

VPN, FTP, or remote desktop

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 - *Date:* Sun, 8 Jan 2006 19:26:46 +0800
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Hi,

I have been searching and testing a networking solution primarily for file sharing and intranet web site development for a while.

However, I am getting more and more confused about what is the ideal approach(es) for our tasks. Appreciate those who have helped answering many questions before but would like to clarify all the confusions, if possible.

The following are our wishes and current situations:

- (1) We have two work locations and each one has its own wireless routers (Buffalo WBR-G54 and WBR2-G54) for LAN and Wireless connections, and each location has its own DSL service and also has an ISP assigned static IP address.
- (2) All computers belong to the same domain but not all are at the same physical location.
- (3) One location has a Windows 2003 Server (Standard) but not always on and will be turned off once a while. All other computers are using XP Pro. DHCP server function is done by the primary router of each location so does the Default Internet Gateway. DNS server is also done by the two primary routers and Win 2003 also serves as the intranet DNS server.
- (4) All client computers can browse and use others' shared folders without any problems, and if them all at one location where the server sits, they can share folders as well.
- (5) All computers can access to Internet without any problem.

Questions:

- (1) If for file sharing purpose (such as access a shared folder or an employee wishes to access his/her second computer at a remote location), what is the ideal approach for the networking method between the two sites and at another location? Specifically, will it be the VPN, remote desktop, or FTP?

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It seems all of the three can accomplish this with different levels of complexity. We have not set up VPN yet, but tried FTP and remote desktop and seems both can accomplish the task, except we have not tried from "pure" internet environment yet – that means sitting at a cafe shop and try to access

(2) If someone is trying to edit the intranet web site sits in the Win 2003 server, will VPN be the only approach?

(3) In our case, do we need anything like Dynamic DNS or something similar?

(4) Finally, can someone point us to where can we find tutorial materials that fit into our situations? We have tried many but seems to be more and more confused now.

Many thanks in advance.

- ***Follow-Ups:***

- ◆ ***Re: VPN, FTP, or remote desktop***

- ◆ *From: Sooner AI [MVP]*

- Prev by Date: ***Re: FTP Server setup... I'm so close!***

- Next by Date: ***How do I know if connection to other computers are through "internet" or "intranet"?***

- Previous by thread: ***Re: Wireless network not working***

- Next by thread: ***Re: VPN, FTP, or remote desktop***

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