



Aid NEXIS | VFS Gateway Setup and User's Guide

October 2024

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Using This Guide

The Avid NEXIS[®] software-defined storage system provides a high-performance distributed file system that uses high-capacity shared media storage for workgroups of connected devices. This guide describes how to manage your storage system.

Unless noted otherwise, the material in this document applies to the Windows[®], macOS[®], and Linux operating systems. The majority of screen shots in this document were captured on a Windows system, but the information applies to all operating systems. Where differences exist, information on the differences is provided.

The documentation describes the features and hardware of all models. Your system might not contain certain features and hardware that are covered in this guide.

Who Should Use This Guide

This guide is intended for users who will manage the Avid NEXIS media network. You should have a basic understanding of how to use and manage the Windows operating system or the macOS systems, and you should be familiar with basic workgroup and network concepts.

Revision History



The VFS Gateway application version is always the same as the Avid NEXIS version because they are bundled into the same installation kit, even if no changes were made in the Gateway application itself. Changes specific to this application are noted.

Date and Version	Description of Changes
October 2024	Updated the installer names to include the word 'for' before the trademarked names of the operating systems.
July 2024	Added the samba libraries required to install the Avid NEXIS VFS Gateway.
March 2024	Clarified that VFS Gateway can be used on a VM or a physical server
December 2023 (Version 2023.7.0 and higher)	Added client count information
July 2023 (Version 2023.7.0)	Modified Client and VFS Gateway upgrade instructions
September 2022 (Version 2022.9.0)	Renamed from Avid NEXIS Linux File Gateway; support for CentOS 7.9
August 2021 (Version 2021.8.0)	Added troubleshooting steps for Configuration Test Wizard to this guide (no software changes)
May 2021 (Version 2021.5.0)	Added Configuration Test Wizard to File Gateway
March 2021 (Version 2021.3.0)	Support for CentOS 7.8 on VM; share names now editable; share names no longer include Avid NEXIS name by default
Jan/Feb 2021 (Version 2020.7.5)	Added info for selecting correct interface for embedded clients; other corrections
March 2020 (Version 2020.3.0)	Added SMBv3 information, offline activation support
December 2019 (Version 2019.12.0)	Initial release

Symbols and Conventions

Avid documentation uses the following symbols and conventions:

Symbol or Convention	Meaning or Action
	A note provides important related information, reminders, recommendations, and strong suggestions.
	A caution means that a specific action you take could cause harm to your computer or cause you to lose data.
	A warning describes an action that could cause you physical harm. Follow the guidelines in this document or on the unit itself when handling electrical equipment.
	A user tip provides a helpful hint that can aid users in getting the most from their system.
	A shortcut shows the user keyboard or mouse shortcuts for a procedure or command.
>	This symbol indicates menu commands (and subcommands) in the order you select them. For example, File > Import means to open the File menu and then select the Import command.
	This symbol indicates a single-step procedure. Multiple arrows in a list indicate that you perform one of the actions listed.
(Windows), (Windows only), (macOS), or (macOS only)	This text indicates that the information applies only to the specified operating system, either Windows or macOS.
Bold font	Bold font is primarily used in task instructions to identify user interface items and keyboard sequences.
<i>Italic font</i>	Italic font is used to emphasize certain words and to indicate variables.
Courier Bold font	Courier Bold font identifies text that you type.
Ctrl+key or mouse action	Press and hold the first key while you press the last key or perform the mouse action. For example, Command+Option+C or Ctrl+drag.
	The pipe character is used in some Avid product names, such as MediaCentral Cloud UX. In this document, the pipe is used in product names when they are in headings or at their first use in text.

If You Need Help

If you are having trouble using your Avid product:

1. Retry the action, carefully following the instructions given for that task in this guide. It is especially important to check each step of your workflow.
2. Check the latest information that might have become available after the documentation was published. Always check online for the most up-to-date release notes or ReadMe because the online version is updated whenever new information becomes available. To view the online version, visit the [Avid NEXIS Documentation](#) available on the Avid Knowledge Base.
3. Check the documentation that came with your Avid application or your hardware for maintenance or hardware-related issues.

4. Visit the Avid Online Support at www.avid.com/support. Online services are available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Search the Knowledge Base to find answers, to view error messages, to access troubleshooting tips, to download upgrades, and to read or join online message-board discussions.

Accessing the Online Documentation

The Avid online documentation contains all the product documentation in PDF format. You can access the documentation from the Knowledge Base site specific to your release. Download and install Acrobat Reader before you access the PDF documentation.

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For information on courses/schedules, training centers, certifications, courseware, and books, please visit www.avid.com/support and follow the Training links, or call Avid Sales at 800-949-AVID (800-949-2843).

1 Avid NEXIS | VFS Gateway Overview and Installation

This chapter describes the Avid NEXIS | VFS Gateway operation, and includes the steps to install a new configuration or update a current one. The resources and network requirements specified in this document are applicable for deploying the Avid NEXIS | VFS Gateway on both virtual machines and physical servers.

 *In versions 2019.12 through 2022.7, the product name was Avid NEXIS | Linux File Gateway. As of version 2022.9, the name changed to Avid NEXIS | VFS Gateway. This document refers to the old name where applicable, but both names apply to the same utility.*

 *Starting with Avid NEXIS 2024.10.0, the installer names have been updated to include the word 'for' before the trademarked names of the operating systems.*

Overview and Operation

Avid NEXIS | VFS Gateway (formerly Avid NEXIS | Linux File Gateway) is a Linux-based application that you can deploy on a physical server or in a CentOS Virtual Machine (VM) environment. It enables network users to access Avid NEXIS Workspaces in a non-realtime scenario.

 *Not supported for connecting to Avid ISIS Workspaces.*

The VFS Gateway acts as an intermediary between Avid NEXIS Workspaces and computers that cannot use the Avid NEXIS Client; for example, on unsupported devices, or those running unsupported operating systems, or those that rarely attach and do not warrant the overhead of installing and configuring the Client.

 **The VFS Gateway is not designed or intended as a replacement or alternative to the Avid NEXIS Client Manager.**

As the administrator of the VFS Gateway system, you connect an Avid NEXIS system and share the Workspaces the users need to access. Users then connect to the Workspaces by mapping a network drive to the shared Workspace name through a CIFS share.

Depending on the users' access permission, they can read, write, and delete files on Workspaces without using the Avid NEXIS client software.

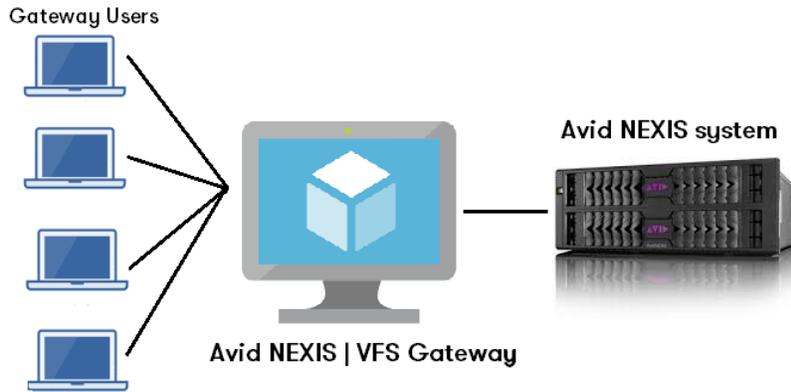
Any client operating system that supports Server Message Block Version 3 (SMBv3) can connect to an Avid NEXIS | VFS Gateway shared Workspace.

An Avid NEXIS | VFS Gateway can connect to only one Avid NEXIS system. However, you can configure multiple VMs running the VFS Gateway software that all connect to the same Avid NEXIS to improve performance and support large numbers of users connecting to shared Workspaces.

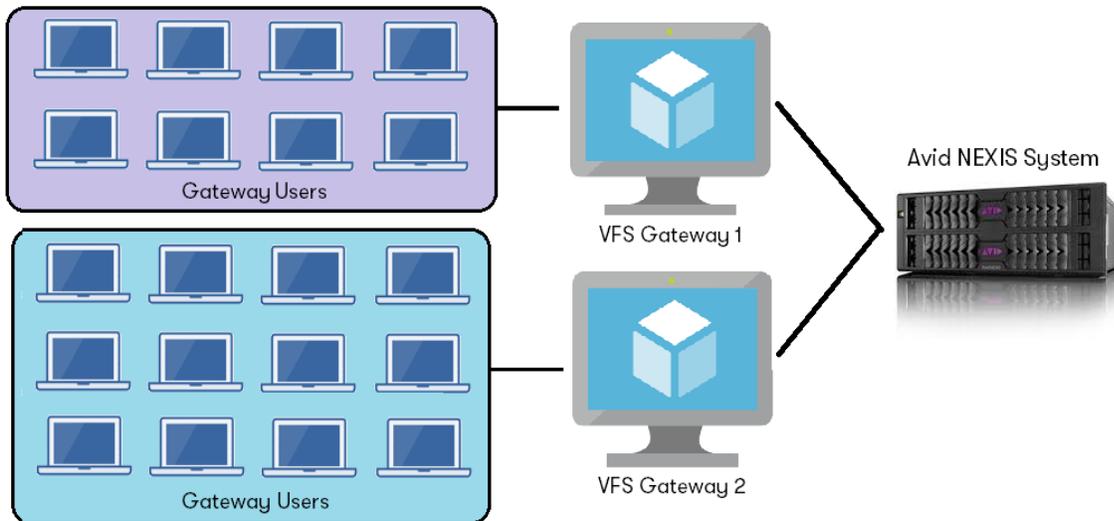
Note the following:

- One VFS Gateway connection is counted as one client connection to the Avid NEXIS system.
- Each VFS Gateway connection counts against the maximum number of client connections supported by your system; see the *Avid NEXIS ReadMe* for more information.
- SMB connections (from clients to the VFS Gateway) do not count against the client connection limit.
- The number of SMB connections depends on the resources available on the VFS Gateway server. Each SMB connection uses CPU, RAM, and networking resources.

One VFS Gateway (with multiple Clients) to Avid NEXIS



Multiple VFS Gateways (with multiple Clients) to Avid NEXIS



Deploying a VFS Gateway System

Deploying a new Avid NEXIS | VFS Gateway system involves the following steps:

1. Reviewing the ["Prerequisites for New Deployment"](#) on the next page and ["Preparing the Environment"](#) on page 11
2. ["Creating and Configuring a Virtual Machine"](#) on page 11
3. ["Installing CentOS"](#) on page 11
4. ["Installing the Avid Software on the Server or CentOS VM"](#) on page 15
5. ["Adding the CentOS Host Name to DNS and Active Directory"](#) on page 17
6. ["Activating the VFS Gateway License"](#) on page 18
7. ["Changing the VFS Gateway Administrator Credentials"](#) on page 19

If you have an existing VFS Gateway system, you can upgrade the Avid NEXIS Client software and the VFS Gateway software; see ["Upgrading a VFS Gateway System"](#) on page 20.

Prerequisites for New Deployment

Install Avid NEXIS | VFS Gateway on any server hardware. Servers with single and dual 1Gbe and 10GbE NICs are supported.

You will need the following applications, software and tools to successfully deploy an instance of Avid NEXIS | VFS Gateway on a server or in a virtual machine:

Application, Software or Tool	Description
VM environment (VM deployments only)	VMware ESXi, VMware Workstation Player, VMware Workstation Pro, Oracle VM VirtualBox
CPU cores	2 minimum, 4 recommended
Memory	8GB minimum, 16GB recommended
Disk space	100GB
Network interface	1Gbps minimum, 10Gbps recommended
CentOS in DVD ISO format ¹	Operating system to be installed on the server or in the VFS Gateway VM
Samba Libraries	<p>Samba libraries to be installed before running the Avid NEXIS VFS Gateway CentOS 7.9 client installer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> samba-common-libs = 4.10.16-18.el7_9.x86_64 samba-libs = 4.10.16-18.el7_9.x86_64 samba-client-libs = 4.10.16-18.el7_9.x86_64 <p>These libraries are available through the CentOS package repositories or online.</p>
Avid NEXIS Client software kit for CentOS ²	<p>The Avid NEXIS Client software enables connections from VFS Gateway clients to the shared Workspaces.</p> <p>File name: <code>AvidNEXISClient_for_el7.centos_n.0.0-nnnnn.bin</code></p>
Avid NEXIS VFS Gateway software ³	<p>Software that enables sharing Avid NEXIS Workspaces to clients</p> <p>File name for version 2022.9 and newer:</p> <p><code>AvidNEXISVFSGateway_for_el7.centos_n.0.0-nnnnn.bin</code></p> <p>File name for older versions:</p> <p><code>AvidNEXISFileGateway_for_el7.centos_n.0.0-nnnnn.bin</code></p>
Avid NEXIS VFS Gateway license activation code	Download from your Avid Master Account
WinSCP for Windows, or SCP for macOS or Linux	File upload utility to copy the binary files to the Avid NEXIS VFS Gateway VM
PuTTY for Windows, or SSH terminal for macOS or Linux	Optional utility for accessing the VM for Avid NEXIS VFS Gateway installation

^a See the Avid NEXIS ReadMe for the currently supported version of CentOS with Avid NEXIS | VFS Gateway.

^b Always use the current Avid NEXIS Client version; see the Avid NEXIS ReadMe for more information.

^c Always use the latest Avid NEXIS | VFS Gateway version; see the Avid NEXIS ReadMe for more information.

Preparing the Environment

Install the tools and software necessary to deploy a server or virtual machine in your environment. This system will host the Avid NEXIS | VFS Gateway. Refer to the table in "[Prerequisites for New Deployment](#)" on the [previous page](#) for the download locations.

To prepare for the virtual machine creation and software installation:

1. For VM deployment, download a virtual machine application and install it on a physical server.
2. For all installations (this step through the end of the procedure), in a browser, go to <https://www.centos.org/download/> and click x86_64 in the Architecture list to find the nearest mirror site to you.
3. Download the file named CentOS-7-x86_64-DVD-2009.iso and save it (**but do not install yet**) on the server.
4. Download the Avid NEXIS CentOS Client software and Avid NEXIS | VFS Gateway software from your Avid Master Account or from a local Avid NEXIS. See "[Prerequisites for New Deployment](#)" on the [previous page](#) for file names and supported versions.
5. Download and install WinSCP from <https://winscp.net/eng/download.php>.
6. Download and install the 64-bit PuTTY application from <https://www.putty.org/>.
7. Make sure the Avid NEXIS system and the VFS Gateway system are synchronized with a common time-of-day. For information on setting the Network Time Protocol (NTP), see your Avid Administrator.

Creating and Configuring a Virtual Machine

Avid NEXIS | VFS Gateway software runs inside a CentOS-based virtual machine that you configure in your environment.

To create and configure a virtual machine:

1. Use the VM tool of your choice to create a new virtual machine.
2. **IMPORTANT:** Do not install the CentOS kit during the VM creation. Choose the option to install the OS later, after the VM is created.
3. Specify a minimum disk size of 100GB.
4. Customize the VM with these settings:
 - Memory: 8GB minimum, 16GB recommended
 - CPU cores: 2 minimum, 4 recommended
 - Network adapter: bridged (connected to physical NIC)



Avid recommends using a static IP address for the CentOS VM. Using DHCP can cause connection issues with the remote LDAP server.

5. Select the option to create a new DVD/CD (IDE) and browse to the location where you downloaded the CentOS DVD ISO file.

Installing CentOS

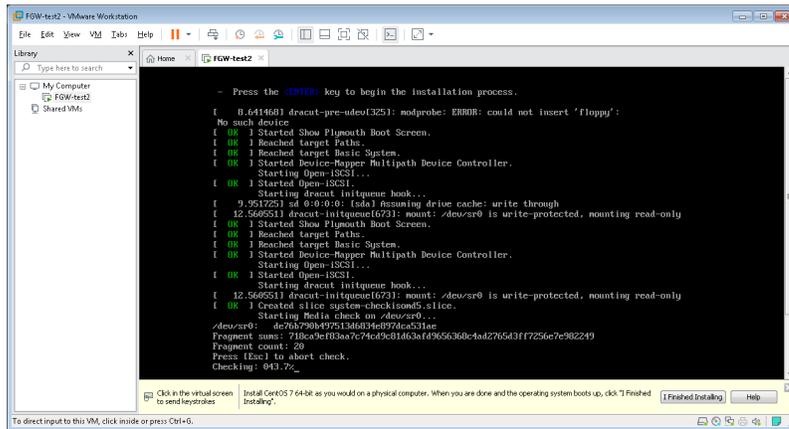
When the server or VM is created and configured, install the CentOS DVD ISO binary file you downloaded previously. Install only this CentOS version.



This procedure applies to both server and VM installation. Follow the relevant steps as appropriate for your environment.

To install CentOS on a server or in a VM:

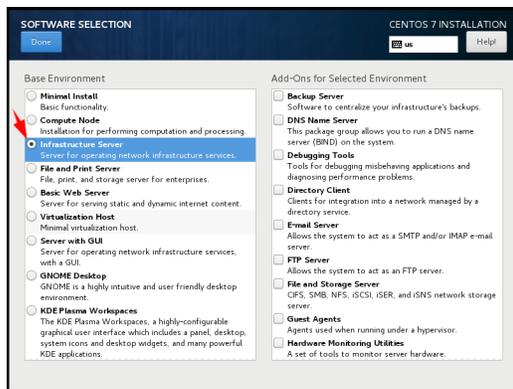
1. If applicable, power on (play) the VM.
2. Press Enter to install CentOS.



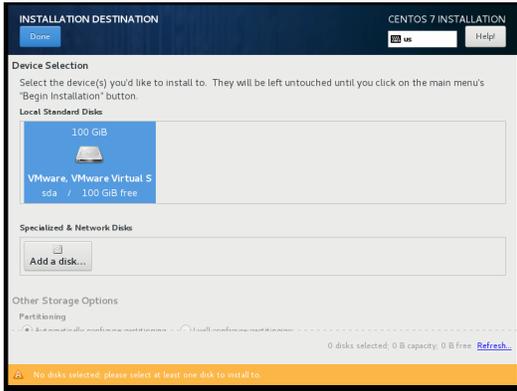
3. At the “Welcome to CentOS 7” screen, select English, then click Continue.



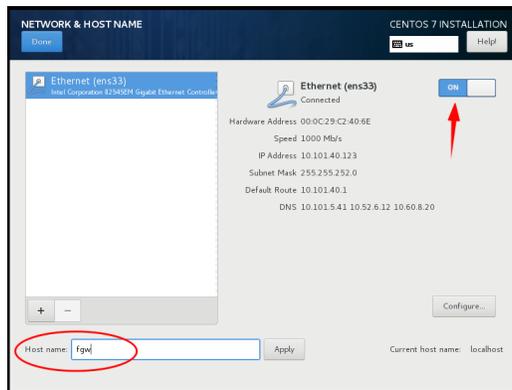
4. Click “Software Selection” and select “Infrastructure server,” then click Done.



5. Click “Installation Destination,” then under Local Standard Disks select “VMware Virtual Disk (100GiB),” then click Done.

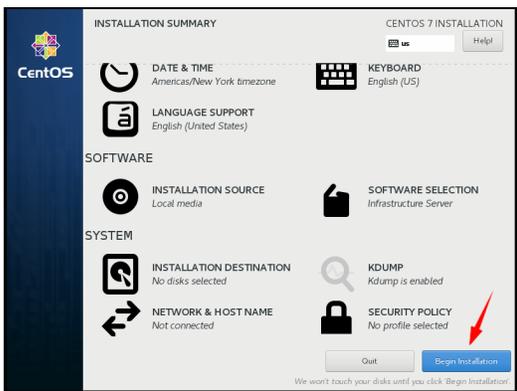


6. Click Network and Hostname, then do the following:
 - a. Set the Ethernet status to ON.
 - b. Enter a server or VM host name that is unique within your environment.

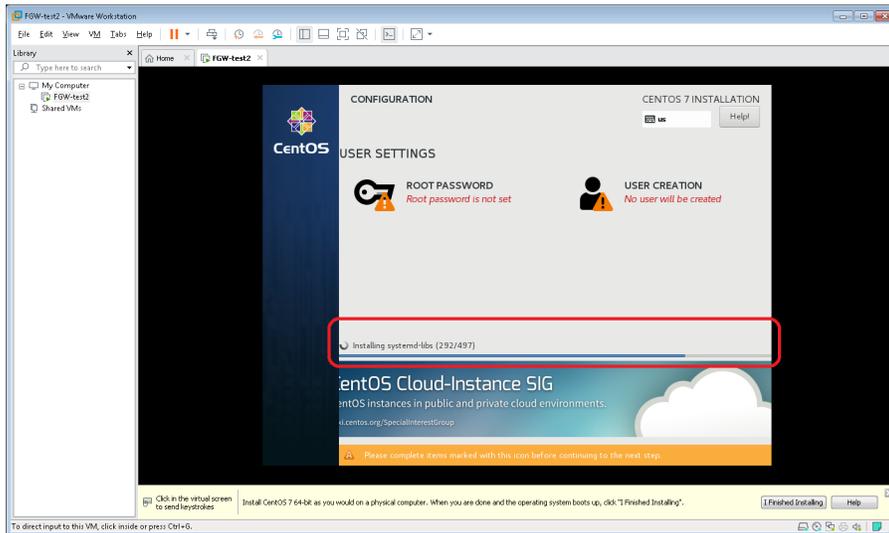


- c. Click Apply, then click Done.

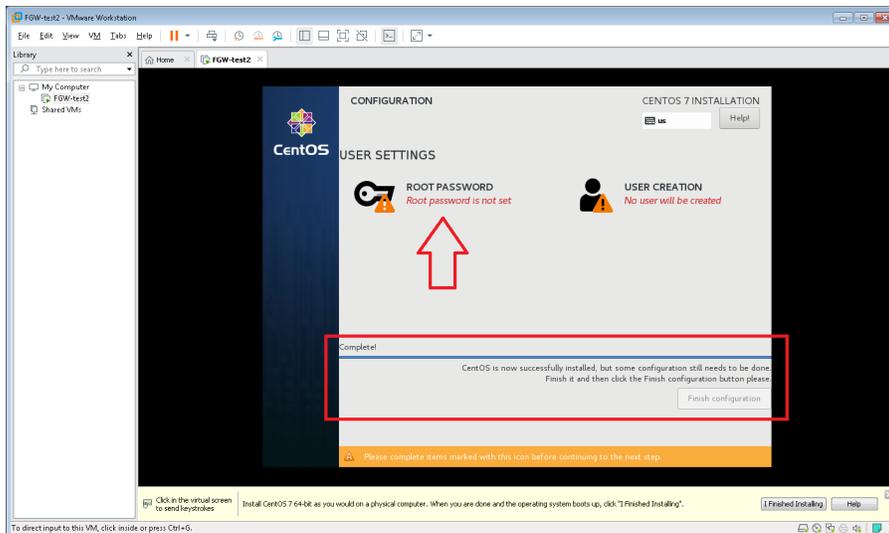
7. Click Begin Installation.



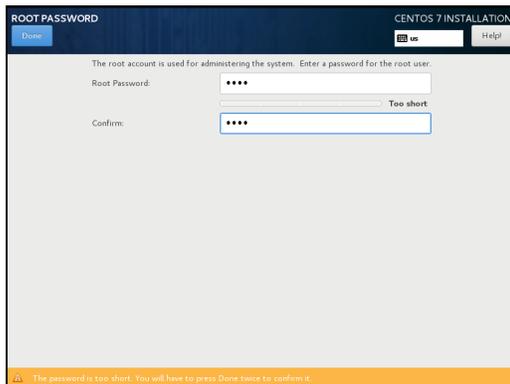
The installation process begins, as shown:



8. When the installation is complete, click Root Password.



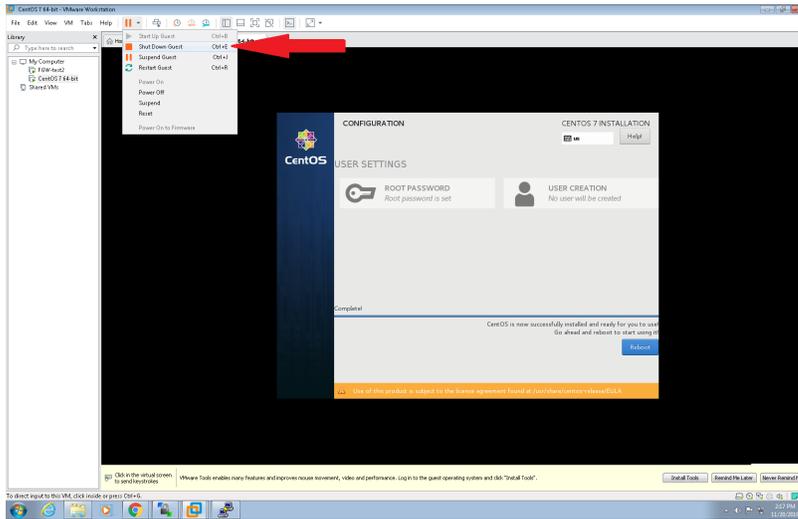
9. Enter a new root password, then click Done.



 *Keep track of this root password. You will use it to upload files and install the VFS Gateway.*

10. Click Finish Configuration, and wait for the installation to complete.

11. Reboot the server or, for a VM, click VM, then click Shut Down Guest.



12. Check and make sure you have the following samba libraries installed:

- samba-common-libs = 4.10.16-18.el7_9.x86_64
- samba-libs = 4.10.16-18.el7_9.x86_64
- samba-client-libs = 4.10.16-18.el7_9.x86_64

⚠ The Avid NEXIS | VFS Gateway installation will fail if you do not have these required libraries. If you have newer versions of these libraries in the system, uninstall them first and install the samba libraries specified above. See the "Prerequisites for New Deployment" on page 10

```

Error: Package: samba-4.10.16-18.el7_9.x86_64 (avidfgwrepo)
Requires: samba-libs = 4.10.16-18.el7_9
X Installed: samba-libs-4.10.16-25.el7_9.x86_64 (@updates)
samba-libs = 4.10.16-25.el7_9
Available: samba-libs-4.10.16-18.el7_9.x86_64 (avidfgwrepo)
samba-libs = 4.10.16-18.el7_9
Error: Package: samba-4.10.16-18.el7_9.x86_64 (avidfgwrepo)
Requires: samba-client-libs = 4.10.16-18.el7_9
X Installed: samba-client-libs-4.10.16-25.el7_9.x86_64 (@updates)
samba-client-libs = 4.10.16-25.el7_9
Available: samba-client-libs-4.10.16-18.el7_9.x86_64 (avidfgwrepo)
samba-client-libs = 4.10.16-18.el7_9
Error: Package: samba-winbind-clients-4.10.16-18.el7_9.x86_64 (avidfgwrepo)
Requires: samba-common-libs = 4.10.16-18.el7_9
X Installed: samba-common-libs-4.10.16-25.el7_9.x86_64 (@updates)
samba-common-libs = 4.10.16-25.el7_9
Available: samba-common-libs-4.10.16-18.el7_9.x86_64 (avidfgwrepo)
samba-common-libs = 4.10.16-18.el7_9
You could try using --skip-broken to work around the problem
You could try running: rpm -Va --nofiles --nodigest
Installation failed!
    
```

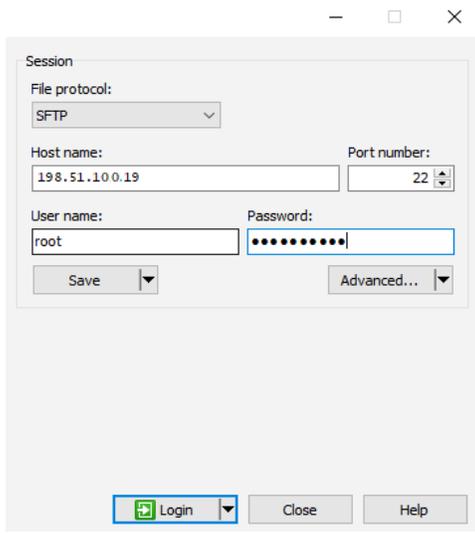
Installing the Avid Software on the Server or CentOS VM

The Avid Client Manager software and Avid NEXIS | VFS Gateway software are included in the Avid NEXIS software kit, which you can download from your Avid Master account or from an Avid NEXIS system that includes it. See "Prerequisites for New Deployment" on page 10. This procedure assumes you have already downloaded the kits.

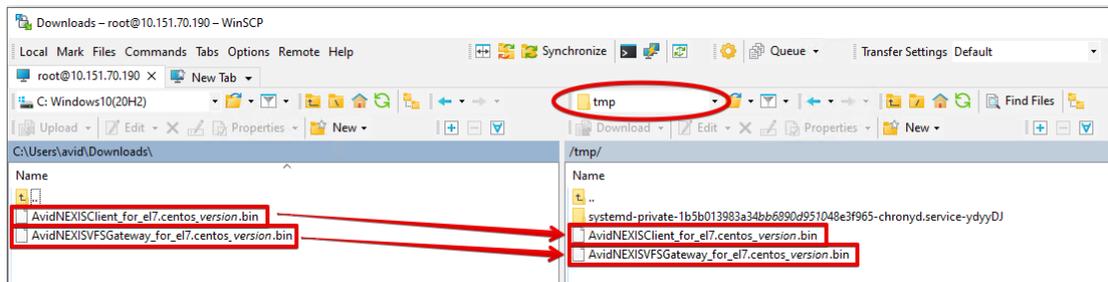
⚠ Install the Client software first, then install the VFS Gateway software. The VFS Gateway installation depends on the presence of the Avid NEXIS Client.

To install the client and VFS Gateway software on the VFS Gateway server or VM:

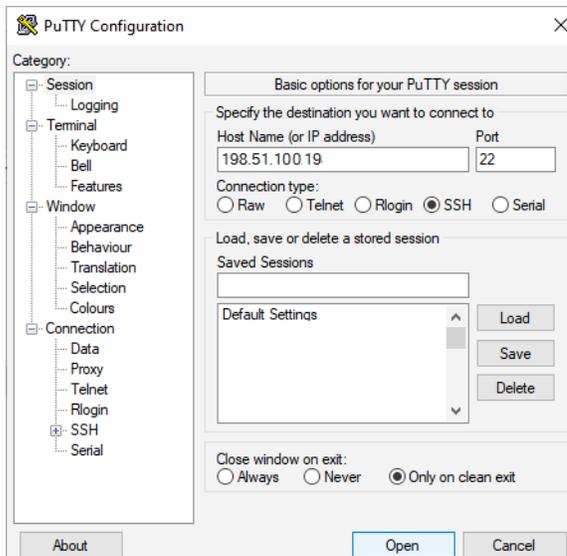
1. Start a file transfer program such as SCP or WinSCP and connect to the CentOS VM IP address, logging in as root with the password you configured previously.



2. Copy the Avid NEXIS Client bin file and the Avid NEXIS | VFS Gateway bin file to the tmp directory:



3. Open an SSH terminal session (such as PuTTY on a Windows client) and log into the VFS Gateway system or VM with the same root user name and password as in previous steps.



4. Change directory to `/tmp` and make the Avid NEXIS Client binary file executable:
`chmod +x AvidNEXISClient_for_e17.centos.n.0.0-nnnnnn.bin`
5. Make the Avid NEXIS | VFS Gateway binary file executable:

```
chmod +x AvidNEXISVFSGateway_for_e17.centos.n.0.0-nnnnn.bin
```

6. Run (execute) the Avid NEXIS Client installer:

```
./AvidNEXISClient_for_e17.centos.n.0.0-nnnnn.bin
```

7. Configure the appropriate network interface as follows:

- a. Show the available network interfaces:

```
ip a
```

- b. Identify the interface for communicating with the Avid NEXIS system and add it to the `/etc/AvidRegistry` file:

```
AvidFos\Parameters\UseIfname <interface_name>
```

- c. Save and close the Registry file.

8. Run (execute) the Avid NEXIS | VFS Gateway installer:

```
./AvidNEXISVFSGateway_for_e17.centos.n.0.0-nnnnn.bin
```

9. Reboot the server or VM.

Adding the CentOS Host Name to DNS and Active Directory

You can add the CentOS host name to your DNS server to let users to connect to the shared Workspaces using the VFS Gateway host name instead of the IP address. If you plan to import LDAP users from an Active Directory service in your environment, also add the VFS Gateway IP address to your Active Directory server.

To add the CentOS Host Name to DNS and Active Directory (if applicable):

1. Turn on the server or power on (play) the VM.
2. Log in to the system as root, with the password you configured during the CentOS installation.
3. Run the command `ifconfig` to identify the IP address for the Avid NEXIS | VFS Gateway.

```
CentOS Linux 7 (Core)
Kernel 3.10.0-862.el7.x86_64 on an x86_64

fgw login: root
Password:
Last login: Mon Oct 7 15:20:37 on tty1
[root@fgw ~]#
[root@fgw ~]#
[root@fgw ~]#
[root@fgw ~]# ifconfig
ens33: flags=4163<UP,BROADCAST,RUNNING,MULTICAST> mtu 1500
    inet 198.51.100.19 netmask 255.255.252.0 broadcast 198.51.100.255
    inet6 fe80::bcf4:718:eae9:3f1f prefixlen 64 scopeid 0x20<link>
    ether 00:0c:29:d1:f9:87 txqueuelen 1000 (Ethernet)
    RX packets 115 bytes 17189 (16.7 KiB)
    RX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 frame 0
    TX packets 38 bytes 3960 (3.8 KiB)
    TX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 carrier 0 collisions 0

lo: flags=73<UP,LOOPBACK,RUNNING> mtu 65536
    inet 127.0.0.1 netmask 255.0.0.0
    inet6 ::1 prefixlen 128 scopeid 0x10<host>
    loop txqueuelen 1000 (Local Loopback)
    RX packets 32 bytes 2592 (2.5 KiB)
    RX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 frame 0
    TX packets 32 bytes 2592 (2.5 KiB)
    TX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 carrier 0 collisions 0

[root@fgw ~]# _
```

4. Run the command `hostname -f` to make sure this host name is not already being used.
5. Add the CentOS host name and IP address to the `/etc/hosts` file as follows:

```
echo "<IPaddress> <FullHostname> <hostname>" >> /etc/hosts
```

For example:

```
echo "192.168.1.123 myvmhostname.global.avidww.com myvmhostname" >>
/etc/hosts
```

6. Add the CentOS host name and IP address to the /etc/resolv.conf file as follows:

```
echo "<IPAddress> <FullHostname> <hostname>" >> /etc/resolv.conf
```

For example:

```
echo "192.168.1.123 myvmhostname.global.avidww.com myvmhostname" >>
/etc/resolv.conf
```

7. Ask your IT administrator to connect to the Avid NEXIS | VFS Gateway IP address and join the VFS Gateway to Active Directory, then verify it, with the following commands:

```
realm join --user=ITadminuser@mydomain.localmydomain.local
```

```
realm list
```

```
[root@FGWVM]# realm list
global.acmecorp.com
  type: kerberos
  realm-name: GLOBAL.ACMECORP.COM
  domain-name: global.acmecorp.com
  configured: kerberos-member
  server-software: active-directory
  client-software: sssd
  required-package: oddjob
  required-package: oddjob-mkhomedir
  required-package: sssd
  required-package: adcli
  required-package: samba-common-tools
  login-formats: %U@global.acmecorp.com
  login-policy: allow-realm-logins
```

8. Reboot the server or VM.

Activating the VFS Gateway License

When you log into a new (unactivated) Avid NEXIS | VFS Gateway, the License tab is displayed. You must activate the license before the other tabs become active. This procedure assumes you have received your Activation ID and System ID from Avid.

You can activate the license online through an Internet connection (direct activation), or offline (indirect activation).

To use direct activation:

1. Open a browser and enter the IP address of the VFS Gateway server or VM.
2. Log in to the Avid NEXIS | VFS Gateway as the administrator (default user name: **fgw-admin**; default password: **Admin#19**).

3. On the License page, select the Online activation method from the drop-down list.
4. Enter the Activation ID and System ID, and click Activate.

If successful, the license information is shown in the Status fields, and you see a success message.

To use indirect activation:

1. Log in to the Avid NEXIS | VFS Gateway as the administrator (default user name: **fgw-admin**; default password: **Admin#19**).

The License tab is displayed, and is the only tab available until the license is activated.

2. Copy the Device ID.
3. On a computer with Internet access, go to <https://my.avid.com/products/indirectactivation>.
4. Enter your Activation ID. If valid, the screen displays the Device ID and System ID fields.
5. Enter your Device ID (copied in step 2), System ID, and email address and click Submit.



Entering your email address is recommended so you receive the license file, in case your Internet connection is interrupted before you can download it.

6. Wait a few minutes for the license file to become available.
7. Click Download to retrieve the file. Download it to a location accessible to the Avid NEXIS | VFS Gateway (either by saving to a USB drive or copying to a shared network folder).

8. On the License page, select the Offline activation method from the drop-down list.
9. Enter the Activation ID and System ID.
10. Browse to the location of the downloaded activation file, and click Submit.
11. You must log out and then back in for the license to be activated. When you log in again, if the activation was successful, the license information is shown in the Status fields, and you see a success message. The other tabs in the VFS Gateway application are now available.

Changing the VFS Gateway Administrator Credentials

Immediately after you activate the license, Avid strongly recommends you change the factory-default VFS Gateway administrator name and password.

To change the VFS Gateway administrator password:

1. Click the Credentials tab.
2. Enter a new administrator name and password, then click Save.
3. A tool tip describes the password criteria, including length and types of characters the password must contain.
4. Continue with ["Configuring Avid NEXIS | VFS Gateway" on page 23](#).

Deactivating a License

If you activated the license online, you can deactivate it and reuse it if you need to delete and re-create your VM (for example to increase its resources: see ["Prerequisites for New Deployment" on page 10](#)). To reuse a deactivated license, the new or modified server or VM must have the same Device ID as before.

If you activated the license offline, and later deactivate it, you will need a new license to reactivate the Avid NEXIS | VFS Gateway.



The Avid NEXIS | VFS Gateway must be connected to the Internet to deactivate a license, regardless of how it was activated initially.

To deactivate a License:

1. Click the License tab.
2. Click Deactivate.
3. At the warning message, click OK to continue.

The license is deactivated and you must log out.

You must activate the same or a new license to resume using the VFS Gateway. If reusing the same license, all the shared workspaces, users, and Identity Manager settings remain intact from the previous activation.

Upgrading a VFS Gateway System

You can upgrade the Avid NEXIS Client software and the Avid NEXIS | VFS Gateway software as long as the CentOS version is compatible with the Avid NEXIS version.



Avid does not support upgrading the CentOS version on the server or VM. To use the latest supported CentOS version, install the newer CentOS version on the server or create a new VM, as described earlier in this chapter. See the Avid NEXIS ReadMe for the currently supported CentOS versions, and the compatibility between the CentOS version and the Client and Gateway versions.



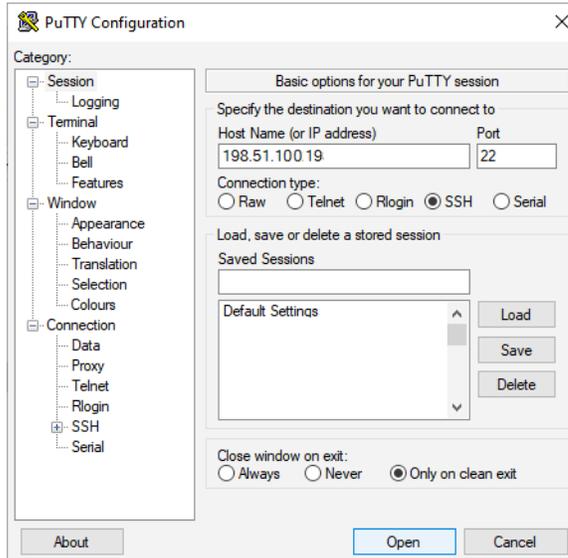
Versions of VFS Gateway newer than 2019.12 let you edit Shared Workspace names.



Upgrading the Client and Gateway software involves rebooting the system several times. Schedule this task during a normal maintenance window to avoid disrupting users.

To upgrade the client and VFS Gateway software on an existing VFS Gateway system:

1. Open an SSH terminal session (such as PuTTY on a Windows client) and log into the VFS Gateway with the root user name and password.



2. Stop the VFS Gateway service and uninstall the current version:

```
rpm -qa fgwservice
```

```
> fgwservice-version-build.x86_64
```

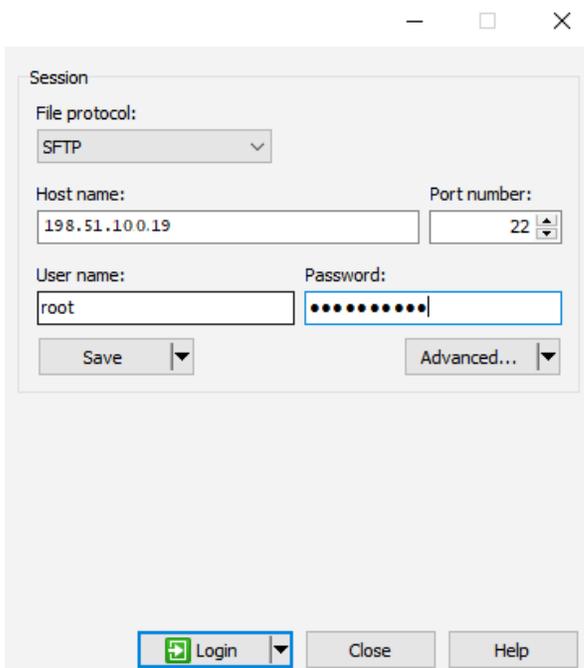
```
rpm -e fgwservice-version-build.x86_64
```

3. Uninstall the current client version:

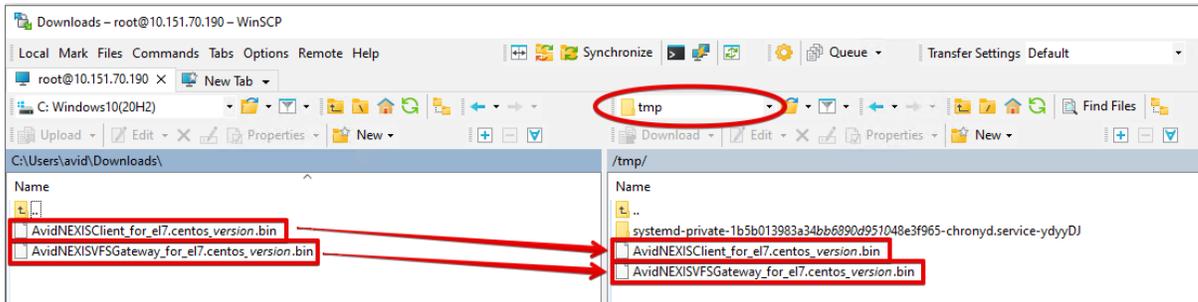
```
[sudo] /usr/sbin/avid-nexis-uninstaller
```

4. Reboot the server or VM.

5. Start a file transfer program such as SCP or WinSCP and connect to the VFS Gateway IP address, logging in as root with the root password.



- Copy the Avid NEXIS Client bin file and the Avid NEXIS | VFS Gateway bin file to the tmp directory on the server or VM as shown in the following figure.



 Depending on version of the Avid NEXIS system from which you download the VFS Gateway installer, the file name might be different. The file name makes no difference to this procedure.

- Change directory to `/tmp` and make the Avid NEXIS Client binary file executable:
`chmod +x AvidNEXISClient_for_e17.centos_n.0.0-nnnnnn.bin`
- Make the Avid NEXIS | VFS Gateway binary file executable:
`chmod +x AvidNEXISVFSGateway_for_e17.centos_n.0.0-nnnnnn.bin`

 Depending on the version you are using, the file name can begin with either `AvidNEXISFileGateway` or `AvidNEXISVFSGateway`.

- Run (execute) the Avid NEXIS Client installer:
`./AvidNEXISClient_for_e17.centos_n.0.0-nnnnnn.bin`
- Wait for the Client installation to complete, then reboot the server or VM.
- Run (execute) the Avid NEXIS | VFS Gateway installer:
`./AvidNEXISVFSGateway_for_e17.centos_n.0.0-nnnnnn.bin`

The updated VFS Gateway uses the same license as the previous installation. All the other settings (Identity Manager, users and Workspace access) remain the same. All previously shared Workspaces continue to use their original shared names and clients can still connect to them. Optionally, you can edit the names (see ["Changing the Shared Workspace Name" on page 28](#)).

2 Configuring Avid NEXIS | VFS Gateway

This chapter describes how to configure Avid NEXIS | VFS Gateway, which includes the following operations:

- Determining whether the users will be local or remote. You can choose only one option:
 - Local (default) — You create users manually, and they are authenticated through the Avid NEXIS | VFS Gateway system.
 - Remote — Users are created, managed and authenticated through a remote service, such as an LDAP server. You import users from the list configured as part of the LDAP service. **The VFS Gateway must have network access to the LDAP server, such as through a LAN inside your facility firewall.**
- Connecting to an Avid NEXIS system and sharing Workspaces
- Applying the appropriate permissions for users to access the shared Workspaces

Creating Local Users

By default, Avid NEXIS | VFS Gateway uses its own local (integrated) Identity Manager. This procedure assumes you are using the default local Identity Manager. To add remote users managed by an LDAP service, see ["Adding Remote Users" on page 26](#).



The VFS Gateway's user namespace is independent from the Avid NEXIS user namespace. Users can access both the VFS Gateway and the storage system, but their user names and passwords can be different on each system. Adding or removing a local VFS Gateway user has no effect on Avid NEXIS users.

Each local user requires the following attributes, which you can change at any time:

- Display Name—This can be the user's full first and last names, to distinguish them from other users: for example, Mary Smith. Display names do not need to be unique on the VFS Gateway, in case multiple users have the same name, but you can enter different names to help identify them.
- Username—This is the user's login name: for example, for two different Mary Smiths, you can create accounts MaryS and MSmith. Each user name must be unique on the VFS Gateway and must follow the rules for user names. See the tool tip for details.
- Password—This is the password used to connect to the shared Workspaces when mapping a connection (see ["Using Avid NEXIS | VFS Gateway" on page 31](#)). It does not have to be the same as the user's regular network password, or their password (if any) to connect to Avid NEXIS. This password is used only for making connections to the shared Workspaces. You must securely inform all Avid NEXIS | VFS Gateway users of their password for this connection.



After you have created local users, you cannot switch to the Remote Identity Manager without losing any existing users and their configured Workspace access. Switching requires re-adding users and reconfiguring their access.

To add local users:

1. Click the **Users** tab.
2. Click **Add**.
3. In the User Details section, enter the required information, then click **Save**.

When you start typing in the Password field, a tool tip opens to show the password requirements. Enter a password that meets the listed requirements.

VFS Gateway Display names and LDAP user names do not have to match the user's network login credentials. However, you must inform each user of the VFS Gateway credentials they need to use to access shared Workspaces.

To remove local users:

1. Click the **Users** tab.
2. In the VFS Gateway users list, select one or more users, then click **Remove user**.

Testing the Configuration (Local Users)

Before users start connecting to the VFS Gateway system, you can make sure the configuration is correct. The test checks the most common problems that occur and describes what to fix.

This procedure assumes that you have created at least one local user.

To test the configuration:

1. In the VFS Gateway interface, click **Identity Manager**.
2. Click **Configuration Test**.

The VFS Gateway system tests the configuration settings for the VM.

- If errors are displayed, correct the information and retry the connection test (see ["Troubleshooting Configuration Errors" on the next page](#)). You also might have to repeat one or more steps from ["Adding the CentOS Host Name to DNS and Active Directory" on page 17](#).
- If all the tests pass, enter any local user's credentials, then click **Sign In**. If successful, the message "Successfully accessed share" is shown.

3. Click **Close** to exit the Configuration Test.

Creating Remote Users

If you do not want to create VFS Gateway users manually, you can configure the Remote Identity Manager in VFS Gateway, then import users from an Active Directory server in your network.



After you have created remote users, you cannot switch to the default local identity manager without losing any existing users and their configured Workspace access. Switching requires re-adding users and reconfiguring their access.

Configuring a Remote Identity Manager

To use a remote identity manager:

1. Click the **Identity Manager** tab.
2. Select **Remote Identity Provider**.
3. A warning message states that switching between local and remote identity managers will cause you to lose any currently configured local users and their Workspace access. Click **OK** to continue.
4. From the drop-down menu, choose a protocol: ldap or ldaps. Enter the appropriate information for your LDAP server in the other fields. In the User DN field, enter your LDAP user information.
5. Click **Save**.
6. Continue with ["Testing the Configuration \(Remote Users\)" on the next page](#).



If the domain name in your organization changes, make sure to change it in the VFS Gateway as well. Otherwise users will not be able to connect to shared Workspaces.

Testing the Configuration (Remote Users)

Before users start connecting to the VFS Gateway system, you can make sure the configuration is correct. The test checks the most common problems that occur and describes what to fix.

To test the configuration:

1. In the VFS Gateway interface, click **Identity Manager**.
2. Click **Configuration Test**.

The VFS Gateway system tests the configuration settings for the VM.

- If errors are displayed, correct the information and retry the connection test. You also might have to repeat one or more steps from ["Adding the CentOS Host Name to DNS and Active Directory" on page 17](#).
- If all the tests pass, enter your domain credentials, then click **Sign In**. If successful, the message "Successfully accessed share" is shown.

3. Click **Close** to exit the Configuration Test.
4. Continue with ["Adding Remote Users" on the next page](#).

Troubleshooting Configuration Errors

If the Configuration Test reports errors, refer to the following table for the likely cause and how to fix the problem. Some of the possible errors relate only to the Remote Identity Manager.

Test Name	Description	Reasons for Failure	How to Resolve
Unique Hostname	The VFS Gateway host name must be unique within the network and the name must be configured into the DNS server by its IP address.	VFS Gateway has no host name VFS Gateway IP address is not configured in the DNS server VFS Gateway host name is not unique within the network (another host name found with a different IP address)	Configure a unique host name for the VFS Gateway and add its IP address to the network DNS server.
Unique IP Address	The VFS Gateway IP address must be unique on the network.	Another system with the same IP address was discovered on the network	Make sure the VFS Gateway IP address is not being used already.
Hostname Configuration Files	The VFS Gateway host name and IP address must be added to the /etc/hosts file.	The /etc/hosts file and /etc/resolv.conf file, or both, were not configured or were configured incorrectly.	See "Adding the CentOS Host Name to DNS and Active Directory" on page 17
NetBIOS Domain Name (applies only)	The NetBIOS configuration is required for remote LDAP	LDAP server host name cannot be	Verify the LDAP server host name was spelled

Test Name	Description	Reasons for Failure	How to Resolve
to remote user configurations)	authentication.	found	correctly
		LDAP server host name was found but the supplied NetBIOS name was not found	Verify that you can reach the LDAP server using the ping command
Register Remote Active Directory (applies only to remote user configurations)	The VFS Gateway host name must be added to the remote LDAP server for authentication of remote users	LDAP server host name misspelled LDAP server is not reachable VFS Gateway host name is not registered with the LDAP server	Verify the LDAP server host name was spelled correctly Verify that you can reach the LDAP server using the ping command Register the VFS Gateway host name on the LDAP server (see "Adding the CentOS Host Name to DNS and Active Directory" on page 17)
Remote LDAP Authentication (applies only to remote user configurations)	This test makes sure that the remote user has been correctly configured in the list of users in VFS Gateway. When you enter a valid user name and password, the VFS Gateway system attempts to authenticate those credentials against the LDAP server.	The user domain name or password was not correctly configured.	Verify the user domain information is correct (see "Adding Remote Users" below), and retry the operation.
Remote LDAP Access (applies only to remote user configurations)	This tests that the remote LDAP user can authenticate and access the VFS Gateway as a Samba client.	If any part of the Configuration Test failed, this test can fail.	Verify the user credentials entered in the configuration test are correct. (Retry the access test.)
Local LDAP Access (applies only to local user configurations)	This tests that the local LDAP user can authenticate and access the VFS Gateway as a Samba client.	If any part of the Configuration Test failed, this test can fail.	Verify the user credentials entered in the configuration test are correct. Compare the information on the Users tab (see "Creating Local Users" on page 23) to that entered in the test fields, and retry the access test.

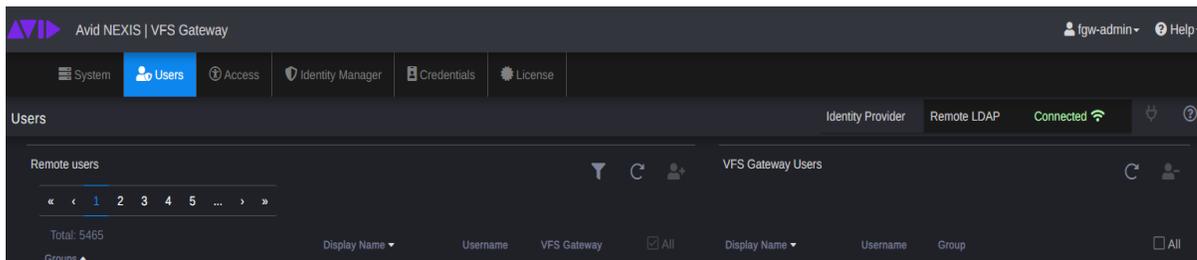
Adding Remote Users

This procedure adds users configured as part of your environment's LDAP service to the list of users who can have access to Avid NEXIS Workspaces.

 The VFS Gateway tool cannot process Active Directory Groups or Users with wildcard characters in the Organizational Unit string (for example, OU=*Groups). Groups with special characters or wildcards can return unexpected results or no results at all.

To adding remote users:

1. Click the **Users** tab.
2. Confirm that the VFS Gateway is connected to the Remote LDAP server, as shown in the following figure. If not, click **Connect** and enter your credentials.



3. The users and groups known to the LDAP server are shown in the list, possibly on multiple pages. Click the forward or back arrows or the page numbers to see additional pages of groups and users.
4. Use the Filter to search for the group to which the user belongs.
5. Select a group. The members of that group are shown to the right of the group list.
6. Select one or more users (to select all members of the group, click **Select**), then click **Add User**.

To remove remote users:

1. Click the **Users** tab.
2. In the VFS Gateway users list, select one or more users, then click **Remove User**. The VFS Gateway does not need to be connected to the Remote LDAP server. This procedure deletes the user from the VFS Gateway users list, not from the LDAP server.

Connecting to Avid NEXIS and Sharing Workspaces

Avid NEXIS | VFS Gateway supports connecting to, and sharing Workspaces for, only one Avid NEXIS. If you need to support VFS Gateway access to more than one Avid NEXIS, configure an additional VFS Gateway for each.

The VFS Gateway must be connected to Avid NEXIS only when you are adding shared Workspaces, or to display changes to the Workspaces on Avid NEXIS (Workspaces that have been renamed, added, or deleted). Any currently-shared Workspaces remain shared even if the VFS Gateway is not connected to Avid NEXIS.

There is no limitation on the number of Workspaces you can share with VFS Gateway. However, Windows clients using drive letters to access the Workspaces are limited to 26 connections, minus any existing system partitions.

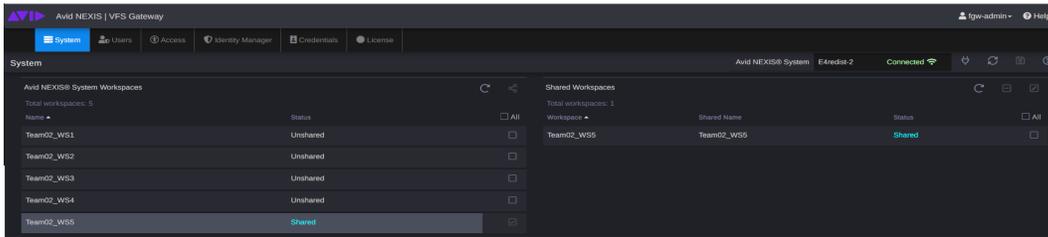
To share Avid NEXIS Workspaces:

1. Click the **System** tab.
2. Click **Connect**.
3. In the dialog box, enter the IP address of the Avid NEXIS system you want to connect to, and the Avid NEXIS administrator name and password, then click **Connect**.



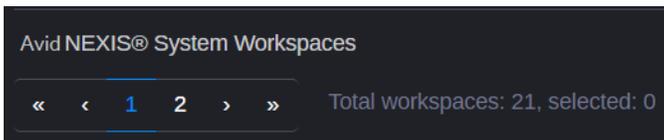
Make sure to enter the Administrator account and password for the Avid NEXIS system, not the VFS Gateway administrator.

The status bar shows that VFS Gateway is connected to Avid NEXIS.



- If the VFS Gateway is not currently connected to Avid NEXIS, you cannot see the Workspaces list in the left panel, but you can still see and remove shared Workspaces in the Shared Workspaces list. You can also add or change user access to those Workspaces (on the Access tab).
 - You do not need to expressly disconnect from Avid NEXIS; but to do so, refresh the browser window in which VFS Gateway is running, then log back in. The connection to Avid NEXIS is dropped.
4. Because the Workspaces on Avid NEXIS are subject to change at any time, click **Refresh** to see the current list.
 5. Select one or more Workspaces from the list on the left, then click **Share**.

If there is more than one page of Workspaces, click the forward or back arrows or the page numbers to see more entries.



You can select Workspaces from several pages at one time.

Changing the Shared Workspace Name

By default, when you share a Workspace, the shared Workspace name is the same as the Avid NEXIS Workspace name. (If you upgraded from Avid NEXIS | VFS Gateway version 2019.12, the existing shared names start with the Avid NEXIS system name, a dash, then the Workspace name; for example, KARentals-Workspace01.) You can change the name after the Workspace is shared, to make them more meaningful or descriptive for the users accessing them. The shared names must be unique. Changing the shared name does not change the name of the Workspace on Avid NEXIS.

You can sort the shared Workspaces by Workspace name or by shared name. If the list spans multiple pages, make sure you check for existing names before changing a shared name to avoid assigning a name that already exists.

If users already have shared names mounted, after you change the name they can no longer connect to that Workspace. Tell users to unmount any shares that you are renaming, and mount them again with the new name.

To change a shared Workspace name:

1. In the Shared Workspace list, select one or more Workspaces and click **Edit Shared Name**.
2. You can edit another Workspace name as you are changing others; select the additional Workspaces and click **Edit Shared Name** again. All the Workspaces remain editable until you click **Save**.
3. In the Shared Name text field that becomes active, enter a new name, then click **Save**.

Removing Shared Workspaces

To stop further access to a shared Workspace, you can remove it from the shared list. Users can no longer access that Workspace unless you share it again.

To remove a shared Workspace:

1. Click the **System** tab.
2. In the Shared Workspaces list, select one or more Workspaces.
3. Click **Unshare Workspace**.

The Workspaces continue to exist on Avid NEXIS, but VFS Gateway users can no longer connect to them.

Configuring User Access to Workspaces

For users to be able to access the Workspaces, you must set user access permissions for the shared Workspaces.

The Toggle View button lets you display users on the left or Workspaces on the left, depending on your goal:

- VFS Gateway Users View—Show users on the left to configure access for a user to multiple Workspaces at a time
- Shared Workspaces View—Show Workspaces on the left to configure access to a Workspace by multiple users at a time

To configure user access to multiple Workspaces:

1. Click the **Access** tab.
2. Select a user.
3. In the Workspaces panel, select one or more Workspaces that this user can access, select an access type, then click **Save**.



The selected access type applies to all selected Workspaces. To set different access types to different Workspaces, do them in batches: for example, select multiple Workspaces, select Read/Write, and click Save. Then select other Workspaces, select Read Access, and click Save. Continue until the user has the appropriate access to the Workspaces.

To configure Workspace access by multiple users:

1. Click **Toggle View** to display Workspaces on the left.
2. Select a workspace.
3. In the Users panel, select one or more users that can access this workspace, select their access type, then click **Save**.



The selected access type applies to all selected users. To set different access types to different users, do them in batches: for example, select multiple users, select Read/Write, and click Save. Then select other users, select Read Access, and click Save. Continue until the workspace has the appropriate access by all the necessary users.

Accessing VFS Gateway Logs

The VFS Gateway logs are stored in the VFS Gateway in the following directories:

Log Path	Description or Use
/avid/logs	Installation and application logs
/var/log/samba	Troubleshooting client connection issues for shared Workspaces

To see the VFS Gateway version, click **Help** in the VFS Gateway UI or run the following command:

```
cat /avid/logs/version.log
```

3 Using Avid NEXIS | VFS Gateway

This chapter is intended for the end user of the VFS Gateway.



The purpose of the VFS Gateway is to retrieve media files from a client system that cannot run the Avid NEXIS Client software. You upload the media files to one or more Avid NEXIS Workspaces.

As a user, you connect to the shared Workspace using one of the following methods:

- Windows File Explorer—see "Connecting to a Shared Workspace (Windows Clients)" below
- mac Finder—see "Connecting to a Shared Workspace (macOS Clients)" on page 33
- CIFS or Kerberos utilities on Linux—see "Connecting to a Shared Workspace (Linux Clients)" on page 34

The way you connect to the share, and the format to use, depends on whether you are a local user or a remote LDAP user (the VFS Gateway Administrator will tell you).

VFS Gateway Version	Gateway Uses DNS?	User Type	Path Format
2019.12	Yes	Local and remote	<code>\\<Gateway Hostname>\<Avid NEXIS name>-<Workspace name></code> For example: <code>\\ACME-Gateway\KLANews-IngestWorkspace</code>
	No	Local only	<code>\\<Gateway IP address>\<Avid NEXIS name>-<Workspace name></code> For example: <code>\\198.51.100.19\KLANews-IngestWorkspace</code>
All newer versions	Yes	Local and remote	<code>\\<Gateway Hostname>\<Workspace name></code> For example: <code>\\ACME-Gateway\IngestWorkspace</code>
	No	Local only	<code>\\<Gateway IP address>\<Workspace name></code> For example: <code>\\198.51.100.19\IngestWorkspace</code>

Connecting to a Shared Workspace (Windows Clients)

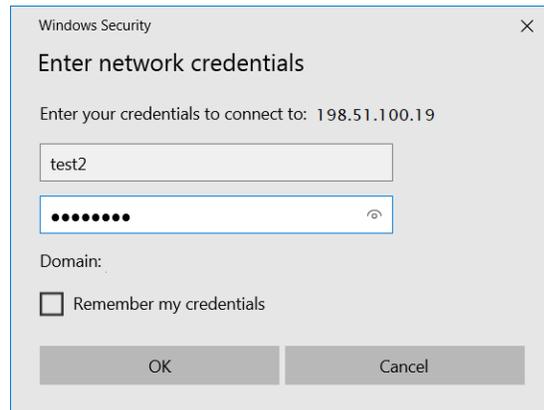
Your Avid NEXIS | VFS Gateway administrator will tell you whether you are a local or remote user, and the credentials to use to connect.

This procedure assumes you are logged in to a client system that has media files you want to move to an Avid NEXIS system.

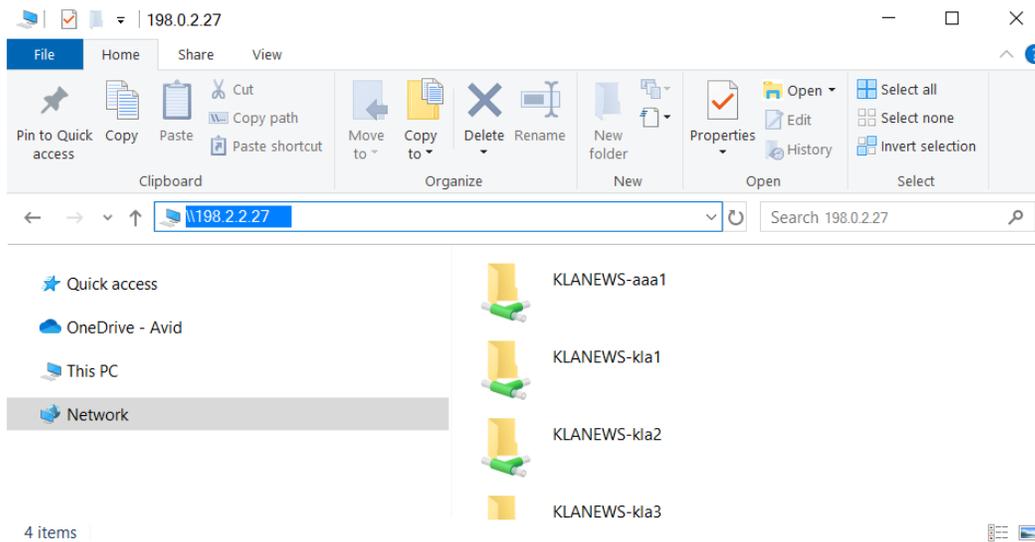
To connect to a shared Workspace on Windows:

1. Open Windows Explorer and enter one of the following into the location field:
 - ▶ For local users: Enter the full shared Workspace name or the VFS Gateway IP address
 - ▶ For remote LDAP users: Enter the full shared Workspace name or the VFS Gateway host name
2. If prompted, enter your user name and password.

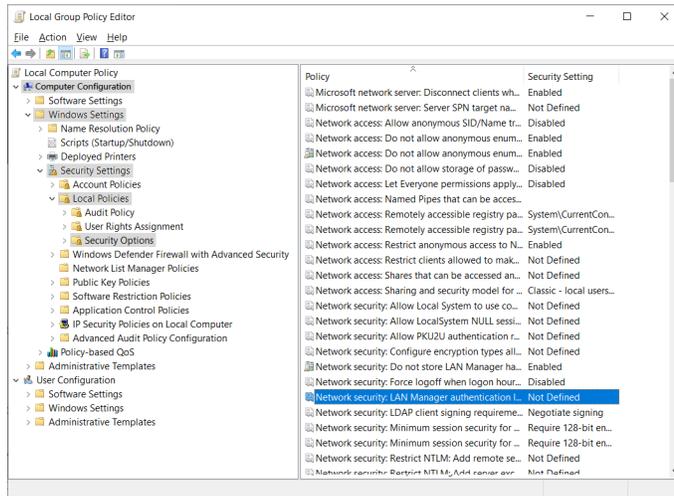
- For local users: Enter your local VFS Gateway user name and password.
- For remote LDAP users: Enter your network user name and password. You will be authenticated by your environment’s Active Directory server.



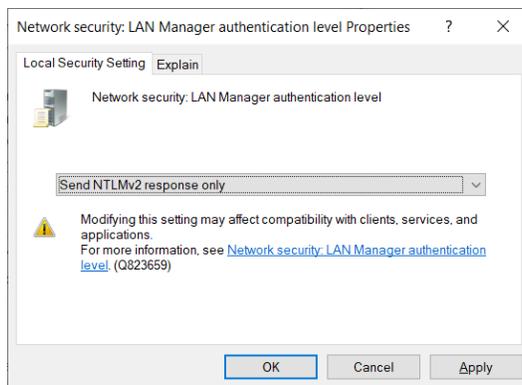
3. If you connected to the VFS Gateway top-level directory, you can see any shared Workspaces to which you have read or read-write access. Double-click a Workspace to open it, to paste or drag media into it. If you connected directly to a shared Workspace, you see its contents.



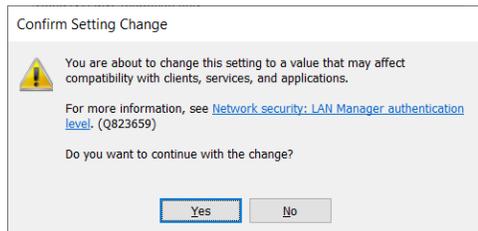
4. Some Windows clients might be unable to access the Samba shared server, especially if they do not recognize the Samba shared LDAP password. If you are continually asked for credentials and not logged in, change the LAN Manager authentication level, as follows:
 - a. Run the Local Group Policy Editor: `gpedit.msc`
 - b. In the Local Computer Policy panel, click: **Computer Configuration** > **Windows Settings** > **Security Settings** > **Local Policies** > **Security Options**.
 - c. Scroll down to find the entry “Network security: LAN Manager authentication level,” and double-click to open it.



- d. In the drop-down list, select “Send NTLMv2 response only,” then click **OK**.



- e. Click **Yes** to confirm the setting change.



- f. Retry accessing the shared Workspace.

Once you can access the shared Workspace, you can copy files into or out of it, edit files, and do any other operations.

Since the purpose of the VFS Gateway is to put files into an Avid NEXIS Workspace, Avid recommends not keeping the files on the isolated client system.

Connecting to a Shared Workspace (macOS Clients)

This procedure assumes you are logged in to a client system that has media files you want to move to an Avid NEXIS system.

On macOS, use the Finder as follows:

To map a shared workspace:

1. At the Mac Finder level, under the Go menu, enable Connect to Server (Command-K).
2. In the Connect to Server window, enter the path to the VFS Gateway by either its IP address or host name. For example:

smb://198.51.100.19/

An authentication window opens.

3. Enter your name and password, then click **Connect**.

The VFS Gateway Workspace is mounted as a volume on the Mac desktop.

Once you can access the shared Workspace, you can copy files into or out of it, edit files, and do any other operations.

Since the purpose of the VFS Gateway is to put files into an Avid NEXIS Workspace, Avid recommends not keeping the files on the isolated client system.

Connecting to a Shared Workspace (Linux Clients)

This procedure assumes you are logged in to a client system that has media files you want to move to an Avid NEXIS system.

On Linux, mount a shared Workspace as follows:

To map a shared workspace (local LDAP):

1. Install the CIFS utilities or make sure they are already installed.
2. Make and mount a directory for the shared Workspace.

To map a shared workspace (remote LDAP):

1. Install the Kerberos utility or make sure it is already installed.
2. Add your logging and LDAP domain information to the Kerberos configuration file.
3. Obtain a new Kerberos ticket with your remote LDAP user account, and verify the ticket was granted.
4. Make and mount a directory for the shared Workspace with CIFS.

Once you can access the shared Workspace, you can copy files into or out of it, edit files, and do any other operations.

Since the purpose of the VFS Gateway is to put files into an Avid NEXIS Workspace, Avid recommends not keeping the files on the isolated client system.