Mapping Drives on a Mac

What is your situation?

With Windows systems, the particulars of drive mapping depend on how a computer is set up, where it is located and how it is connected to the network. With Macs, the situation is somewhat simpler: almost every type of use requires manual mapping.

Use the steps in the next section to do that.

Steps to map a drive in Mac OS

(1) In Finder, in the Go menu, select Connect to Server or type Command+K.

(2) In the Server Address field of the Connect to Server window enter "smb://" followed by the drive path. For example, to map your H: Drive (Home Drive), enter the following: smb://galaxy.fuqua.duke.edu/~netid where netid is your Duke NetID
(3) Authenticate with your NetID and password. Placing a check in the box for “Remember this password in my keychain” will allow you to skip this step when reconnecting to the server.

(4) The server is now mounted to your desktop. If the icon is not showing up on your desktop or in the sidebar, change the Finder preferences.

(5) To disconnect from the share, drag its icon onto the trash icon in your Dock or select it and type Command+E. The trash icon will turn into an Eject icon as you move the share to it.
(6) The next time you want to connect to the server, from the Go menu, select Connect to Server or type Command+K. If the server address from step 2 doesn’t auto populate, click on the Recent Server drop-down menu and select the appropriate server to connect to.

In case you were wondering, SMB stands for Server Message Block – a protocol designed to allow the sharing of files and devices in a small network. SMB has since been renamed to CIFS, or Common Internet File System.