

Re: Cannot access other computer!

Source:

http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.network_web/2004-09/0627.html

From: Chuck (*none_at_example.net*)

Date: 09/03/04

Date: 2 Sep 2004 19:13:13 -0500

On Thu, 2 Sep 2004 16:22:32 -0700, "MS" <ms@nospam.com> wrote:

>Thank you, Chuck,

>

>Using your checklist, I got it working. I'll explain a little more.

>

>Yes, I was able to successfully ping the other, still when I couldn't see
>the other's drive.

>

>Yes, I was running both Client for Microsoft Networks, and File and Printer
>Sharing

>for Microsoft Networks, as well as several others. (Is there a list

>somewhere, of which of these protocols one should have running for basic

>networking. Could having protocols one doesn't need running all the time be

>a resource drain?)

>

>As mentioned, I did have sharing set up on the root directory (and all
>subdirectories) of both drives.

>

>The "Computer Browser" service was running on one, but not the other. I just

>checked this now, however, after I already was able to see the shared drive,

>so I don't think the fact that one computer didn't have it running caused

>the problem, as later the problem was solved, and that computer was still

>not running that service (set to manual). I started it now though, and set

>it to "Automatic", just in case.

>

>No, I did not have "NetBIOS over TCP/IP" selected. The default selection

>there is otherwise. I made the change you suggested. (Curious though, how

>most people would know to do that. The default is otherwise, it is in an

>obscure place, I didn't see any mention of it in any of my searching of

>networking guides on the web, the Microsoft Knowledge Base, etc. If that

>setting is necessary to see the files on a connected network computer, how

>would most people know to do that? Why is the default setting otherwise?

>Anyhow, it worked for me.

>

>Also, in looking at my protocols, I figured (although I really don't know

>anything about these protocols), that if "NetBios over TCP/IP" is selected,

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>that all the protocols with Netbios in the name probably should be selected.
>On one of the two computers NWLink NetBIOS was checked, but not "NWLink
>IPX/SPX NetBIOS Compatible Transport Protocol". I checked that one also. On
>the other computer neither of those two protocols were selected, and I
>selected both. I don't know if selecting those protocols had anything to do
>with getting the sharing to work, or whether only the change discussed in
>the preceding paragraph was necessary. As I discussed further up, which
>protocols are necessary for most networking? Of course "Client for Microsoft
>Networks", and "File and Printer Sharing for Microsoft Networks", and
>"Internet Protocol (TCP/IP)". But how about "Microsoft TCP/IP version 6"? (I
>have it selected, but don't understand how it differs or adds to the other
>TCP/IP.) How about "QoS Packet Scheduler"? (I have it selected, but haven't
>the slightest idea what it is.) And as I mentioned, those two NWLink
>protocols, which I just selected due to them having NetBIOS in the name.
>
>Therefore--what made the sharing work on my setup--the change to "NetBIOS
>over TCP/IP", as you suggested. Perhaps also the addition of the two NWLink
>protocols with NetBIOS in the name, but I really don't know if that had
>anything to do with it.
>
>Thanks again for your suggestions, which succeeded when no other guides did.
>Furhter clarification would be interesting.
>
>
>"Chuck" <none@example.net> wrote in message
>news:62tej0hak68fkcun6moku2kcivlu38bmve@4ax.com...
>> Start by verifying that you do have connectivity between the two. Can you
>> ping
>> each from the other? By name and by ip address? If not, exactly what
>> error
>> (provide text please) do you get when pinging?
>>
>> Many wireless cards report "excellent signal strength" when the total
>> "signal"
>> includes a lot of noise. Have you tried other channels on the wireless
>> cards?
>> What security features are enabled?
>>
>> Are you running both Client for Microsoft Networks, and File and Printer
>> Sharing
>> for Microsoft Networks (Local Area Connection - Properties), on each
>> computer?
>> Do you have shares setup on each?
>>
>> Are you running NetBIOS Over TCP/IP (Local Area Connection - Properties -
>> TCP/IP
>> - Properties - Advanced - WINS) on each computer?
>>
>> Make sure the browser service is running on each computer. Control
>> Panel -
>> Administrative Tools - Services. Verify that the Computer Browser service

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>> *is*
>> *started.*
>>
>> *If, in fact, you have connectivity (successful pings), and all necessary*
>> *protocols and services, how about shares visibility? From each computer*
>> *(use*
>> *actual name / address of each computer as appropriate):*
>> *Start – Run then:*
>> *1) \\ThisComputerByName*
>> *2) \\ThisComputerByIPAddress*
>> *3) \\OtherComputerByName*
>> *4) \\OtherComputerByIPAddress*
>> *Report visibility of shares / exact error displayed in each test (8 tests*
>> *total).*

You make many excellent points. Microsoft provides much documentation prescribing much of what you've done (not all). But finding the answers to your problems, in their documentation, is sometimes like looking for a diamond in a coal mine – with no lights.

Here are three websites with useful tutorials on file sharing, and other issues:

<http://www.cablesense.com/>

<http://www.homenethelp.com/>

<http://www.practicallynetworked.com/>

I, personally, have only the following items in my LAN Properties list:

- 1) Client for Microsoft Networks (the client in file sharing).
- 2) File and Printer Sharing For Microsoft Networks (the server in file sharing)
- 3) QoS Packet Scheduler.
- 4) Internet Protocol (TCP/IP).

And I have NetBIOS Over TCP/IP enabled under Advanced TCP/IP Settings – WINS.

Here is the download for the Microsoft reference document about file sharing:

<<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyID=87c0a6db-ae8-4bef-925e-7ac9be791028&DisplayL>

I DO NOT recommend any other protocols. Specifically not Netbeui nor NWLink (IPX/SPX). All they do is confuse the issue. If your file sharing is now working, fine, but the fact is you will be better off doing without either of those components. You do not need either of those to make file sharing work properly. And excess protocols / services are indeed a resource drain.

IPV6 is needed if you're going to access net resources that are configured with IPV6 addresses. And if your network to those resources supports IPV6. But currently it causes problems with normal IP services, such as file sharing (NBT). So the general advice is to remove it, when file sharing and general internet use is important.

You don't even need the Browser service running, to have file sharing work. But you do, if you are going to start your file sharing from Network Neighborhood. Here is a good discussion about the Browser subsystem:

<[http://www.microsoft.com/technet/prodtechnol/winntas/deploy/prodspecs/ntbrowse.msp](http://www.microsoft.com/technet/prodtechnol/winntas/deploy/prodspecs/ntbrowse.msp>)>

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These forums are one place where you find the answers, when official documentation fails you. And when you have the answers, this is one place where you can provide them. Nobody gets paid money to post here – but we all gain knowledge.

Cheers,

Chuck

Paranoia comes from experience – and is not necessarily a bad thing.