

How long does an idle UNC connection remain active before it is automatically disconnected?

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When you access a resource via a UNC, the Windows network redirector keeps the virtual circuit open for a while even after you close the resource. This is done to take advantage of locality: If you access a network resource once, you're probably going to access it again in a short time, so the redirector leaves the connection open for a little bit, on the off chance that you're going to use it again. For example, if copying a bunch of files from a server via a UNC, once one file copy is complete, the next one is going to start very shortly thereafter. If there is no activity on a connection for a while, then the redirector decides, "Okay, well, I guess that's all there is for that" and closes the connection.

The default duration for this "UNC grace period" is ten minutes. You can customize it by setting the `KeepConn` parameter. Increasing the value will keep the connection active longer, which is a greater convenience for the client, but it also increases the load on the server.

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