digitally signing communication policy via the Local Group Policy Editor. Here are the specific steps.

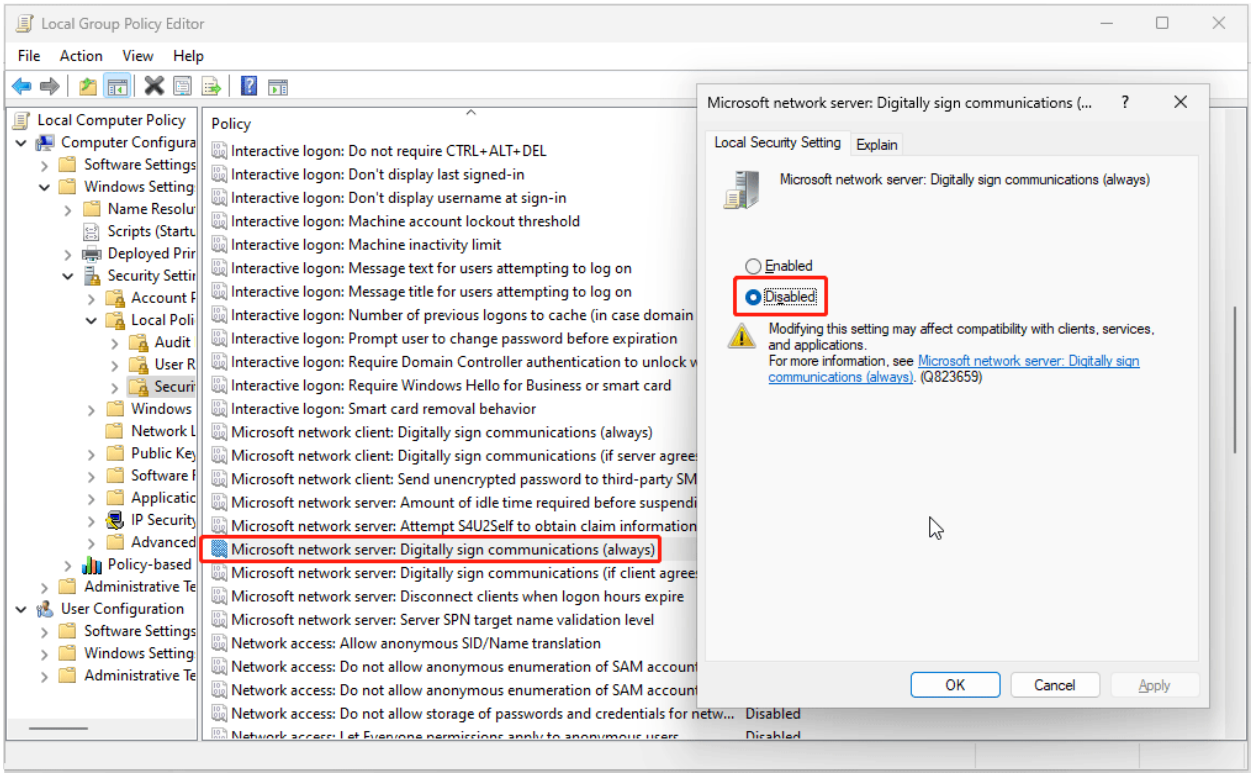
Step 1. Press the **Windows + R** key combination to open the Run window.

Step 2. In the new window, type **gpedit.msc** and press **Enter** or click **OK**.

Step 3. Next, navigate to the following location:

Computer Configuration > **Windows Settings** > **Security Settings** > **Local Policies** > **Security Options**

Step 4. Scroll down to find and double-click **Microsoft network client: Digitally sign communications (always)**. In the pop-up window, select the **Disabled** option.



Step 5. Hit **Apply** > **OK** to save the change. After that, you can restart your computer and check if the SMB signing error has been fixed.

How to Fix “This Program Is Blocked by Group Policy” Error

When you fail to launch or install an application, you may receive an error message “This Program is Blocked by Group Policy”. Here are the methods to fix it.

Read More

Fix 2. Disable Guest Fallback Protection

Alternatively, you can choose to disable the guest fallback protection.

Step 1. Open the Local Group Policy Editor by using the Windows search box or other ways.

Step 2. Go to this path: **Computer Configuration** > **Administrative Templates** > **Network** > **Lanman Workstation**.

Step 3. Double-click on the **Enable insecure guest logons** option.

Step 4. Select the **Enabled** option, and then click **Apply** and **OK** sequentially.

Step 5. Reboot your computer and verify if the issue has been resolved.

Fix 3. Turn off SMB Client Signing With PowerShell (for Windows 11 Home)

If you are using Windows 11 Home Edition, you are unable to turn off SMB signing by using the Local Group Policy Editor. In this case, you can make use of Windows PowerShell to disable SMB signing. Here are the major steps.

Step 1. Type **PowerShell** in the Windows search box on your taskbar.

Step 2. Hit the **Run as administrator** option under the **Windows PowerShell** section.

Step 3. In the command line window, type the following command and press **Enter** to turn off the SMB signing requirement:

Set-SmbClientConfiguration -RequireSecuritySignature $false

Step 4. Type **Y** to confirm the operation.

Step 5. Input the following command and press **Enter** to disable guest fallback:

Set-SmbClientConfiguration -EnableInsecureGuestLogons $true

Step 6. Input **Y** to confirm.