

Re: Cannot see XP machine?

Source:

http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Vista/microsoft.public.windows.vista.networking_sharing/2008-06/msg00844.h

- *From:* Malke <malke@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sun, 01 Jun 2008 06:02:24 -0700
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Derek wrote:

Hi,

I have a laptop running Windows XP SP3 and a desktop running Windows Vista SP1. After connecting them to access internet through a router, they both work well. However, when I want to share files between them, despite proceeding all the steps outlined in the following link, the desktop still cannot see the laptop yet the laptop can see and access the desktop shared folders.

<http://windowshelp.microsoft.com/communities/newsgroups/en-us/default.mspx?&lang=en&cr=US&guid=&sloc=en>

So the problem lies with the laptop's access. This is most commonly caused by a misconfigured firewall and/or not creating matching user accounts/passwords.

A. Configure firewalls on all machines to allow the Local Area Network (LAN) traffic as trusted. With Windows Firewall, this means allowing File/Printer Sharing on the Exceptions tab. Normally running the Network Setup Wizard on XP will take care of this for those machines. The only "gotcha" is that this will turn on the XPSP2 Windows Firewall. If you aren't running a third-party firewall or have an antivirus with "Internet Worm Protection" (like Norton 2006/07) which acts as a firewall, then you're fine. With third-party firewalls, I usually configure the LAN allowance with an IP range. Ex. would be 192.168.1.0-192.168.1.254. Obviously you would substitute your correct subnet. Do not run more than one firewall.

B. For ease of organization, put all computers in the same Workgroup. This is done from the System applet in Control Panel, Computer Name tab.

C. Create matching user accounts and passwords on all machines. 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. **DO NOT NEGLECT TO CREATE A PASSWORD, EVEN IF IT'S ONLY A SIMPLE ONE.** If you wish a machine to boot

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directly to the Desktop (into one particular user's account) for convenience, you can do this. The instructions at this link work for both XP and Vista:

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

D. If one or more of the computers is XP Pro or Media Center, turn off Simple File Sharing (Folder Options>View tab).

Malke

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MS–MVP
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