

Help with long term network problem

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Network problem

I have searched and read solutions on virtually every networking site I could find to solve this network problem to no avail. I even offered to pay a networking specialist who logged into the computers remotely and gave up w/o any help in the end.

I have run browstat status, IPCONFIG /all etc. and have info for each computer.

Here is a brief summary of the situation.

I have had networking up and running w/o problems for years in a small office environment. I am a conservation biologist from the USA living and working in Central America. All computers are running WINXP Pro with SP2 OS. I have a wireless router connected to a satellite ISP. The problem began the moment I attempted to connect a laptop to the network via the wireless router. Full Internet security is in place with firewall and antivirus all up to date. All computers have been removed from the network and scanned for malware and all are clean.

- All computers on the network have full access the internet via the router w/o a problem.
- Router is set with static IP addresses using MAC address and IP address. Not using DHCP (although this has been toggled on and off to see if that helped – it did not)
- All network cables are connected and working w/o problems.
- An HP Color laser printer that is only on the network with separate IP address is accessible from all computers.
- All have basic NetBIOS– TCP/IP set up.
- On computer is being used as a "server" for shared files and a shared B&W Laser printer.
- Network consists of 4 desktops wired directly to network switch connected to router and intermittently 1–3 notebook computers connecting via wireless.
- IPCONFIG verifies all computers are set as NODE TYPE Broadcast (was Hybrid on all but changed based on several recommendations– no change), IP routing NO, WINS no DHCP no.

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- All computers set to classic sharing.
- All passwords and sharing is set as it has been for years and worked.
- Computers can no longer connect to each other to share files or access the shared B&W printer.
- If the acting server is rebooted it will allow one computer to connect for anywhere from several minutes to hours then connection becomes unavailable with the connection not restored on mapped drive and message Local Device Name is already in USE.
- Only one computer can make the connection and the other 3 are not able to connect.
- Network is set as a workgroup. The name has been changed several times to reset everything to no avail.
- The Microsoft Windows Network either shows all computers under work group or not.
- Not all computers are accessible from this link in Explorer.
- Browser service is activated on all computers. When BROWSTAT status is run either the report indicates browser services are active or randomly not.
- I have tried removing the ISP connection from the router and taken down the firewalls on all computers and still have ping problems between computers. Response varies depending on the cold boot sequence of starting computers.

I am very very worried as I have not been able to complete full backups for many months to computer acting as server and has the tape drive. Individual computers are backing up to local connected external HDs but I need to run FULL system wide BU to tape for remote off-site storage.

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