

Re: Simple peer problem

Source:

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From: Chuck (*none_at_example.net*)

Date: 12/31/04

Date: 31 Dec 2004 09:35:03 -0600

On Fri, 31 Dec 2004 05:07:05 -0800, "Charles Shapiro" <*email_address_deleted*> wrote:

>I am having a problem getting one machine to see another in a XP-PRO/WIN98
>peer-peer setup.
>
>There are 7 machine in this setup abc0 through abc6
>
>3 machines are running XP, 4 are still running WIN98 (soon to be XP also),
>but the problem is with two of the XP machines.
>
>abc0 is what we are calling the server. We run a program with a database
>that is on this machine and the other machines access this one (abc0) for
>it's data.
>2 (abc2 & abc5) of the 3 running XP Have no problem seeing abc0, but I
>absolutely can not get abc6 to see abc0 or visa-versa.
>
>I can go to any machine, XP or WIN98 and in Neighborhood Network or Network
>Places see all the other machines and access them, but those two (abc0 &
>abc6) will not see each other, it's tells me the path doesn't exist. I have
>checked and doubled checked everything I can think of. The workgroup name
>(ABC) is the same on all machines. I have even ran the network setup
>wizard. I have changed the workgroup name on the server (abc0) and then
>changed it back.
>
>When I go to My Network Places, these machines do not show up. I have to go
>to View workgroup computers to see them and then I can't access them... I
>did so many things last night I don't know if I tried getting to abc6 from
>one of the other computers or not, but I am pretty sure I did and it was not
>accessible.
>
>I am not new to peer-peer networking, but this is driving me nuts as I don't
>know what else to do.
>
>I brought it home last night, hooked it up to my peer network, changed the
>workgroup to match mine and viola, no problem getting to any of the 4
>machine here.. hmmmmmmmm.

>
> *Could the WIN98 machine somehow be messing this up. Maybe I've hit some
> kind of limit?*
>
> *I will do whatever is necessary to get this to work, changing names,
> workgroups*
>
> *Appreciate any ideas, as I don't know what to do at this point.*
>
> *Thanks.*
>
> *..Chip..*
>
> *Happy New Year. Be safe!*

Chip,

If you have a combination of Windows 98 and Windows XP on your LAN, and you have a problem with some computers not "seeing" each other (Network Neighborhood?), I'll bet you have a browser problem (I'm not talking about Internet Explorer here). The browsers for Windows 98 and Windows XP don't work well on a LAN together.

Do any of the computers have a software firewall (ICF / WF, or third party)? If so, you need to configure them for file sharing. Firewall configurations are a very common cause of (network) browser, and file sharing, problems.

After resolving any firewall issues, identify the two Windows XP computers that stay online the most, and call them the browsers for the LAN. Make sure the browser service is running on the browser computers. Control Panel – Administrative Tools – Services. Verify that the Computer Browser, and the TCP/IP NetBIOS Helper, services both show with Status = Started. Disable the browser on the other computers, including all Windows 98 computers:
http://cms.simons-rock.edu/faq_by_subtopic/node138.html

After checking / disabling / enabling as above, power all computers off to reset the browser settings on each. Then power the browser computers on, and finally the other computers on.

The Microsoft Browstat program will show us what browsers (I'm not talking about Internet Explorer here) you have in your domain / workgroup, at any time.
<http://support.microsoft.com/?id=188305>

You can download Browstat from either:

<<http://www.dynawell.com/reskit/microsoft/win2000/browstat.zip>>

<<http://rescomp.stanford.edu/staff/manual/rcc/tools/browstat.zip>>

Browstat is very small (40K), and needs no install. Just unzip the downloaded file, copy browstat.exe to any folder in the Path, and run it from a command window, by "browstat status". Make sure all computers give the same result.

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For more information about the browser subsystem (very intricate), see:

<http://support.microsoft.com/?id=188001>

<http://support.microsoft.com/?id=188305>

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

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Cheers,

Chuck

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