

## Re: seeing another computer on a LAN

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[http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.network\\_web/2007-12/msg00244.html](http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.network_web/2007-12/msg00244.html)

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- *From:* jhnptbrg <jhnptbrg@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* Thu, 13 Dec 2007 11:17:00 -0800
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Thanks for your quick response –

Both machines are XP Pro

I'd like to avoid having and managing multiple accounts on these machines, so I'm hoping to use Administrator on both. I read where Administrator will not be displayed if there are any other users defined, so I'm hoping I can simply delete "User" and have Administrator appear – then I can log into that account and all will be well, but I'm concerned re whether the Administrator account might have a password associated with it (I bought the machine used) – is there a way I can find out? (I've gone thru Computer Mgt\Local Users...\Users\Administrator and can see the Administrator account there – it's set with "password never expires" but "user can not change password" is unchecked)

Also, re suggestions below, I've annotated what bits and pieces I've done – if I'm left out anything mandatory, please advise, thx.

John

"Malke" wrote:

jhnptbrg wrote:

I have 2 new (used) XP notebooks – both came configured with XP SP2. Followed various advice in this section, A can see B, but B can't see A. A has user "Administrator", B has user "User" – both are administrators, neither have passwords.

On B, I tried to change the user name from "User" to "Administrator" but got the message "An account named 'Administrator' already exists..." but I can't see any other accounts (just User, not even guest).

Please help me let B see A, thx.

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If you are able to see a user called Administrator on one of the machines in Regular Mode, it is XP Pro. If the other machine is XP Home, you already have a built-in user called Administrator; you just can't see it in Regular Mode. Do not simply rename user accounts. Instead, create matching user accounts on both machines. For ex., make a user account called "User" on the machine that doesn't have it.

Here are general network troubleshooting steps. Not everything may be applicable to your situation, so just take the bits that are. It may look daunting, but if you follow the steps at the links and suggestions below systematically and calmly, you will have no difficulty in setting up your sharing.

For XP, start by running the Network Setup Wizard on all machines (see caveat in Item A below).

DONE

Problems sharing files between computers on a network are generally caused by 1) a misconfigured firewall;

DISABLED (behind a router)  
or 2) inadvertently running two

firewalls such as the built-in Windows Firewall and a third-party firewall; and/or

3) not having identical user accounts and passwords on

all Workgroup machines;

THIS IS ONE PROBLEM – NEED MORE HELP TO FIX

4) trying to create shares where the operating

system does not permit it.

NOT SURE – BUT I DOUBT THIS IS THE PROBLEM

For XP and Windows 2003 Server, MVP Hans-Georg Michna has an excellent small network troubleshooter. It may also be useful with Vista.

<http://winhlp.com/wxnet.htm>

Here are some general networking tips for home/small networks:

A. Configure firewalls on all machines to allow the Local Area Network (LAN) traffic as trusted. With Windows Firewall, this means allowing File/Printer Sharing on the Exceptions tab. Normally running the Network

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Setup Wizard on XP will take care of this for those machines. 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 2006/07) which acts as a firewall, then you're fine. With third-party firewalls, I usually configure the LAN allowance with an IP range. Ex. would be 192.168.1.0–192.168.1.254. Obviously you would substitute your correct subnet. Do not run more than one firewall.

B. For ease or organization, put all computers in the same Workgroup. This is done from the System applet in Control Panel, Computer Name tab.

DONE

C. Create matching user accounts and passwords on all machines. You do not need to be logged into the same account on all machines and the passwords assigned to each user account can be different; the accounts/passwords just need to exist and match on all machines. If you wish a machine to boot directly to the Desktop (into one particular user's account) for convenience, you can do this. The instructions at this link work for both XP and Vista:

Configure Windows to Automatically Login (MVP Ramesh) –  
<http://windowsxp.mvps.org/Autologon.htm>

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

1. 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.

SIMPLE IS ENABLED ON BOTH

2. 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.

E. 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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"Don't Panic!"  
MS-MVP Windows – Shell/User