

# Re: LAN problem: can't browse network computers

---

*Source:*

[http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.network\\_web/2006-04/msg00935.html](http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.network_web/2006-04/msg00935.html)

---

- *From:* Malke <[notreally@xxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:notreally@xxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Sun, 23 Apr 2006 08:01:19 -0700
- 

Frankie V. Fernandez, MD wrote:

Thanks for the reply! But wouldn't that mean that i have to re-install the operating system at least on one computer to have the username and passwords identical? I would rather not do that if there are other ways. What do you mean by the user name and password? I am the administrator for both computers but used different log in names and passwords for booting up? Can I instead create users in each computer with the same name and password?

You most certainly do *\*not\** have to reinstall the operating system!

1. XP Home only authenticates as Guest (Simple Sharing). XP Pro by default does this but may have been set up differently for you. So go to the XP Pro machine and *\*enable\** Simple Sharing from the Folders>View tab.

OR

2. Leave Simple Sharing *\*disabled\** on the Pro machine and create identical users and passwords (no password – blank – is really a null password) on both machines. You do this from the User Accounts applet in Control Panel. You don't need to be logged into that particular user account to share files either.

3. If you choose to create passwords and identical user accounts, for convenience you can set the machines to automatically log onto your account so you don't have to enter the password every time.

Configure Windows to Automatically Login (MVP Ramesh) – <http://windowsxp.mvps.org/Autologon.htm>

4. As always, make sure you are only running one firewall and that whatever firewall you are using is set to allow the Local Area Network

Re: LAN problem: can't browse network computers

traffic as trusted. Running the Network Setup Wizard enables the XP SP2 Windows Firewall. If you aren't running a third-party firewall or have an antivirus with "Internet Worm Protection" (like Norton 2005/06) which acts as a firewall, then you're fine. If you have third-party firewall software, configure it to allow the Local Area Network traffic as trusted. I usually do this with my firewalls with an IP range. Ex. would be 192.168.1.0–192.168.1.254. Obviously you would substitute your correct subnet.

Then create shares as desired. XP Home does not permit sharing of users' home directories (My Documents) or Program Files, but you can share folders inside those directories. A better choice is to simply use the Shared Documents folder.

If that doesn't work for you, here is an excellent network troubleshooter by MVP Hans-Georg Michna. Take the time to go through it and it will usually pinpoint the problem area(s) – <http://winhlp.com/wxnet.htm>

Malke

—

MS-MVP Windows User/Shell  
Elephant Boy Computers  
[www.elephantboycomputers.com](http://www.elephantboycomputers.com)  
"Don't Panic"

.