

Windows XP – DHCP Problem over WiFi

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Greetings –

I'm seeing some pretty funny stuff going on and I'm wondering if anyone has seen it before...

Background –

My PC is a Windows XP SP2 laptop with integrated wireless
DHCP server is a Windows 2k Server box
WAP is a Nortel BAP120
Switch is a Nortel BES

I am having this problem in my office and a client is also having this problem. At the end of the DHCP lease, When switching SSIDs or networks (from home to work) I have noticed that Windows will connect to the wireless network with no problem. A quick sniff of the network shows broadcast traffic. Included in the Broadcast traffic is my laptop's DHCP Discover packet requesting the last IP it had (as Windows does). I am also seeing the DHCP Offer packet from the DHCP server with the valid IP information. All is normal until this point. My laptop does not send the DHCP Request packet back to the DHCP server. Instead it waits a few seconds and sends another DHCP Discover. It is simply ignoring the DHCP Offer.

The work-around for this is to simply to a "repair" in Windows on the wireless adapter. Windows connects to the WLAN, sends the DHCP Discover, gets the DHCP Offer, sends the DHCP Request, receives the DHCP ACK and all is well.

So here are the remainder of the details. It doesn't just happen with my computer. It happens with every Windows XP SP2 machine. We haven't yet tried a real Windows 2k machine (a VM on my laptop did not have the problem using MS Virtual PC). Our WiFi IP Phones do not have this problem when their DHCP leases expire.

Any thoughts? I am stumped!!!

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