

Re: Problems setting up a web server with Win XP and IIS 5.1...???

Next, I assigned a static local LAN ip to my web server (not in the range of assigned ip's that my router gives out). I then, in the router config page, forward all port 80 traffic to the server via the static local LAN ip. I then check it via the local LAN ip, <http://localhost>, as well as the ISP ip that is assigned...everything works.

I then configured the windows firewall by adding port 80 as an "Exception"...

But is it an exception for * or only the local subnet?

keeping the rest of the settings default.

So by this point, I'm thinking... IIS set up (check), router configured (check), firewall allowing port 80 traffic (check).

Can you successfully telnet to your public IP address on port 80, from outside?

So I check the site via the local LAN ip as well as <http://localhost...etc>. Everything works.

What about testing <http://lanIP> from another computer on your LAN, just to make sure you can access it from something other than the box itself? That's the interim thing I'd try....

Now this is where the problem starts. I try to access my site from outside my network...nothing. I try to ping my server from outside my network...nothing.

Unless you'd opened up inbound ICMP, that doesn't mean much.

I tried changing setting in IIS, the router, and with windows firewall and re ping'ing...nothing (doing this for about two weeks now by trying different settings and getting nowhere).

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Pinging isn't a useful test. You can't ping www.citibank.com but I do think their servers are operational :)

So yesterday, trying to isolate the problem, I hooked my server up directly to the modem, got all my settings set back to the way I think that they should be (with the new dynamic ip that my ISP gave me), thus taking the router out of the equation. Well...I can still see the site via the ip of the server as well as <http://localhost...etc>. However when I ping the server from outside the network, I get nothing. So, I get to thinking (which normally gets me in trouble), I'll disable the firewall and see if that gets me any different results. Well after turning window's firewall off, I was able to ping my server from outside my network.

Ouch – don't connect without a firewall, even for a nanosecond. Put your router back in place asap.

However, when I try to view my site from outside my network (<http://xxx.xxx.xxx.xxx> and <http://xxx.xxx.xxx.xxx/index.html>), I don't get anything, just a "Cannot Find Server" error.

So as it stands right now...I'm thinking that something that I have set up in IIS is not letting the site be viewable to the outside world. I took the firewall and router out of the equation and the problem still persists. I'm not sure if my router and firewall are set up exactly the way they should be, but with those turned off, I should be able to see my IIS site from the outside world...right?

I've been searching for instructions for setting up a web server with IIS and Win XP, and have come across some websites that give you step 1–10, but they don't seem to be working for "outside my network" access. I read somewhere that you might have to have asp.net installed for IIS to work...is this true?

Nah. I'm not much of an IIS expert, but it sounds like you've got that part right.

Nothing else that I've read mentioned that. I'm still reading anything that I can in order to get this thing running, but keep hitting dead end after dead end.

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Any help would be GREATLY appreciated...suggestions, comments, links, references...etc?

Thanks,
Thomas

The telnet would be a useful test....as would knowing whether you can access the site from another machine on the same network.