

# XP VPN – Force nslookup to use DNS servers supplied by RRAS?

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Hello –

I've got a peculiar problem. Quick overview of the setup: Windows XP Pro client connecting to office LAN via Windows VPN connection (PPTP), with "use default gateway on remote network" unchecked. Typically, in this configuration, the client will attempt to connect to a server on the LAN by name, and a DNS lookup will occur – first to the client's primary internet connection's defined DNS servers, and since that usually fails (due to the FQDN being of an unregistered domain like machine.domain.local or something like that), a DNS lookup is attempted using the DNS servers supplied by the RRAS server, which provides the correct LAN IP address for the server, and connectivity can be established.

Well...a few of my users, who frequently use the Windows VPN connection to connect to the office to connect to the Exchange server, gain access to network shares, etc., began having an issue whereby their ISP's DNS servers had begun returning a PUBLIC IP for any host they were attempting to look up – even those with fake names. Basically, you could type nslookup blah.bogusfqdn.com (which I have checked, and doesn't exist) and it would happily return a public IP (I don't know which IP it actually is, possibly their ISP DHCP assigned IP). While the client is still able to gain basic TCP/IP connectivity to the LAN, in essence, they've lost the ability to look up any host on the LAN.

It seems to be an SBC DSL problem specifically, as users who have, for example, Comcast bandwidth do not experience the same behavior.

I know that we can counteract this by re-checking the "use default gateway on remote network" setting, but our office bandwidth isn't the greatest, so we don't get the best results with that. Is there any other way to automatically force the client to look up hosts that match a certain domain name (i.e. our AD domain) to use the DNS hosts specified by the RRAS server?

Thanks!

– Eric McWhorter

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