

so the XP computers could see each other. I feel that this was a mistake as our Internet Service Provider is providing DNS services as well.

Ah. No, you definitely needed to do that. This is a big deal. You **have** to have internal DNS set up properly if you want AD to work. None of your workstations or servers should have anything other than the **internal** AD-integrated DNS server IP in their ip config. Your DNS server (your DC) should use forwarders to your ISP's DNS servers to handle external queries.

This is the first thing you need to fix – make sure you're running AD-integrated DNS on your DC. Make sure your DC points **only** at its own LAN IP for DNS and has the correct DNS suffix. Then, make sure your workstations are set up the same way.

So far, they haven't been in conflict. Not yet, anyway.
** We assigned a static IP address to our Domain Controller.*

I'd sure hope so!

** On the XP Computers, we explicitly set the primary DSN as our Domain Controller and the secondary DSN as our DHCP/Router box,*

No – take this out. Only one DNS server IP (unless you have multiple internal DNS servers for your AD domain). Not the LAN IP of your router, and not your ISP's DNS servers.

And you should really use DHCP for this – DHCP running on your DC, not on your router.

so the computers could boot in a timely manner (without this, they don't do a thing for at least 30 seconds right after login). This made me question the effectiveness of the Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol.

Nothing to do with DHCP – you've got DNS problems.

** On the Vista computer, we had to add the domain name as the suffix in the DSN configuration, so we could join it to the Domain.*

Re: DHCP box and Windows 2003 Server Domain Controller documentation

Your DHCP server should be dishing out the primary DNS suffix mydomain.local (or whatever you use). To *all* workstations.

Someone told me that we needed to install the DHCP services in the Domain Server. That would mean to have two DHCP entities in the same network, which usually causes network disconnections – I know that by experience.

No – see above.

These issues started when we migrated to Windows 2003 Server.

From what? You can't have had a functional AD before. :-)

Any help is greatly appreciated!!!

Best Regards,

Tarh Ik

Hope the above helps.