

DHCP server not found: autoconfiguration IP addr.

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Win2000/microsoft.public.win2000.networking/2004-02/0716.html>

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This is hard, I challenge you!! I keep having this repeated problem on several machines and several different configurations at different times. Basically, when I change something major, like add a new network interface card, I cannot talk to anything: the new interface cannot find the DHCP server, and Windows (demonstrated on XP and 2000) uses a autoconfiguration IP address (169.something). I have searched everywhere and cannot find a reasonable explanation for what is happening. Here are my different circumstances:

(1) laptop (Win 2000) connected directly to cable modem, all is good: internet connection works fine. I moved the cable from the laptop to my desktop (XP): the desktop does not obtain an IP address resulting in no communication with anything. IP address is 169 address and upon ipconfig /renew, the error DHCP server not found results. See below for ipconfig output. The fix for this case was to power cycle the cable modem.

(2) I installed a wireless router, and everything was fine using the wired connection with the same NIC. I installed a wireless NIC. The wireless link came up no problems. Same results as in #1: no IP address, autoconfiguration IP assigned, DHCP server not found. Fix for this case: research problem for 2 days, come back to computer to try a few things and boom, IP address is fine 192.168.0.x through router and all is good.

(3) Totally separate network at work: new computer wired into ethernet drop in my office ... everything fine (DHCP assigned address, all comm good). Moved this computer to a lab where I connect same NIC to 8 port switch that ultimately gets to a router on the same company network. Same result as #1 and #2: no IP address, autoconfiguration IP assigned, DHCP server not found. Fix for this case:

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assigned a static IP and I can talk to router (this didn't work for other cases).

There MUST be a common thing happening here, but I haven't found a good explanation for it. It was explained to me that in case #1 that the modem associated the MAC address of the original laptop with itself (or something like that) and it needed to be powered cycled. What is this association (ARP cache on the modem?)? Is a similar thing happening in the other cases?

I would appreciate any and all help!!! This one keeps coming back to me and yet there is nothing I can do about it each time it happens!! THANK YOU!

Here is the similar output for each case of ipconfig /all, ipconfig /renew, and arp -a:

```
C:\>ipconfig /all
```

Windows 2000 IP Configuration

```
Host Name . . . . . : viper
Primary DNS Suffix . . . . . : xxx.xxx.com
Node Type . . . . . : Broadcast
IP Routing Enabled. . . . . : No
WINS Proxy Enabled. . . . . : No
```

Ethernet adapter Local Area Connection:

```
Connection-specific DNS Suffix . : xxx.xxx.com
Description . . . . . : Intel(R) PRO/100 VE
Network
Connection
Physical Address. . . . . : AA-BB-CC-DD-EE-FF
DHCP Enabled. . . . . : Yes
Autoconfiguration Enabled . . . . : Yes
Autoconfiguration IP Address. . . : 169.254.235.62
Subnet Mask . . . . . : 255.255.0.0
Default Gateway . . . . . :
DNS Servers . . . . . :
```

```
C:\>ipconfig /renew
```

Windows 2000 IP Configuration

The following error occurred when renewing adapter Local Area

Connection:
DHCP Server unreachable

DHCP server not found: autoconfiguration IP addr.

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```
C:\>arp -a  
No ARP Entries Found
```