

## Re: Master Browser?

**Source:**

[http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.help\\_and\\_support/2004-12/8844.html](http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.help_and_support/2004-12/8844.html)

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**From:** David Candy (.)

**Date:** 12/30/04

Date: Thu, 30 Dec 2004 11:45:56 +1100

The browser has nothing to do with TCP/IP (except it will use it if your network is using it). It shouldn't affect AOL or messenger at all.

If the browser isn't working AND your internet isn't working, and both are likely to be using TCP/IP then that indicates a TCP/IP or network problem.

The first two steps to do in any network problem

1. Check the cables
2. Update network card drivers.

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<http://www.uscricket.com>

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"Ice-wizard" <this.is.not@my.real.email.address> wrote in message news:xhDAd.11919$tG3.8359@trndd
> Well... that did not work. TCP/IP failed shortly after sent the previous
> post. I am wondering if Windows Firewall is the culprit. I went to
> Network Neighborhood and tried to see the internal network. The second
> computer is off.. I should only be able to see my computer on the network.
> I got an error saying I was not authorized to see the network. I turned off
> the Windows Firewall and tried again and I was able to see my computer on
> the network this time. So, I will wait another 13 hours to see if it fails
> again.
>
> "Ice-wizard" <this.is.not@my.real.email.address> wrote in message
> news:%xBAd.9320$hc7.7227@trnddc06...
>> Thanks, that explains the origins and uses of the Master Browser pretty
>> good. I did not read in there how to fix the problem, though. So far,
>> we are up to hour 13 from the last reboot... so far so good.. :)
>> Here's hoping that the Protected Files Verification did its magic.
>>
>>
>> "David Candy" <.> wrote in message
>> news:OSQjVPX7EHA.3616@TK2MSFTNGP11.phx.gbl...
>> The user interface to the microsoft browser is My Network Places. It
>> simply a list of what is on the network. All computers on the network hold
>> elections (often every few minutes) and who wins becomes the master
>> browser for a while. It can take 12 minutes for a network object that goes
>> offline to be noticed (it gets 3 chances 4 minutes apart to say "I'm
>> really still here").
>>
>> It has nothing to do with the internet.
>>
>> The Browser
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>> The Browser service (not to be confused with a Web browser) was originally  
>> designed to be a simple workgroup enumeration tool, but has been enhanced  
>> significantly over time. The Browser service supports browsing computers  
>> on the network and being browsed by other computers.  
>>  
>> It is the service that gathers and organizes the list of computers and  
>> domains that is displayed in Network Neighborhood. (You can also see the  
>> browse list by typing net view in the command window.) The Browser  
>> maintains an up-to-date list of computers and provides this information to  
>> programs that require it.  
>>  
>> Note  
>>  
>> Under Windows NT version 3.5x, use the File Manager Connect Network Drive  
>> dialog box to view the computer browser list.  
>>  
>> Master Browser Elections  
>> The Primary Domain Controller (PDC) for a domain always functions as the  
>> Domain Master Browser and is responsible for replicating the browse lists  
>> to all Master Browsers within the domain. A Master Browser is elected on  
>> each subnet within the domain.  
>>  
>> Each domain has one Master Browser per subnet that contains computers  
>> listening for server announcements. The Master Browser maintains lists of  
>> available resources that can be requested by client computers.  
>>  
>> As the number of hosts on a subnet grows, the Master Browser will start to  
>> replicate the browse list to Backup Browsers. If the Master Browser is  
>> shut down, an election takes place to determine the new Master Browser.  
>> Existing Backup Browsers have an advantage in the election. For this  
>> process, workgroups and domains function alike, except that all Windows NT  
>> Servers are either a Master Browser or Backup Browser, and Windows NT  
>> Workstation and Windows for Workgroups computers are not allowed to become  
>> Backup or Master browsers unless specifically configured.  
>>  
>> Master Browser elections take place over the special <domain>[1E] NetBIOS  
>> name using subnet broadcasts (without using WINS). The election is fully  
>> automatic and takes into consideration a number of heuristics: operating  
>> system, version number, uptime, role (Workstation, Backup Domain  
>> Controller, Primary Domain Controller), etc. In general, the most robust  
>> computer on the network wins. Elections are forced when:  
>>  
>> a.. A client cannot find its Master Browser at startup.  
>> b.. A client detects that a Master Browser has disappeared.  
>> c.. A Windows NT Server starts on the network.  
>> Maintaining Browse Lists  
>> File servers periodically (once every 12 minutes) announce their presence  
>> to the special <domain>[1D] NetBIOS name in an IP subnet broadcast. The  
>> Master Browser builds a list from these broadcasts. In addition, all  
>> Master Browsers register a group name \0x01\0x02\_\_MSBROWSE\_\_\0x02\0x01 on  
>> the local subnet (not with WINS). Periodically the Master Browsers in the  
>> domains and workgroups announce their presence to this special name. Thus,  
>> in addition to the workgroup or domain membership lists, Master Browsers  
>> also maintain lists of other domains with their associated Master  
>> Browsers.  
>>  
>> Requesting Browse Lists  
>> When a browse request is made from a client, a "GetBackupListRequest" is  
>> sent to the <domain>[1D] name (the Master Browser) that returns a list of  
>> Browser servers for the local subnet. The "GetBackupListRequest" is also  
>> unicast to the Domain Master Browser, which handles the case in which the  
>> queried domain has no members on the subnet. The client Browser service

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>> selects three of the browsers from the list and stores them for future
>> use. Then when further browsing is done, by calling the NetServerEnum API,
>> one of the three saved names is contacted by the client.
>>
>> When a client queries its workgroup or domain browser, it first gets back
>> a list of all of the domains and workgroups that the browser has learned
>> about through the \0x01\0x02__MSBROWSE__\0x02\0x01 name as well as the
>> name of the Master Browser for each. When the user expands a domain or
>> workgroup into a membership list, the client sends a request to
>> <domain>[1D] to get to the list (this is translated to a local subnet
>> broadcast by WINS). If this fails, it contacts the Master Browser for the
>> particular domain or workgroup and fetches the membership list.
>>
>> The Domain Master Browser
>> As mentioned earlier, the PDC always acts as the Domain Master Browser.
>> Because each locally-elected Master Browser will only hear local
>> membership announcements, there needs to be a mechanism to consolidate all
>> of the members into a single list. This is the role of the Domain Master
>> Browser.
>>
>> Periodically, all of the locally-elected Master Browsers contact the PDC
>> and replicate their membership lists to it. The PDC merges the list with
>> the "master" list for the whole domain and replicates the master list back
>> down.
>>
>> The replication algorithm is "smart" in that the local Master Browsers
>> only replicate the members that they have learned about locally to the
>> domain master. This whole mechanism allows members in a domain to span
>> subnets and, for all clients (eventually), to be able to get complete
>> membership lists.
>>
>> On WINS-enabled networks, the browser code in Windows NT versions 4.0 and
>> 3.5x periodically connects to WINS and learns all of the computers that
>> have registered any <domain>[1B] names. The Browser then does a
>> GetDCName() on each of the <domain>[1B] names (followed by an attempt on
>> <domain>[1C]), and adds the <domain name> <master browser name> to its
>> domain/workgroup list. This allows members of one domain to locate the
>> Master Browser for another domain even when it is on another subnet and
>> the two domains have no "broadcast area" in common.
>>
>> Browsing for Other Windows-based Computers
>> Browser code for Windows for Workgroups computers has been enhanced
>> several times to reduce the dependency on having a BDC per subnet. The
>> updated files are available from ftp.microsoft.com. Windows 95 computers
>> also contain enhanced browsing code.
>>
>>
>> -----
>> Send feedback to MSDN.Look here for MSDN Online resources.
>> --
>> -----
>> http://www.uscricket.com
>> "peter" <peter@nomalarky.ca> wrote in message
>> news:uCIQPMW7EHA.2196@TK2MSFTNGP11.phx.gbl...
>>> Its not a Browser like Internet Explorer as I understand it.Its the
>>> actual
>>> computer itself
>>> I get the same message about every 2 days and the way I understand
>>> it...one
>>> computer cant find the other for some reason so it sets itself as the
>>> "master"
>>> I have narrowed down my start date for this problem to about the time I
```

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```
>>> installed SP2
>>> But other than that it does not in any way seem to interfere with me
>>> using the
>>> net or Email.My system does not lock up.
>>> There are times when in the middles of downloading a newsgroup message
>>> things
>>> seem to go real slow but a few minutes later its all back up to speed.
>>> I would like to solve this problem too .....so if there is a solution
>>> out
>>> there lets hear it!!!
>>> peter
>>> "Ice-wizard" <this.is.not@my.real.email.address> wrote in message
>>> news:eoqAd.9217$hc7.5206@trnddc06...
>>>>I am having the exact same problem. I am using XP Home. I have two
>>>>computers
>>>>networked as a Workgroup via a Linksys 4 port router to a DSL modem. I
>>>>am
>>>>using Norton Systemworks and Microsoft Firewall. I have been using this
>>>>setup
>>>>for atleast a year and this problem has just started occuring. The only
>>>>changes to the system that have been made is the regular Windows Update
>>>>changes. Unfortunately, I have no idea when it started exactly to see if
>>>>it
>>>>was a particular Update.
>>>>
>>>> I get the same error in the Event Viewer, however.. my first indication
>>>> that
>>>> there is a problem.. somewhere between 8 and 12 hours, every day... I
>>>> get a
>>>> TCP/IP error while trying to connect to my email server using Outlook
>>>> Express
>>>> (error 0x800CCC15). At that time, Netscape 7.x and IE 6.x stop working.
>>>> My
>>>> IM clients (YM and AOL) continue working for a few minutes before I get
>>>> a
>>>> memory overflow error which completely locks down the system.
>>>>
>>>> I have tried setting the local services, such as "Computer Browsing" to
>>>> restart the service as a recovery option, but it had no effect. I am
>>>> totally
>>>> at a loss. As far as I know, my computer never needed a Master Browser
>>>> before...now all of a sudden it does...and it can not find it??? I
>>>> checked
>>>> the Event Viewer...and it lists the OTHER computer on the network as the
>>>> Master Browser instead of this one.
>>>>
>>>> In response to the Knowledge Base, I just ran "sfc /runnow" and verified
>>>> the
>>>> protected files. Several libraries were rewritten. I have no idea if
>>>> this
>>>> has fixed anything.. I will have to wait to see if the TCP/IP stack
>>>> fails
>>>> again.
>>>>
>>>> Any clues would help greatly.
>>>>
>>>> "Fitz" <akfitz@mtaonline.net> wrote in message
>>>> news:10scc7toq7pgi58@corp.supernews.com...
>>>>>I have 4 computers networked (as a Workgroup, not a Domain) via a
>>>>>Linksys 8
>>>>>port router to a DSL modem. I am getting recurring Warnings and Errors
>>>>>in
```

