

Re: Windows XP Networking Question (with Linksys' Home VPN Router)

Source: <http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/ISA/microsoft.public.isa.vpn/2004-08/0047.html>

From: Ron McKinnon (youremail-unsubscribed_at_shaw.ca)

Date: 08/14/04

Date: Sat, 14 Aug 2004 12:28:11 -0700

"James McCoughlin" <none@optonline.net> wrote in message
news:S9LBc.94906\$V57.14773175@news4.srv.hcvlny.cv.net...

> *Hi everyone,*

>

> *I have two friends who work at a non-profit from their homes, and they
want*

> *to be able to share a windows file folder and printers at two different*

> *houses, like as if they were on a single LAN. We bought one (Linksys*

> *WRV-54G) VPN router*

> (<http://www.linksys.com/products/product.asp?grid=33&scid=35&prid=565>)

>

You bought one router. Does this mean that you're all close enough to share this router in a wireless network? (You all have wireless cards and you're physically close enough to use the same router?) If this is so, you don't need to be thinking of VPN – you can be all on the same (wireless) network.

If you're all otherwise connected to the Internet, then you don't need the router. Then you can use VPN to connect through the internet to your other computers. If you're using XP, you can set up an 'incoming connection' on one computer (the VPN host), and the other's set up 'outgoing connections' to connect to it.

If your VPN host is connected to the Internet behind a router/gateway, you'll need to ensure that the requisite ports for VPN are forwarded to the VPN Host machine. Set the VPN Host machine up with a static (local) IP address (say 192.168.1.100 (and have your router's DHCP start allocating addresses at 192.168.1.101), and forward ports 1723 (TDP), 1701 (Both), and 500 (UDP) to it.

Make sure you have the latest firmware for the router. If you cannot complete the login to the VPN host (it hangs on a 'Validating username and password prompt') and you already have the latest Linksys firmware then I suggest you try the third-party Linksys firmware from

svasoft (version Satori 4.0). The Satori firmware gives you a PPTP server configuration, so you don't need to do the port forwarding (but you can still do it that way).

I had considerable trouble configuring access to my VPN host behind a WPT54GS router. The latest linksys firmware would not work for this, and I found and installed the Satori firmware. So far it is working great, but bear in mind that it is unsupported, third-party software.

- > *I've set up simple home LANs before, but never Linksys*
- > *VPN. Would anyone have any simple directions by any chance*
- > *to get these computers talking to each other through the Linksys*
- > *VPN router? The directions didn't really seem to get much into*
- > *actually saying "how" they connect, but mostly about the*
- > *security settings, PKI passwords, etc.*

As above, if the computers are all connecting through the same Linksys router, you're not dealing with a VPN requirement, you're just using a router/gateway that happens to have some VPN capability as well.

Security, PKI passwords etc. on the router relate to connecting to the router wirelessly. These don't have anything to do with your VPN, just connecting to the router with a wireless card. Your wireless router can be used by anyone in your neighborhood, to get on your networks, use your Internet connection, possibly access your computers, etc. The security provisions allow you to restrict and control who has access to your network.

- > *In short, 3 questions:*
- >
- > *1) Is it possible to share drives/printers over the VPN network?*
- > ***For example: "Only" Sue's printer and drive sharing would*
- > *connect to Beth's VPN router and computer, while everything*
- > *else (i.e.: Sue's internet web surfing) should not try to connect*
- > *to the web via Beth's VPN [Exactly how would I set that up at*
- > *Sue's house?]*

Once you're connected, whether through a hard-wired, wireless, or VPN, its pretty much the same.

- > *2) Is it recommended to have a Second Linksys WRV-54G*
- > *VPN router at the other house? ...or does Windows XP have*
- > *something built-in that makes this not required?*

The router is intended to allow multiple computers to participate in a common network. As a gateway, it is intended to allow computers participating in that given network to connect to another network (i.e. the Internet). You might want wireless cards in the other computers,

so that they can connect wirelessly to your network through your router, but for your stated purposes, you don't need any more routers.

If all the computers involved in this already have connections to the Internet, then you don't really need the router for this at all. Though depending on their existing bandwidth you might want a local wireless network to give you better bandwidth.

Windows (XP etc.) does provide VPN support. VPN is all about 'tunneling' through an existing network (such as the Internet), to provide a 'virtual' –'Private' network involving particular computers. Once you have all the computers able to communicate through a more public network, absent security provisions in the intervening network, you can create a more–private 'virtual' network between them.

See the note above about 'incoming' and 'outgoing' connections. Set these up via 'My Network Places' --> 'View Network Connections' --> 'Create a New Connection'