

Re: Windows XP – computer workgroup

Source:

http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.network_web/2008-10/msg00370.html

- *From:* Malke <malke@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
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John Becker wrote:

Hi all. I have a home network with 3 PC's. They are connected through a router to the internet: A desktop uses windows XP PRO and a wireless connection, a laptop uses Windows XP home and a wireless connection and a desktop using a windows XP Home and a LAN ethernet connection (cable). They all have Windows firewall active and exception as remote desktop flagged. When I display the computer workgroup I see all 3 of them but cannot access any of them. (the reason I want to access them is to transfer files from one PC to another). With the GUEST user account not active (on any of them) when trying to access I do get a prompt windows asking for a password: the User name is the PC_name\Guest. If the Guest user account is active I do get a differet message "Not able to access "PC_Namexxxx". The user may not have the necessary authority to access and use this network resource. Contact the administrator. The user did not get the right access type requested for that PC"

Can anyone help me providing instruction on how to solve this thing? I mean
Either instruction on how to assign/create a password to the account "PC_Name\Guest for each PC or how to unlock and provide the right authority
and access to the PC's in the workgroup.
Thanks in advance for you help.

Disable Guest to give your network better security and set up file/printer sharing correctly. The Guest account is a special system account, not one meant for when you are feeling hospitable. It is disabled by default in Windows XP, Vista, Linux, Unix, and OS X for a reason.

From TechNet:

"The Guest account is intended for users who require temporary access to the system. However, if this account is enabled, a security risk may exist

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because an unauthorized user could gain anonymous access to the system through this account."

[http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/bb418978\(TechNet.10\).aspx](http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/bb418978(TechNet.10).aspx)

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

Problems sharing files between computers on a network are generally caused by 1) a misconfigured firewall or overlooked firewall (including a stateful firewall in a VPN); 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; 4) trying to create shares where the operating system does not permit it.

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 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/security program with its own firewall component, 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. Refer to any third party security program's Help or user forums for how to properly configure its firewall. Do not run more than one firewall. **DO NOT TURN OFF FIREWALLS; CONFIGURE THEM CORRECTLY.**

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

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. **DO NOT NEGLECT TO CREATE PASSWORDS, EVEN IF ONLY SIMPLE ONES.** 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, turn off Simple File Sharing (Folder Options>View tab).

E. Create shares as desired. XP Home does not permit sharing of users' home directories or Program Files, but you can share folders inside those directories. A better choice is to simply use the Shared Documents folder. See the first link above for details about Vista sharing.

F. After you have file sharing working (and have tested this by exchanging a

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file between all machines), if you want to share a printer connected locally to one of your computers, share it out from that machine. Then go to the printer mfr.'s website and download the latest drivers for the correct operating system(s). Install them on the target machine(s). The printer should be seen during the installation routine. If it is not, install the drivers and then use the Add Printer Wizard. In some instances, certain printers need to be installed as Local printers but that is outside of this response.

Malke

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MS–MVP

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