

# Re: Proxy Autoconfig Problem

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.inetexplorer.ie6.setup/2005-07/msg00156.h>

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- *From:* Geoff Varney <[GeoffVarney@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:GeoffVarney@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Wed, 27 Jul 2005 16:25:03 -0700
- 

Yow! I think I have it figured out!

I looked into this more with Ethereal and had a Web page showing what I should be seeing. Was OK up to the part where my local port should redirect to the proxy port, 3128. I kept digging around on the Web and happened upon a page on hacking Firefox. A piece in there says Firefox doesn't understand the old MIME type `application/x-ns-proxy-autoconfig` so to use `application/x-javascript-config`. I tried that for `.dat`, no go of course. I had already tried redirecting the URL for `wpad.dat` to a `proxy.pac` file also in the root of the Web server. HOWEVER I had used the same autoconfig MIME type. I changed the `.pac` MIME type to `application/x-javascript-config` and used the redirect from `wpad.dat` to `proxy.pac` and it seems to have started working!

I have Firefox and IE both picking up settings as far as I can tell. I've tried a couple of other computers around this site and they are all on.

I haven't seen anything anywhere on the Web CLEARLY explaining how to make this work, I \*think\* this is it:

- Create both `wpad.dat` and `proxy.pac`
- Place both in the root Web of the `wpad` server.
- Create `wpad` entry in DNS for Web server
- Set MIME type for `.dat` to `application/x-ns-proxy-autoconfig`
- Set MIME type for `.pac` to `application/x-javascript-config`

Make sure browsers are set to automatically detect proxy settings (I set up AD to make sure, by user). This is a default for IE usually...

I may be back saying this doesn't work, but early results are GOOD!

Geoff

—  
Geoff Varney

Re: Proxy Autoconfig Problem

"Robert Aldwinckle" wrote:

> "Geoff Varney" <GeoffVarney@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message  
> [news:D286C4F7-2523-4740-A046-A7D762086D50@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:D286C4F7-2523-4740-A046-A7D762086D50@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)  
>>  
>> "Robert Aldwinckle" wrote:  
>>  
>>> "Geoff Varney" <GeoffVarney@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message  
>>> [news:07200BB6-7F45-4E49-9E24-B94EBE89E7C2@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:07200BB6-7F45-4E49-9E24-B94EBE89E7C2@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)  
>>> ....  
>>>> If, however, I try to use the "automatically detect settings" option in IE  
>>>> it doesn't apply the settings.  
>>> ....  
>>>> Any suggestions?  
>>>  
>>>  
>>> Is OS NT5x? Have you tried experimenting with proxycfg too?  
>>>  
>>> Apparently in some cases it helps to explicitly execute the command  
>>> even when you think the defaults should be in effect. YMMV.  
>>>  
>>> <title>KB896221 – Windows-based client computers behind a proxy server cannot access the Windows  
Update Web site</title>  
>>>  
>>> (MSKB Boolean search for  
>>> proxycfg AND wpad  
>>> )  
>>  
>> OS is Windows XP SP2 (5.1.2600). I have also had the same problem testing  
>> Windows Server 2003. IE \*is\* 6.0 SP1 or SP2 in all cases.  
>>  
>> Can you explain just what I should do with proxycfg?  
>  
> Not really. I just know that it can be used to resolve problems  
> with proxy servers in unintuitive ways. At least that's my impression  
> from seeing how it has been used when resolving problems with WU.  
>  
>  
>> I see that it can be used to place proxy settings into registry, etc.  
>  
> I'm not sure but I think it's the -d switch which resolves the most problems  
> but then again I don't know how closely their cases would match yours.  
>  
>  
>> What I am trying to do is  
>> impose proxy settings on computers throughout a school district. There are 4  
>> sites and 4 proxies. I was trying to make this as automated as possible. I  
>> have in the past used Group Policy to set proxy. However, not all computers  
>> are in Active Directory, not all are IE.  
>

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> Oh. Are the settings in Internet Properties exclusively IE ones?  
> Does FireFox require you to duplicate them somewhere?  
> (Mark mentioned FireFox as something which didn't have the problem.)  
>  
> Ah. When are you making the proxy settings?  
> I remember in NT4sp6a being convinced that using Tools, Options,...  
> never worked. I had to use Internet Properties instead (e.g. Run...  
> control inetctl.cpl,,4  
> )  
>  
> Here's an article which sort of confirms what I remember seeing  
>  
> <title>KB835456 – When you change your proxy server settings, the change  
> does not take effect in Visual Studio .NET</title>  
>  
> (TechNet search for  
> "internet properties" proxy  
> )  
>  
>  
>> I was hoping to use Automatic  
>> Detection to pick up those that don't have GP available to them. I can still  
>> use proxy.pac if I use GP to set the path to the pac file, I think that may  
>> work reliably enough, but still miss a number of browsers this way. I don't  
>> know how to troubleshoot the breakdown in the process, using either the  
>> Ethereal captures or any other methods.  
>  
> No kidding. I tried to find how script debugger could be used to watch  
> a proxy script work and got nowhere. FileMon and RegMon would  
> probably show you at least if an attempt was being used to use it  
> or related files.  
>  
>  
>>  
>>  
>>>  
>>>  
>>> Hmm... what version of wininet.dll do you have?  
>>>  
>>> <title>KB829643 – Internet Explorer 6.0 Service Pack 1 cannot use the  
>>> Automatic Detect Settings feature in a Windows XP–based computer  
>>> to find a WPAD server</title>  
>>>  
>>> (MSKB Boolean search for  
>>> wpad AND kbiesearch  
>>> )  
>>>  
>>  
>> My wininet.dll is ver. 6.0.2900.2180 dated 8/4/2004.  
>  
> Is that base XPsp2? I wouldn't want to place any bets on hotfix inclusions



Re: Proxy Autoconfig Problem

◇ *From:* Geoff Varney

◆ ***Re: Proxy Autoconfig Problem***

◇ *From:* Robert Aldwinckle

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