

ENABLE NEARBY SHARING IN WINDOWS 11

To enable Nearby sharing, open Settings (WINKEY + I) and navigate to System > Nearby sharing. It is disabled by default.

You have two options when enabling Nearby sharing:

My devices only: Nearby sharing will only find other PCs that are configured with the same Microsoft account you're currently using. This is the better choice if you are just sharing with yourself.

Everyone nearby. Nearby sharing will find other PCs via Bluetooth or on the same Wi-Fi network that also have Nearby sharing enabled. This is the better choice if you wish to share with someone else nearby.

Use Nearby sharing to share a file

To share one or more files with Nearby sharing, locate the items you wish to share in File Explorer, select them, and then choose the Share icon in the File Explorer command bar.

Alternatively, right-click the selected file(s) and choose the Share icon in the context menu that appears.

In the Nearby sharing section, you will see one or more other PCs with which you can share the selected items. Select the appropriate PC to initiate the share.

On the other PC, a similar prompt will appear, giving the receiver Save & open, Save, and Decline options.

If the receiver accepts the request, the items will be transferred over Wi-Fi or Bluetooth.

Use Nearby sharing to share a website URL

You can also use Nearby sharing to share a website URL. Naturally, you can only do so via Microsoft Edge, the web browser that comes with Windows 11.

To do so, navigate to a website you would like to share. Then, select "Settings and more" ("...") and then Share to display the Share pane.

Select "Windows share options" to display the Share window. Then, select the PC with which you'd like to share this website's URL. A sharing request will be sent to the other PC.

On that other (receiving) PC, a notification will appear, and you can choose to open the link (in Microsoft Edge, of course) or decline it.

Use Nearby sharing to share a photo

You can also use Nearby sharing to share one or more photos using the Photos app. What's interesting about this feature is that it doesn't matter if the photo(s) you wish to share are on your PC or stored in OneDrive: if you can see them with Photos, you can share them with Nearby sharing.

To do so, open the Photos app and select one or more pictures. Then, click the Share button in the Photo app's toolbar. The Share window appears.

As with the previous examples, select the PC you wish to share with to initiate the sharing process. The selected pictures will be copied to the other PC if they accept.

If any of the pictures you selected are in OneDrive but not synced to your PC, the sharing process will take longer because Windows will need to download those pictures first.

Toggle Nearby sharing with Quick settings

If you think you'll be using Nearby sharing a lot, you can consider adding a Nearby sharing tile button to Quick settings so that you can toggle this feature on and off more easily.

To do so, open Quick settings (WINKEY + A), select the "Edit quick settings" button, and then select the "+ Add" button. In the list of additional quick settings that appears, select "Nearby sharing."

Then, optionally move the new Nearby sharing button to a new location. Click "Done" when you are finished.

The Nearby sharing button in Quick settings acts as a toggle. When Nearby sharing is enabled, it is configured to share with "Everyone nearby" and its Quick settings button will be visibly enabled.