

How can I make my custom namespace extension get categorized correctly in My Computer?

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A customer was developing a custom namespace extension and they found that when displayed in My Computer, it showed up in the *Other* category.

Name	Type
▲ Hard Disk Drives (3)	
☐ OS (C:)	Local Disk
☐ DISK_1 (E:)	Local Disk
☐ DISK_2 (F:)	Local Disk
▲ Devices with Removable Storage (1)	
⊙ DVD RW Drive (D:)	CD Drive
▲ Network Locations (1)	
≡ share (\\server) (Z:)	Network Drive
▲ Other (1)	
→ ⚑ NAS Device	System Folder

They wanted it to appear in the *Network Locations* category because it represented a network device.

Explorer categorizes the items based on the `SHDESCRIPTIONID.dwDescriptionId`. We saw this structure some time ago when we tried to [detect the Recycle Bin](#). By default shell namespace extensions are given `SHDID_COMPUTER_OTHER` as their description ID and the

`clsid` is the class ID of the shell extension itself.

To customize the description ID, go to the shell namespace registration and add the following:

```
HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\  
  CLSID\  
    {clsid}\  
      DescriptionID=REG_DWORD:9
```

The magic number 9 is `SHDID_COMPUTER_NETDRIVE`. You can use any of the values supported by [the SHDESCRIPTIONID structure](#). For example, if your shell extension wraps a file system directory, you may want to use `SHDID_FS_DIRECTORY` so that it gets categorized under *Folders*.

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