

## Group Policy loading

**Source:**

[http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Win2000/microsoft.public.win2000.group\\_policy/2004-03/0591.html](http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Win2000/microsoft.public.win2000.group_policy/2004-03/0591.html)

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**From:** Christopher Hill (*minkus\_at\_ntlworld.com*)

**Date:** 03/17/04

Date: Wed, 17 Mar 2004 04:15:32 -0800

I have also experinced this problem with almost exactly the same setup. Here is a copy of a support incident that I have just set up with Microsoft. There is a fix you can put in in the mean time. (NB You might find a copy of this message on an Internet forum saying that I think it's the Dell drivers. I posted that yesterday but after research it seems to be a problem with XP, not the Dell drivers):

My support incident to Microsoft starts here:

I am experiencing a problem with a Dell OptiPlex SX270 and a Dell TrueMobile 1180 USB 802.11b wireless card, connecting to a Buffalo WLA-G54 Wireless Access Point. I have installed the latest wireless rollup (826942) and the latest Dell and Buffalo firmware and drivers but to no avail. This is a clean RIS install of Windows XP SP1 with all the latest hotfixes using the Microsoft Wireless Zero Configuration service, so there's no dodgy software or settings. I am also using the SyncForegroundPolicy ('Always wait for the network at computer startup and logon') option to make Windows XP wait for the network to start up before attempting to apply Group Policy.

I have also tried using another manufacturer's drivers (SiteCom's WL-012 driver) by editing the PCIID in the .inf file to match that of the Dell TrueMobile card. These SiteCom drivers are a lot more up to date and work fine on the Dell card for normal network operations but still have the problem described below. This makes me think that the problem is not with the drivers but with Windows XP itself.

The problem is that Group Policy objects are not applying to the system when the system is booted with only the wireless card connected. The Application Event Log contains the following error:

Event Type: Error  
Event Source: Userenv  
Event Category: None  
Event ID: 1054  
Date: 17/03/2004  
Time: 11:09:17  
User: NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM  
Computer: CON01  
Description:  
Windows cannot obtain the domain controller name for your computer network. (The specified domain either does not exist or could not be contacted. ). Group Policy processing aborted.

For more information, see Help and Support Center at <http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/events.asp>.

And the System Event Log contains the following error:

Event Type: Error  
Event Source: NETLOGON  
Event Category: None  
Event ID: 5719  
Date: 17/03/2004  
Time: 11:09:17  
User: N/A  
Computer: CON01  
Description:  
No Domain Controller is available for domain CRGS due to the following:  
There are currently no logon servers available to service the logon request. .  
Make sure that the computer is connected to the network and try again. If the problem persists, please contact your domain administrator.

For more information, see Help and Support Center at <http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/events.asp>.

Data:  
0000: 5e 00 00 c0 ^..À

Once the system has fully booted up, however, any user is able to log on to the network and use the network resources without problems.

If I boot up with the wired connection the GPO \*does\* apply properly and everything works as it should.

It seems that Windows XP does not wait long enough for the wireless card to initialize, negotiate a speed and set up WEP before attempting to apply Group Policy. But the

wireless card setup does finish in time for the Ctrl–Alt–Del logon screen so users are still able to log on without problems. The wired connection does not have this problem because it does not take so long to start up.

There is one 'easy' method of fixing the problem, but it has a side effect. If I follow the instructions at MSKB article 239924 to enable the DisabledDHCPMediaSense key it'll fix the problem but the side effect is that the computer takes a \*long\* time on the 'Preparing network connections' section of starting up Windows XP, which is not acceptable. My theory is that this doesn't fix the problem but just makes the computer wait so long to prepare the network connections that the wireless card is able to fully initialize before Group Policy starts.

I think it is to do with XP itself rather than the Dell drivers. I had this problem when we first started using Buffalo WLA–CB–G54 PCMCIA wireless cards in our laptops here, but the problem seems to have largely cured itself. I did update the Buffalo drivers, which seems to have helped, but sometimes the problem still occurs even on the Buffalo cards. However it is intermittent, whereas the Dell cards do it 99% of the time. Maybe the newer Buffalo drivers are faster than the older Buffalo drivers and the Dell drivers at connecting to the wireless network, so they do not show this problem?

The problem may also manifest itself when the computer has bad wireless coverage – as when the coverage is poor XP doesn't wait long enough for the card to negotiate down to the lower speed so that packets can get through.

It may also have something to do with the fact that I use a Buffalo WLA–G54 802.11g wireless access point and the TrueMobile 1180 USB is an 802.11b card. Maybe it takes that little bit longer to negotiate the lower speed? In any case, either the TrueMobile drivers or XP itself shouldn't be giving the 'all clear' to start the GPO application until the network negotiation is successful.

It may also be related to how 'loaded up' the computer is (a race condition). Most of the laptops that have Buffalo cards also have Visual Studio .NET 2003 installed and a whole load of other stuff: they never have this problem. Other laptops with Buffalo cards that don't have so much software installed sometimes have this problem. The Dell computers with the TrueMobile 1180 have similar amounts of 'stuff' as these laptops but always have the problem. Of course, all of the computers have different processor speeds. This makes me think it might be a combination of

the USB drivers taking longer to start up properly and an XP race condition.

One other interesting registry key that I would \*expect\* to fix the problem is the one documented in these MSKB articles:

<http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=KB:en-us;202840>

<http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=KB:en-us;163204>

The ExpectedDialupDelay key is supposed to make Windows wait longer before trying to contact the domain controller, which is exactly what we need it to do. However, this key seems to have no effect on the Group Policy applicator for Windows XP, and in fact XP isn't listed under the 'The information in this article applies to' section of the articles. Has the key been removed or moved under XP, or does it simply not apply to the Group Policy applicator at startup time?

The best fix would be to put a wait condition so that the computer checks that all wireless cards (and indeed other network cards) and the Wireless Zero Configuration Service (or other client software) have had a chance to fully initialize before Group Policy starts. Alternatively, the Group Policy applicator could be configured to use the ExpectedDialupDelay registry entry or another, new registry entry, to wait for a certain number of seconds before attempting to connect to the network. If a new registry key is created, it would be extremely helpful if it was possible to set this key inside Group Policy just as you can with ExpectedDialupDelay, but I do not see why ExpectedDialupDelay could not be used for both purposes.

Thank you very much for your attention. Please contact me if you are unsure about any of the above.

>-----Original Message-----

>Hello everyone,

>

>Here is the problem that I am having. I have a system  
>that I am working on now that is a Dell OptiPlex SX270  
>computer running Windows XP Pro. The system has a built  
>in Intel Gig NIC, I have also connected a Dell TrueMobile  
>1180 USB Wireless Network Adapter which connects via  
>USB. The issue that I have is that GPO's assigned to the  
>computer are not loading if the system is using the  
>wireless adapter only. If the system is connected via  
>the Ethernet cable then the computer GPO's process. We

microsoft.public.win2000.group\_policy: Group Policy loading

- >currently install and update our antivirus software using
- >the Software Installation option on the computer
- >configuration section to assign the software to the
- >computers in the domain.
- >
- >If the computer only has the USB NIC and no wired network
- >connector the following errors are in the event log.
- >
- >System
- >Netlogon Event ID: 5719
- >No Domain Controller is available for domain due to the
- >following:
- >There are currently no logon servers available to service
- >the logon request...
- >
- >Application
- >Userenv Event ID: 1054
- >Windows cannot obtain the domain controller name for your
- >computer network. (The specified domain either does not
- >exist or could not be contacted.) Group Policy
- >processing aborted.
- >
- >If the system has the wired Ethernet connection then I do
- >not get these error messages in the event log during
- >startup and the GPO's process and the software installs.
- >I have had no problems with logging into the domain with
- >a domain user account with the computer on wireless only.
- >
- >Is there a problem with using USB NIC's and computer
- >GPO's? Is the USB port and USB network adapter not
- >getting initialized in time for the GPO's get loaded?
- >I don't know what the timeline is for drives to get
- >loaded and Active Directory processing.
- >
- >So far I have checked another system that we have just
- >like this one and it is having the same problems.
- >However it appears that we have not had this problem with
- >desktops using PIC wireless NIC's and laptops that use
- >mini PCI or PCMICA wireless NIC's.
- >
- >Thanks for anyone's help.
- >Brent
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- >.
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