

Re: Networking Desktops and wireless laptops

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- *From:* Malke <notreally@xxxxxxxxxxx>
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Rich Wayne wrote:

I have two desktops that are networked and allow printer sharing using two ports on a netgear wireless router.

I have two laptops also using the same router – via wireless and cannot "see" the network and obviously cannot share files or print.

The desktops also cannot see the laptops.

The two desktops are running XP Home – One laptop is XP Home and one is XP Pro.

Have run the setup and kept MSHOME as network name – what am I missing

This is most commonly caused by a misconfigured firewall. When you ran the Network Setup Wizard, it enabled the XPSP2 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 but if you have third-party firewall software, you need to 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.

The other thing to do is understand that XP Home only authenticates as Guest. If you don't need the ability to set fine-grained permissions on your XP Pro box, enable Simple Sharing from Folder Options>View. In a mixed OS network, I prefer to disable Guest (disable Simple Sharing on Pro – you can't on Home) and instead create identical user accounts on passwords on all machines. This takes care of authentication.

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.

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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

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MS-MVP Windows User/Shell
Elephant Boy Computers
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"Don't Panic"

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