

Re: Another Network Problem

Source:

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- *From:* Malke <notreally@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
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Graeme wrote:

I am trying to set up a network with two pc's, neither are connected to the internet, or have 3rd party firewalls. You may have to bear with me as I am a newbie at this.

I am trying to connect my desktop running XP Home, to my laptop running XP Pro. I have completed the create new network wizard on both computers – although on the desktop I had a print spooler error which meant I had to turn the spooler off.

If I go into my workgroup computers, my laptop can only see itself. My desktop can also see itself and the laptop, but when I click on it, I am told I do not have permission to access the network. I have gone into the control panel and user accounts and turned guests on.

What else do I need to do?

1. How are you physically connecting the two computers? If you are connecting them directly to each other without going through a hub or router, you need to use crossover ethernet cable, not the normal straight-through cable.
2. If you are connecting directly or through a hub (not a router), assign static IP addresses to each computer, making sure they are in the same subnet; i.e, 192.168.1.12 and 192.168.1.13.
3. You say there are no firewalls. Be sure this is really true; recent antivirus programs such as Norton and McAfee have a firewall component that need to be configured. Otherwise, make sure the Windows Firewall is set for file/printer sharing. There is no need to turn it off.
4. Since you have XP Home and Pro, see this:

If one or more of the computers is XP Pro or Media Center:

- a. If you need Pro's ability to set fine-grained permissions, turn off Simple File Sharing (Folder Options>View tab) and create identical user accounts/passwords on all computers.
- b. If you don't care about using Pro's advanced features, leave the Simple File Sharing enabled.

Simple File Sharing means that Guest (network) is enabled. This means that anyone without a user account on the target system can use its resources. This is a security hole but only you can decide if it matters in your

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situation.

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.

Malke

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