

Re: Can not find other devices on Network

Source:

http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Vista/microsoft.public.windows.vista.networking_sharing/2009-01/msg00541.h

- *From:* Ron <Ron@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Fri, 30 Jan 2009 07:51:02 -0800
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That did not help. As I mentioned I am using Vista not XP.
The link you specified shows the workgroup the way it displays in XP.
I am not able to enter my workgroup name anywhere.
I see nowhere to Configure firewalls on this machine to allow the Local Area Network traffic as trusted. I see no Exceptions tab.
There is no need to change any configuration on the other devices on the network because all other devices can see them. The problem is with this Vista machine.

"Malke" wrote:

Ron wrote:

I just purchased a new laptop with Vista home edition. I connected to my network no problem and have access to the internet. But I can not find any other of the devices on the network.
When I go into Network I can see the router name.
I have a workgroup name on the network. But when I click on workgroup, it shows me a selection called workgroup but there is no place to enter the workgroup name.
The other devices on the network all have shared writes and all other devices can see them.
Any ideas what the problem is?

Here are general network troubleshooting steps. Not everything may be applicable to your situation, so just take the bits that are. It may look daunting, but if you follow the steps at the links and suggestions below systematically and calmly, you will have no difficulty in setting up your sharing.

Excellent, thorough, yet easy to understand article about File/Printer Sharing in Vista. Includes details about sharing printers as well as files and folders:

<http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/bb727037.aspx>

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For XP, start by running the Network Setup Wizard on all machines (see caveat in Item A below).

Problems sharing files between computers on a network are generally caused by 1) a misconfigured firewall or overlooked firewall (including a stateful firewall in a VPN); or 2) inadvertently running two firewalls such as the built-in Windows Firewall and a third-party firewall; and/or 3) not having identical user accounts and passwords on all Workgroup machines; 4) trying to create shares where the operating system does not permit it.

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/security program with its own firewall component, 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. Refer to any third party security program's Help or user forums for how to properly configure its firewall. Do not run more than one firewall. **DO NOT TURN OFF FIREWALLS; CONFIGURE THEM CORRECTLY.**

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 PASSWORDS, EVEN IF ONLY SIMPLE ONES.** If you wish a machine to boot 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).

E. Create shares as desired. XP Home does not permit sharing of users' home directories or Program Files, but you can share folders inside those directories. A better choice is to simply use the Shared Documents folder. See the first link above for details about Vista sharing.

Malke

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MS-MVP

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FAQ – <http://www.elephantboycomputers.com/#FAQ>

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