

Re: 3 PC SOHO Network setup problem

Source:

http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.network_web/2005-05/msg00191.html

- *From:* "Motonut" <Motonut@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Tue, 3 May 2005 07:02:05 -0700
-

Thanks for both replies, see responses below. As I say below, my setup should be pretty common these days, shouldn't it be alot easier to impliment this functionality?

Bill

"Chuck" wrote:

> On Mon, 2 May 2005 12:01:10 -0700, "Motonut" <Motonut@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
> wrote:
>
>> I am having difficulty getting my home network set up so my wife and I can
>> access all files/devices from all of our PC s. Ideally, since I ve renamed
>> our 3 PC workgroup (no longer called Workgroup) I would like it set up so
>> that when we log on to any of the 3 PC s our ID s would allow us access to
>> most, if not all, files/devices in our workgroup. Setting up Sharing on each
>> of the devices has proved to be hit or miss as to its success. I would also
>> prefer if I could set it up so only the 3 PC s on our (renamed) workgroup
>> have access to any other PC's device.
>>
>> We have 2 desktop PC s connected via Ethernet to a D-Link DI-524 (4 port and
>> wireless) router and a laptop PC that can be Ethernet or wirelessly connected
>> to the D-Link. The house is well over 300 from the nearest neighbor or road
>> so security on the wireless side is not a major concern. The OS s of each
>> system is:
>> Desktop 1 - MS Windows 2000 Pro SP4
>> Desktop 2 MS Windows XP Home Ed. SP2
>> Laptop 1 MS Windows XP Pro SP2
>>
>> Our internet connection is via a cable modem connected directly to the
>> D-Link router, no PC has an internet connection other than through the router.
>>
>> XP s Network Setup Wizard has been run on the 2 XP machines but is not
>> functional on Win2K. What are my options for setting up our private (secure)
>> network?
>>
>> TIA,
>
> Neither Windows 2000 nor Windows XP restrict access by computer, only by

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- > account. XP Home, unfortunately, uses Simple File Sharing, which allows access
- > only by the Guest account, which means this computer will be open to anyone.

== This sucks, I disable Guest for security reasons. You would think my setup is a pretty common one these days and they would make this functionality available.

- >
- > With Simple File Sharing, you'll not be able to access "C:\Program Files",
- > "C:\Windows", or any of the profile related folders such as "My Documents". All
- > of those folders require individual user, or administrator access, and Guest
- > access gives you neither.
- >
- > The fact that your property is large will not mean a great deal to anyone
- > determined enough; someone with a well constructed wireless apparatus could
- > hijack your wireless signal, and possibly access your shared data, just as
- > easily as someone connecting by Ethernet, sitting as much as a mile away.

===I'm not going to try and prevent all conceivable possibilities, just the most likely. I'm in farm country, it's a little too remote for someone to drive around looking for a hot-spot, besides, critical data/apps on my PC's have their own protection.

- >
- > Windows XP Home is just not a good idea for a secure WiFi LAN, nor is it for a
- > LAN where you wish to access all files. If you want to have symmetrical access
- > between all 3 computers, you'll have to use Simple File Sharing on the Laptop,
- > activate Guest on all 3 computers, and accept the fact that any data shared to
- > anybody is accessible by everybody. And the fact that some data (noted above)
- > will not be available to anybody except by local access.
- >
- > If I were you, I would disable Simple File Sharing on Laptop, disable the Guest
- > account on Desktop 1 and Laptop 1, and not use Desktop 2 for file sharing.
- >
- > To minimally secure your wireless LAN, you should do as many of the following as
- > possible.
- >
- > Change the router management password, and disable remote (WAN) management.

====Did this when I set it up.

- >
- > Enable WEP (minimal) / WPA (preferable). Use non-trivial (non-guessable) values
- > for encryption. (No "My dog has fleas").
- >
- > Enable MAC filtering.
- >
- > Change the subnet of your LAN – don't use the default.

===Did this too when setup

- >
- > Disable DHCP, and assign an address to each computer manually.

===Cable ISP needs DHCP

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- >
- > Install a software firewall on every computer. Put manually assigned ip
- > addresses in the Local (highly trusted) Zone. Open the firewall for file
- > sharing, only in the Local Zone.

=====Also done

- >
- > Don't disable SSID broadcast – some configurations require the SSID broadcast.
- > But change the SSID itself – to something that doesn't identify you, or the
- > equipment.
- >
- > Enable the router activity log. Examine it regularly. Know what each
- > connection listed represents – you? a neighbor?.
- >
- > Use non-trivial accounts and passwords on every computer connected to a wireless
- > LAN. Disable or delete Guest userid, if possible (XP Home is a bad choice
- > here). Rename Administrator, to a non-trivial value, and give it a non-trivial
- > password. Never use the Administrator renamed account for day to day
- > activities, only when intentionally doing administrative tasks.

===I believe I tried renaming Administrator on the W2Kpro (where all data/apps needing high security reside) machine but it wouldn't accept a change, will try again.

- >
- > Stay educated – know what the threats are. Newsgroups alt.internet.wireless and
- > microsoft.public.windows.networking.wireless are good places to start.
- >
- > --
- > Cheers,
- > Chuck
- > <http://nitecruZR.blogspot.com/>
- > Paranoia is not necessarily a bad thing – it comes from experience.
- > My email is AT DOT
- > actual address pchuck sonic net.
- >
- .

• *Follow-Ups:*

- ◆ **Re: 3 PC SOHO Network setup problem**
◇ From: Chuck

• *References:*

- ◆ **3 PC SOHO Network setup problem**
◇ From: Motonut
- ◆ **Re: 3 PC SOHO Network setup problem**
◇ From: Chuck

- Prev by Date: **Re: Alternate IP**
- Next by Date: **Re: how to know my printer name to share?**

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