Fixing SMB access from macOS 27 to a Yosemite Mac mini server

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Why AFP stopped working

macOS 27 no longer contains an AFP client, so AFP can't be fixed on the MacBook and SMB is the only built-in option. Apple deprecated AFP in macOS Sequoia 15.5 and removed it in macOS 27; nothing changed on the server side (MyWorkDrive, HomeTechOps).

The remaining problem, top-level folders visible but no contents, usually comes down to permissions on the items inside the shared folders, or to the old Yosemite SMB server not getting along with the new client.

Step 1: Find out whether it's Finder or permissions

A one-line Terminal test on the MacBook tells you which problem you have. With the share connected, list a folder that looks empty in Finder:

```
ls -la "/Volumes/ShareName/SomeFolder"
```

Result	Meaning	Next
Files appear	Data is reachable; Finder is the problem	Step 3
"Permission denied"	Permissions issue on the server	Step 2
Empty or an error	Likely an SMB compatibility issue	Step 3

Step 2: Check permissions beyond the top level

Files and subfolders often have different permissions than the top-level folders, especially on a DAS volume used with different Macs or accounts over the years. On the Mac mini:

1. Select the DAS volume in Finder, choose **Get Info**, and check **"Ignore ownership on this volume"** at the bottom. If it's checked, files may be owned by accounts that don't exist on the server, so the share user can't read them. Unchecking it and setting permissions explicitly is usually the cleanest fix.

2. In **Sharing & Permissions** of a top-level folder, give the account you connect with Read & Write (or Read only). Then choose **Apply to enclosed items** from the gear menu. On a large volume this can take a while.
3. Connect as that named user account, not as Guest.

To compare quickly, run `ls -le` on the Mac mini on a top-level folder and on something inside it. It shows owner, permissions and ACLs side by side.

Step 3: Make the new client friendlier to the old SMB server

Yosemite's SMB server dates from 2014, and a modern client may negotiate features it handles badly. Make the client more conservative by creating `/etc/nsmb.conf` on the MacBook:

```
sudo nano /etc/nsmb.conf
```

with this content:

```
[default]
signing_required=no
streams=no
dir_cache_off=yes
protocol_vers_map=2
```

This turns off required signing and alternate data streams, disables directory caching (a common cause of "empty" folders in Finder), and forces SMB2, which Yosemite handles more reliably than its early SMB3.

1. Save the file and eject the share.
2. Reconnect with **Go › Connect to Server** using `smb://server-name/ShareName`.
3. Check what was negotiated with `smbutil statshares -a`.
4. If Finder still looks stale, hold Option, right-click Finder in the Dock and choose **Relaunch**.

Longer term

A Mac mini 2011 can't officially run anything newer than High Sierra, so the server is stuck with an old SMB implementation and no security updates. This setup may keep breaking with future macOS updates. If the shared storage matters, consider moving the DAS to a newer Mac, or the data to a NAS with current SMB support.

Sources

- Acronis Files Connect alternative: Mac access after AFP ends (MyWorkDrive)
- Time Machine to Time Capsule or AFP NAS stopped on macOS 27 (HomeTechOps)