

## Re: Network access from Win XP

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- *From:* Malke <[malke@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:malke@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
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Alexander Lorenz wrote:

Hi Group,  
just a general question. Is it possible to access the Mac's hard disc from a Windows XP computer?

Absolutely. I have a mixed-OS network which has included at various times: Win98, WinXP, Vista, Linux, Tiger, and now Leopard.

Have you tried and are having difficulties? If so, post back with the errors you're getting and the versions of OS X and XP. Otherwise, here are a few basic guidelines:

1. On the Mac, set up Windows sharing. IIRC, Tiger only lets you share the public folder and your user directory. With Leopard, make sure you're using SMB. Adjust the firewall to allow this.
2. On XP, run the Network Setup Wizard. If you are using a third-party firewall, you'll need to go back and turn off the Windows Firewall (which will be activated by the Wizard) and configure the third-party firewall to allow Local Area Network traffic. Share out desired resources. See below for sharing differences under XP Pro/Media Center/Home.
3. On both machines, create identical user accounts and passwords. You do not need to be logged into the same account on all machines and the passwords assigned to each user account can be different; the accounts/passwords just need to exist and match on all machines. If you wish XP to boot directly to the Desktop (into one particular user's account) for convenience, you can do this.

Configure Windows to Automatically Login (MVP Ramesh) –  
<http://windowsxp.mvps.org/Autologon.htm>

Additional notes relative to XP:

If one or more of the computers is XP Pro or Media Center:

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1. If you need Pro's ability to set fine-grained permissions, turn off Simple File Sharing (Folder Options>View tab) and create identical user accounts/passwords on all computers.
2. If you don't care about using Pro's advanced features, leave the Simple File Sharing enabled. Simple File Sharing means that Guest (network) is enabled. This means that anyone without a user account on the target system can use its resources. This is a security hole but only you can decide if it matters in your situation.
3. Create shares as desired. XP Home does not permit sharing of users' home directories (My Documents) or Program Files, but you can share folders inside those directories. A better choice is to simply use the Shared Documents folder.

HTH,

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Malke

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MS-MVP

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Don't Panic!

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