

## Re: Error adding computers to domain

**Source:**

[http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Win2000/microsoft.public.win2000.advanced\\_server/2004-05/0110.html](http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Win2000/microsoft.public.win2000.advanced_server/2004-05/0110.html)

---

**From:** SaltPeter (*SaltPeter\_at\_Jupiter.sys*)

**Date:** 05/05/04

Date: Wed, 5 May 2004 06:58:09 -0400

"Kevin Peterson" <lt@dateref.nu> wrote in message  
news:856101c43274\$ee58f920\$a401280a@phx.gbl...

> *Hi*

>

> *I've encountered a really annoying error when trying to  
> add Windows 2000 computers to a domain.  
> There have been no errors what so ever to add NT  
> computers to the domain and Windows Millenium but now  
> when i try to add a Simple 2000 Pro computer to that  
> domain it stalls with an error message that is similar  
> to "Cannot join domain xyz, Network path is not found".*

In other words, the W2K client can't resolve the domain name and therefore  
can't contact its authority. Your problem is a name resolution issue.

>

> *Ofcourse i have tried the support with Windows 2000 that  
> says that i should try to enter IP Adress manually on  
> that computer so it maps to the servers IP.  
> That doesn't work at all.*

On the contrary, MS deserves credit here.

W2K support suggests the static ip address in order to test network  
connectivity. In the first case to assert that the NIC is properly  
initialized and that you can ping a domain controller via ip\_address. Before  
dealing with the name resolution issue, assert that the network is available  
(ipconfig + Ping). This is the appropriate first step in troubleshooting.

>

> *This server has not had the WINS,DNS service installed at  
> all because that function isn't necessary on that server.  
> Tried to add it and restart without any luck..*

While not required by the server, the clients would certainly see a benefit.

>

- > *The only thing that slips my mind is that that server is*
- > *assigned so it shares IP addresses on the network (DHCP*
- > *Server) And that DHCP is configured to give computers on*
- > *the network their IP Address, Gateway AND DNS to Their ISP.*

Bingo. A private client should never, ever use an ISP's DNS server. The reason is simple. The ISP's DNS database knows nothing about your private namespace. Clients who rely on ISP's DNS server to resolve can't resolve the private namespace.

A server requires a static ip address. You should configure DNS on the server. The tcp/ip properties of the server should specify 127.0.0.1 as both DNS entries. The DNS server should NOT have a root zone and its forwarders configured to query the ISP's DNS server.

<http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb;EN-US;291382>

This way, your clients can use the private DNS which will query (and cache) external name resolution requests on behalf of the clients. Clients now have a single point to resolve both private and public namespaces.

Your DHCP server can now allow a new computer to access a domain since it can specify a DNS server's ip\_address in its scope(s) which CAN resolve the private namespace. You should use nslookup to confirm this.

Note that a Win9x or NT4 client relies on netbios primarily while W2K or XP use DNS primarily. So that if you need a Win9x client to resolve a server without WINS available, you can modify the lmhosts file. For W2K or XP without a DNS server, modify the hosts file.

- >
- > *Do you think that i have to close down the DHCP server*
- > *and reset the IP Server address so it doesn't have the*
- > *possibility to communicate to internet.. The GW and DNS*
- > *to the ISP is entered in that computers TCP/IP settings.*
- >
- > *Any idea folks out there, i just can't crack this up..*
- > *Seems like a small bug that i've encountered because*
- > *everything else is working like a charm and i have never*
- > *ever encountered problems for the past 8 years to add*
- > *computers to domains..*
- >
- > *Kind Regards Kevin Peterson*
- >