

# Re: XP File and printer sharing SOLVED!! A HIDDEN FIREWALL!!

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*Source:*

[http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.network\\_web/2007-01/msg00363.html](http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.network_web/2007-01/msg00363.html)

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- *From:* "Poprivet" <[poprivet@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:poprivet@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Wed, 10 Jan 2007 16:26:34 -0500
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KenV wrote:

"Steve Winograd [MVP]" <[bcmaven@xxxxxxx](mailto:bcmaven@xxxxxxx)> wrote in message [news:cr62q2pavfhmmk2sujip5fspr1da20rsp1@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:cr62q2pavfhmmk2sujip5fspr1da20rsp1@xxxxxxxxxx)

In article <[OQ0pzSnMHHA.4848@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:OQ0pzSnMHHA.4848@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>, "KenV" <[kvatz@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:kvatz@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote:

Then click a shared folder to open it. If that gives an error, the problem is probably caused by share permissions or NTFS file system permissions.

Chuck and Steve,

I am going to cross post this in two threads, because I think it is so important, and it may help a lot of other people here.

After going through everything in all the various posts, links, etc., multiple times, I decided that it /had/ to be a firewall problem. This is after changing NICs and cables, updating drivers, setting up permissions, fixing Winsock, TCPIP, etc., disabling the Windows and OneCare firewalls, everything. It was obviously a problem with the one computer A, and it had to be a firewall.

I noticed that when I used the Live Update feature in Symantec's Norton Ghost it was still trying to update—unsuccessfully—some sort of security software. I hadn't used any Symantec security software for over a year (!), and had gone through all their uninstalls, and, in fact, the network was working fine until early December, 2006.

So I went into the Registry looking for keys with Symantec files that were unrelated to Ghost. They were all under HKLM, System, CurrentControlSet, Services. I found all the files referred to in the

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Registry located under \Windows\system32\\* and I tried to delete them. I couldn't delete them, which meant they were in use, even though I couldn't find them in Task Manager. I then deleted the Registry keys, rebooted, and deleted the files (which I didn't have to do, once the registry keys were gone). These files were: symtdi.sys, symfw.sys (likely the real culprit here), symndis.sys, symids.sys, symredrv.sys, symdns.sys, and symRedir.inf. Like magic, both Computer B and the Mac immediately saw Computer A and all its folders and files! No browser problems, nothing.

Two frustrating weeks for me and everyone else on a problem that wouldn't even exist—a completely hidden firewall—if software companies made it easy to completely uninstall their security programs. This company in particular is notorious for such behavior, and it is very costly to the end users in terms of time wasted. It does not go unnoticed, for whatever that is worth. It wouldn't surprise me if this were a common problem. I see similar posts to mine here every day—can't see one computer on the network—and the firewall is always given as one likely cause. But what if you can't find the firewall?

Anyway, thank you both for all the time, energy and expertise you put into this for me. I learned a huge amount about networking along the way, and got an incidentally (?) broken Winsock fixed in the bargain.

Ken

Near's I can tell it's only relevant in Norton 2002.

<http://www.internetsecurityzone.com/Entities/? Firewall+Filter+Driver>

symfw.sys file information

The process Firewall Filter Driver belongs to the software Symantec Security Drivers by Symantec Corporation (www.symantec.com).

Description: File symfw.sys is located in the folder C:\Windows\System32\drivers. Known file sizes on Windows XP are 173208 bytes (50% of all occurrence), 110784 bytes, 172216 bytes, 109200 bytes. The driver can be started or stopped from Services in the Control Panel or by other programs. The program is not visible. File symfw.sys is a Verisign signed file. The file has a digital Signature. There is no detailed description of this service. symfw.sys is not a Windows core file. The process can be removed using the control panel Add\Remove programs applet. Therefore the technical security rating is 10% dangerous.

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Important: Some malware camouflage themselves as symfw.sys, particularly if they are located in c:\windows or c:\windows\system32 folder. Thus check the symfw.sys process on your pc whether it is pest. We recommend Security Task Manager for verifying your computer's security. It is one of the Top Download Picks of 2005 of The Washington Post and PC World.