

Re: Can't access PC on home network

Source:

http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.network_web/2007-10/msg00455.html

- *From:* Lester Lane <james@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Mon, 22 Oct 2007 10:22:07 -0700
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On 22 Oct, 18:16, Lester Lane <ja...@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

On 22 Oct, 18:02, Malke <notrea...@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

Lester Lane wrote:

Thanks again – good reading stuff, and questions. Which has made me realise that maybe I should have the router acting as a DHCP. I was informed that it only handed out IPs – but it would appear to act as a store of IPs that are active and therefore a little like an internal DNS. I know this is painfully basic but is this roughly right?

No. DHCP is Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol and that means handing out IP addresses.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dynamic_Host_Configuration_Protocol

DNS is the Domain Name System which matches human-readable hostnames (www.google.com) to their IP addresses. The router gets DNS from the ISP.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Domain_name_system

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In a small network situation such as yours, the router also does NAT – Network Address Translation – which enables you to share one dynamic IP address from your Internet Service Provider among multiple computers on your network by assigning private IP addresses to them. The router has the public IP address on its WAN side.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Network_address_translation

If you have a true network printer (connected directly to the network either by ethernet or wirelessly and not locally to one of the computers), you should give it a static IP address. Consumer-level scanners can't be shared on the network. There are true network scanners but they cost many thousands of dollars and are usually leased from a business machines company.

If so I may activate the DHCP and move my IPs around (nightmare thought).

So at home I have no need for a static IP except for the printer – and I would need to check that too as it might handle automatic IPs. Home network is 2 PCs, 1 laptop and 1 printer/scanner. At work I have a Windows Server 03 box (can this be auto IP? I've always forced IPs of servers before now, and it does have the WINS, File and Print services available). I also have a UPS with an IP, 2 static PCs and my laptop (same as home one), and 3 printers (one wireless) – all controlled by the server. By the way 2 of these printers are the same model and when each of us prints at the same time to our own printer the server drops one of the print jobs – stating it was completed. This may be a further issue/redherring and for now not necessary.

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Servers always have a static IP address and what you do at work is only relevant if you want to use Workgroup (peer-to-peer network at home) resources with your domain-member laptop. Just having a server doesn't mean you've got a domain with Active Directory. WINS is usually only set up to support older operating systems.

For a home network, I would set your computers to get IP/DNS automatically and assign static IPs to true network printers using addresses outside of the router's address range.

Also see Chuck's always-excellent advice about computer browser issues.

Malke

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"Don't Panic!"

MS-MVP Windows – Shell/User

OK great, had a trawl round Wikipedia. So I will make my printer, server and UPS static – even using DHCP. I will then give the servers and my laptop a range that the DHCP hands out. Point taken about DHCP & DNS but my confusion is: If the DNS is external (my ISP's DNS server) then asking it questions about the IPs of internal PCs will surely draw a blank. Where in my internal world does the PC get a list of other PCs on the network? As DHCP is purely admin I'm still stuck with these PCs not truly seeing each other. Am I missing the obvious – it wouldn't be the first time?!

Sorry, giving range to PCs and laptop NOT servers and laptop.