

Networking Problems XP, ME & 95 PCs

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Hi Folks,

Couple of problems I hope you folks can help out with. One simple problem (I think), one somewhat more complicated that I'm still trying to get my head around and will post later should I fail to resolve it myself.

So firstly the 'simple' problem.

I have been asked to look at a small home-office network which consists of 1 server running Windows XP Home Edition with SP2 installed and two clients, 1 of which is running Windows 95 and the other which is running Windows ME. A notebook PC is usually brought into the office once a week or so to be connected to the network for a quick bit of file dumping to the server; this machine is also running Windows XP Home Edition with SP2.

The Server is a Dell Dimensions which is connected by it's built-in NIC to a standard 10/100 3com hub. The Windows 95 & ME stations are home-brews fitted with DEC 305 NICs. All are linked to the hub Via CAT 5. The Fujitsu-Siemens notebook is hooked into the hub via it's CAT 5 port using a spare hub lead.

All the machines are running IPX/SPX as the network protocols (running TCP/IP causes problems with the Server when using DUN, hence IPX/SPX), obviously MS Client for Networks and MS File & Print sharing is enabled. Naturally all PCs have their individual names and all are members of the same work group (it's a non-domain network).

The server has a number of shared folders (simple file sharing) and a shared printer which the two home-brews and the notebook can access with no problem. These can be accessed when both browsing Network Places and when mapping a network drive. The Windows 95 & ME machines can also see one another on the network and access shared resources in a similar fashion as can the two XP machines see one another's shared resources.

However, neither of the XP machines (the Server and the Notebook) can see either of the Windows 95/ME machines. Browsing their Network Places just reveals themselves as part of the workgroup network with no sign of the

95/ME machines. Mapping the shares on either of the 95/ME machines to the XP machines obviously results in no joy what so ever (path not found).

Some I have spoken to have suggested that the Network Browser may cause problems when running on all machines in a mixed OS network such as this. However I have tried disabling the computer browser on the XP machines and the ME machine in turn neither of which actions have resolved the problem.

I have to confess to being a bit of an old fart (as they say here in the UK) in the wonderful world of networking cutting my teeth as I did on Vax servers (DEC Pathworks, ahhh, true-love !). So I'm hoping that you clever folks out there will be able to help out with what is probably a simple problem (I Hope !!).

Many thanks for taking the time to read this posting.

Take care.

Ade

P.S. The other problem is much more complicated, hoping to resolve this myself but if not you'll be hearing from me again !