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What is MAC Address and How to Edit them in Windows XP, Vista, Windows 7 OS

MAC address (Media Access Control) is the unique number (identifier) which is assigned by network interface hardware manufactures and store them into their hardware. MAC address used in hardware interface devices such as ethernet port, 802.11 wireless networks, Bluetooth adopter and still more.

The MAC address is a 12-digit hexadecimal number which is ranging between 0000 0000 0001 – FEFF FFFF FFFF. This 48-bit address space contains potentially 2^{48} or 281,474,976,710,656 possible MAC addresses. Know about to changing MAC address in your PC is much needed one to hide your online identity, avoid potential of data losses and fight against hackers.

Here is the step by step instructions about how to change your unique MAC address into custom one. The instructions which is illustrated below just for educational purpose, not to be used for illegal activities.

Before to change the MAC address, find the current MAC address to ensure the changes after you did. Go to your command prompt and enter the command **ipconfig /all** and hit enter. Your Mac address will be shown as illustrated below.


Based on the screenshot, the current MAC address is **FE-FF-FF-FF-FF-FE**. Let we change our MAC address using the following instructions.

For Windows XP Users

Step -1

Windows XP Users Navigate to **Control Panel (Classic View) > Network Connections**
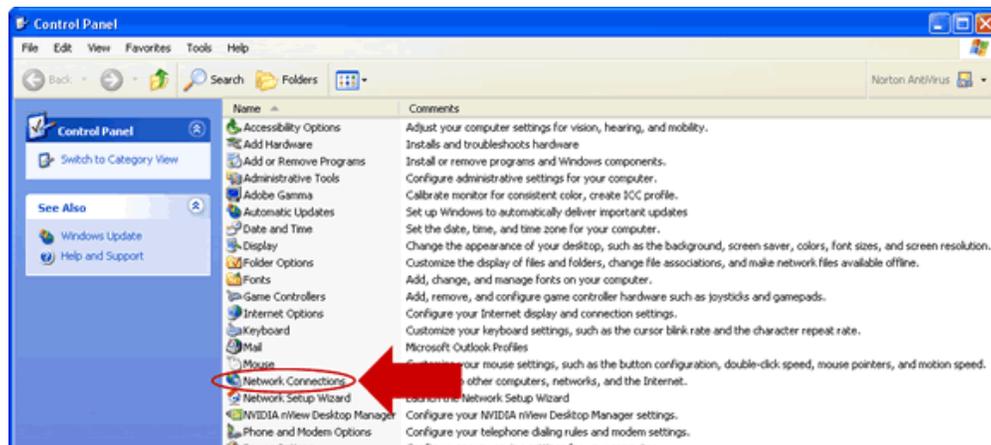
Step -2

Select and right click on your network connection, and then click Properties.
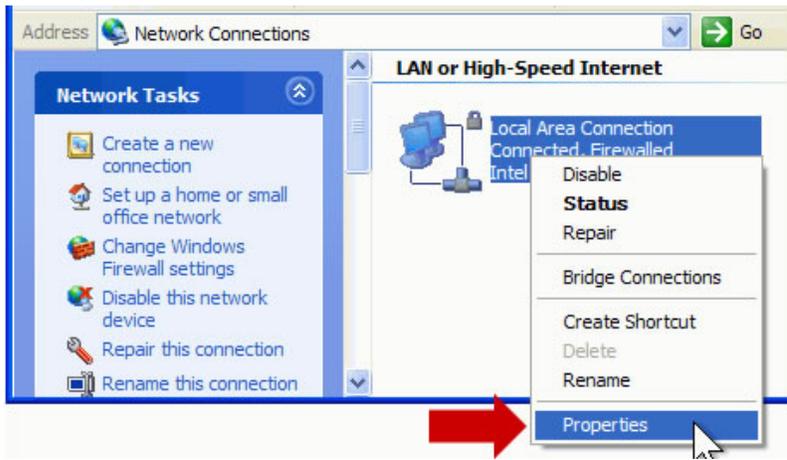
Step – 3

Click and select local area connection properties **Configure** button as illustrated below.
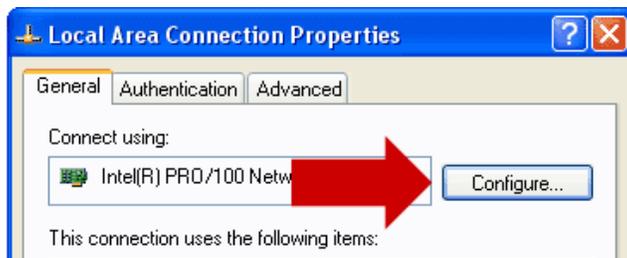
Step – 4

Select the **advanced** tab (highlighted in red) as shown below.
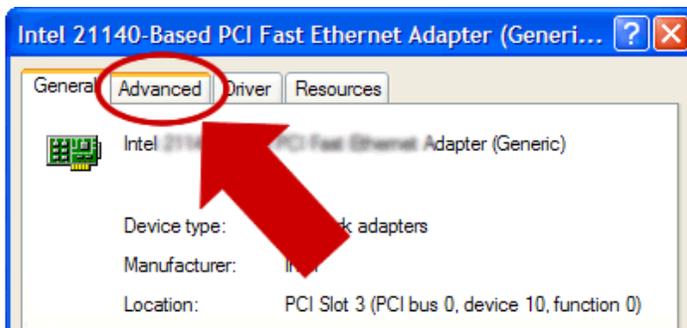
Step – 5

Under advanced tab, Select Network address Properties and enter the custom 12-digit hexadecimal number (Custom MAC ID) ranging between 0000 0000 0001 – FEFF FFFF FFFF (without spaces) as shown below and click **OK**. (In this tutorial, we used FEFEFEFEFE as Custom MAC ID)
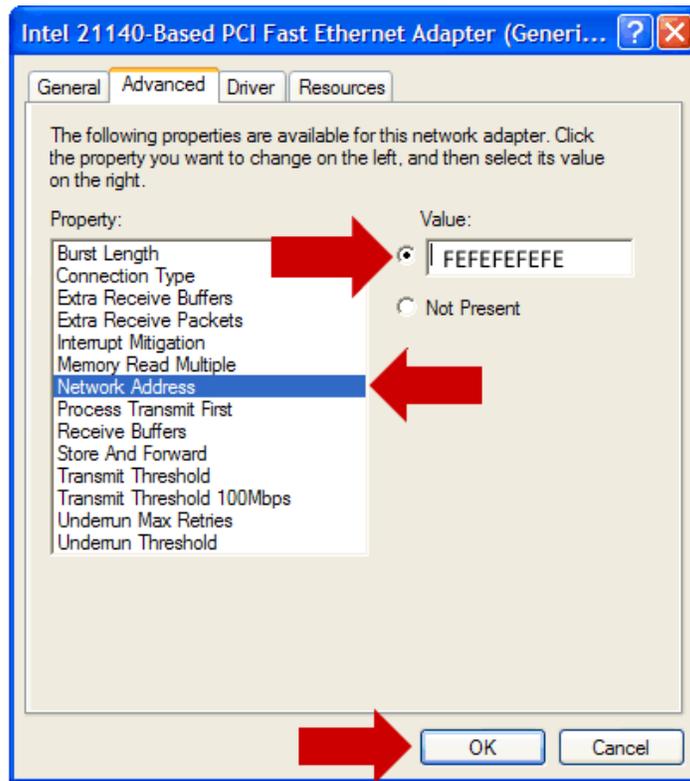
All done. The New MAC ID assigned as **FEFEFEFEFE** in your Windows XP computer. If you wish to revert back default MAC ID in feature, do the same steps illustrated above and select Not Present radio button and click **OK** button. So, the default MAC ID will be restored.

<u>For Windows Vista Users</u>

Step – 1

Windows Vista Users Navigate to **Control Panel (Classic View) > Network and Sharing Center > Manage Network Connections**

Step – 2

Click manage **network connections** and Select the appropriate Network icon, right click on it and select **properties** menu.
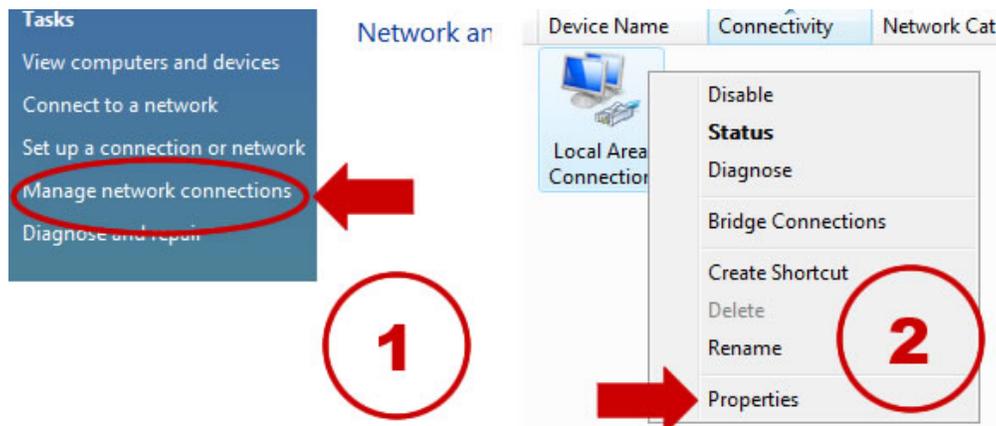
Step – 3

Under Properties, Click on **Configure** button to get into next step.
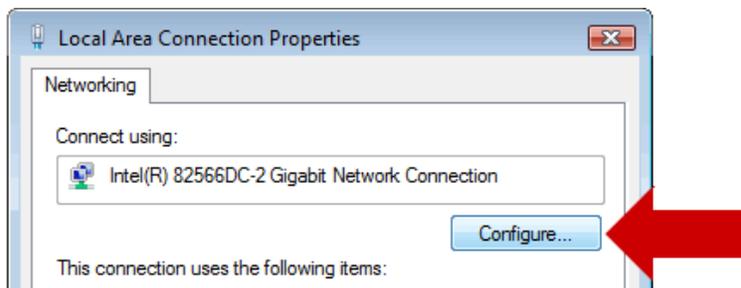
Step – 4

Under **Advanced** adapter settings, Select **Locally administered address** menu and enter the Custom MAC ID as illustrated below and click **OK**. You're done. (In this tutorial we used FEFFFFFFFFFE as custom MAC ID)
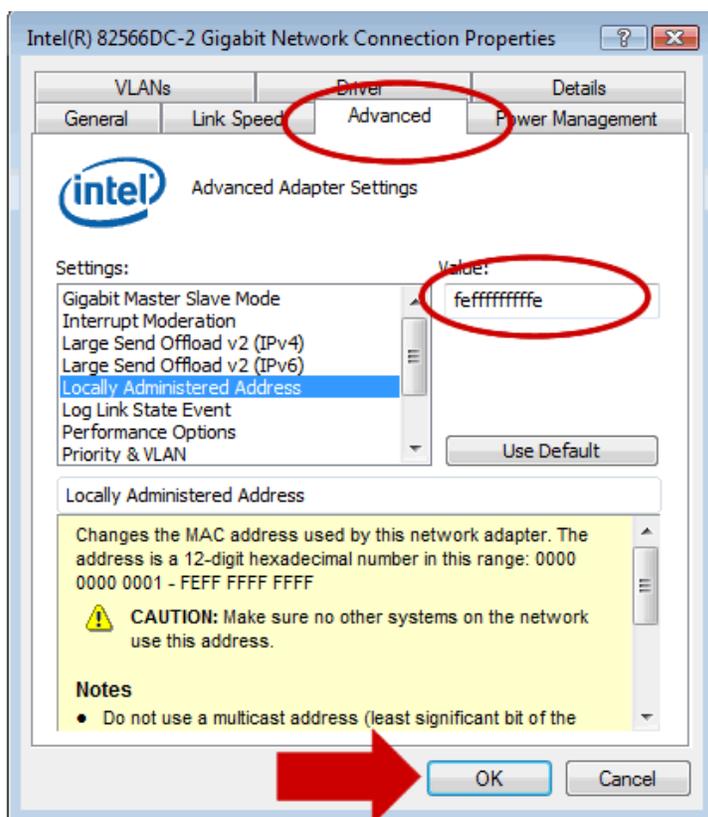
You are successfully changed the MAC ID now.

For Windows 7 Users

Step – 1

Navigate to **Control Panel > All Control Panel Items > Network and Sharing Center**

Step – 2

From the left pan click **Change Adapter settings**
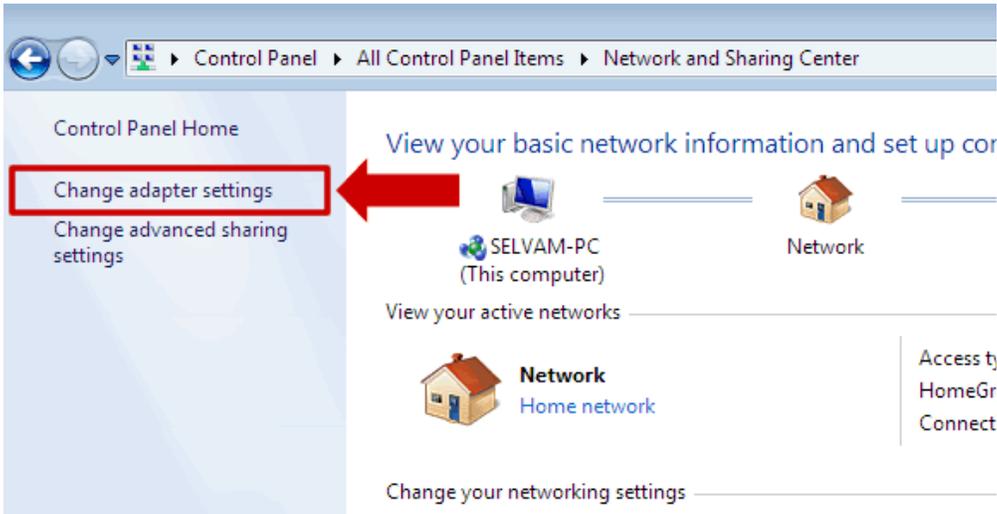
Step – 3

Select appropriate network connections adapter and click on **Properties**
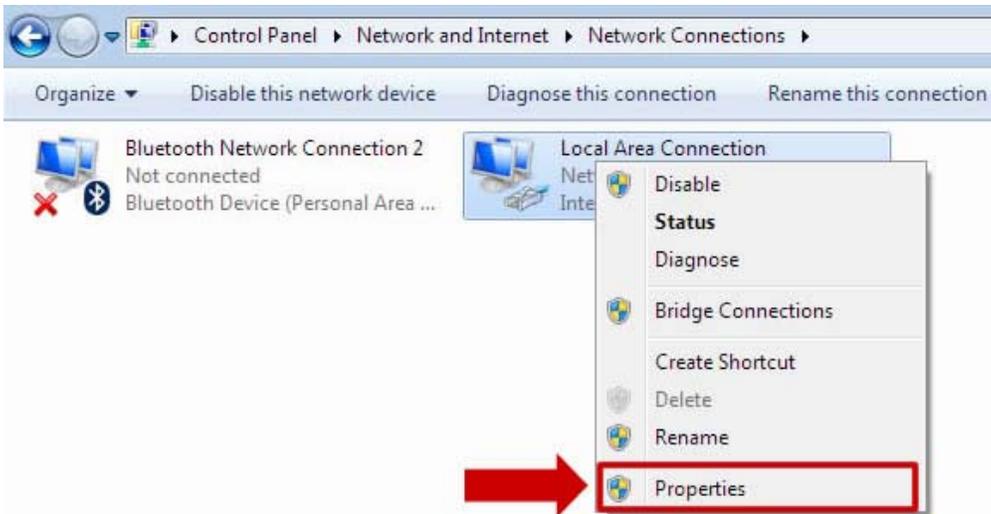
Step – 4

Click **Configure** button to go through the next step.

Step – 5

Goto **advanced tab** and select the locally administered address menu, then enter the **custom MAC id** you wish to change as show in the below screenshot and Click **OK**.
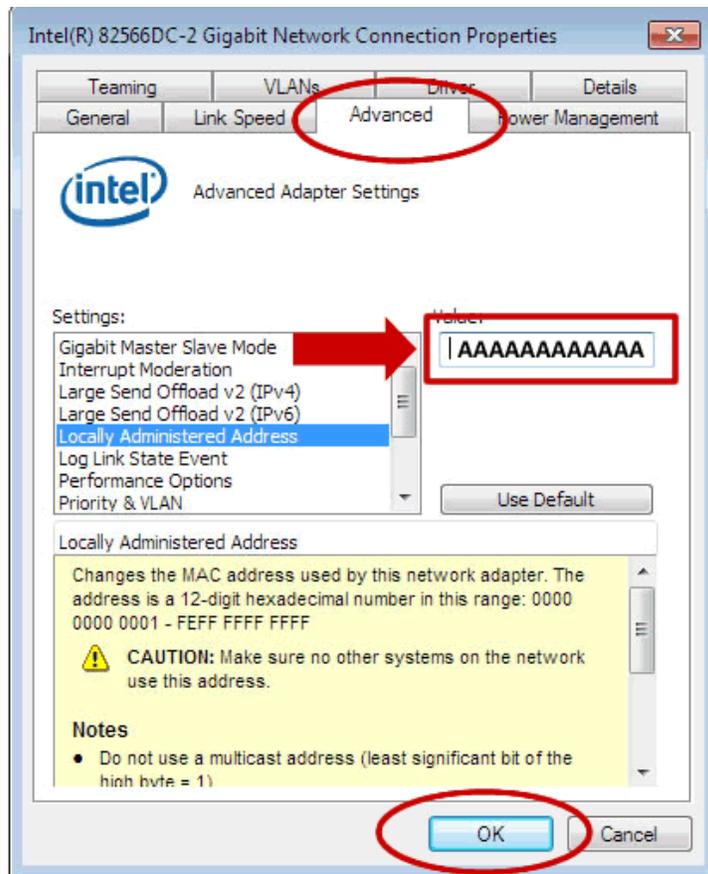
You're done. For windows 7 operating system, we have used AAAA-AAAA-AAAA (without hyphens) as custom MAC ID.

To verify the MAC ID, simply go to command prompt and enter the command **ipconfig /all**. The custom MAC ID will be shows besides to physical address for the corresponding network adapter you have modified. To restore the default MAC ID in windows vista and Windows 7 operating system, follow the same steps as specified above (according to operating system) and click Use default button and Hit **OK**. The default MAC ID will be used there after.

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