

I started network troubles at work

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Hi,

I'm looking for some enlightenment.

First off I'm NOT a computer guy, I run the Engineering Dept. of a large facility that uses a computer controlled energy management system (HVAC, lighting). We used the corporate XP server network to connect 2 XP computer work stations (front-end to the control network) to each other. We hooked the first computer (in the office, also accesses the internet, intranet) to the control network and installed the software and database then going thru the corporate network and server (router, switches, cat5 cable) allowed the second computer (mechanical room) to access the database and thereby the control network. Our network vendor insisted that the connection be made thru the server domain so he could control privileges and security, the problem is we are having numerous glitches between the network setup and the control software setup and each vendor points his finger at the other guy (and they both bill us). After talking to the control system vendor I allowed him to come in and "disconnected" the second computer (mechanical room) from the corporate network by creating a workgroup for it to access the database and control network (still using the switches and cat5 cable) on the office computer. My office computer remains on the corporate domain and has access to the internet and corp. network. Everything works fine.

Now the problem starts, our network vendor came in today to update our antivirus and finds the mechanical room computer off the domain and goes berserk! He swears we have created a "hole" in the corporate network and that the network can be hacked into and compromised (not sure if he meant thru the internet or the machine). Control vendor says he's wrong, my boss sides with the network vendor. We shut down and disconnected the machine room computer till we get together on Monday.

Now I have to go into a meeting on Monday and decide who is right? If the network guy is right we will have to buy a second office computer and run a dedicated cable. BTW these two computers are on different levels of the building so using existing cable was advantageous.

Thanks in advance if you care to comment.