

Re: Setting up home network

Source:

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

Why, when I go to configure home network, does it default to setting my main PC, the one that has a wired connection to the router, as a shared Internet Connection?

I want all connections via the linksys router but I do not seem to be able to do so. I am running XP Professional SP2 on all computers and all but the main PC are wireless.

I can't answer your question except to say that you are doing something wrong. Possibly you are choosing the wrong option when you run the Network Setup Wizard. Since you have a Linksys router, you connect with a Residential Gateway. Here are standard networking steps which should take you through this.

Run the Network Setup Wizard on all computers, making sure to enable File & Printer Sharing, and reboot. The only "gotcha" is that this will turn on 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. If you have third-party firewall software, 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.

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 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.

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>

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Malke

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