

# Network Provider API - Win32 apps

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A network provider is a DLL that enables the Windows operating system to interact with other kinds of networks, such as Novell. It is a client of the Windows WNet driver. A network provider implements network-specific actions, such as making a connection, and exposes a common interface to Windows. This interface is called the Network Provider API and consists of functions implemented by the network provider. You can create a network provider DLL to support new network protocols.

Because each network exposes a common interface through its provider, Windows can interact with several types of networks without knowing their network-specific implementation details.

The [Multiple Provider Router](#) (MPR) handles communication with all of the various network providers on the system and presents an integrated network to the user.

## Related topics

[Network Providers](#)

[Credential Manager](#)

[Multiple Provider Router](#)

[Functions Implemented by Network Providers](#)

[Credential Management API](#)

[Connection Notification API](#)

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Source: <https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/win32/secauthn/network-provider-api>