

XP Workstations & VLANs

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Hello all! I am the desktop administrator for a school district. Our network admin had some Cisco consultants come in last week and implement VLANs. They segmented off the following:

1. Servers (mostly W2k3)
2. Elementary
3. Middle school
4. High school
5. District offices

I've never worked in a VLAN environment before (but I have worked in a WAN environment, so I'm hoping that it's going to turn out to be similar). I have had a lot of trouble getting Ghost to work since they did this, but I've been able to work around that issue. However, I'm in quite a pickle now with some XP workstations, and this is VERY bizarre. Unfortunately, neither the network admin nor the consultants have a clue about this issue. After I ghosted the workstations (in the Elementary vlan), they came up with the Windows setup as normal. I was able to join them all to the domain during setup, except for one where sloppy typing led to an incorrectly-entered password, and it wasn't joined. All of the machines rebooted at the end of their setup.

The 5 computers I ghosted are mobile carts, so for the ones that joined, I unplugged them and wheeled them away. The last I logged onto locally and tried to manually join it to the domain.. it said that it couldn't find the domain controller. It could release/renew a DHCP address, but could only ping within its own subnet; it could not ping past its gateway. And because the DNS server is in a different vlan, it couldn't do any resolutions. I pulled back one of the finished workstations, thinking perhaps it was a cable or jack issue. I plugged it back into the next jack, and it too could no longer ping outside of its gateway. I went into the hub room and plugged the second workstation into a different switch. Still no resolution.

My workstation is in the District office vlan, and I could ping the two workstations, and control them through VNC. I gave the workstations static IP addresses and manually entered the Gateway & DNS info, but again.. no dice. It's as if the firewall is turned on, but it is not.

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At this point, this is Day 3 of a project that should've taken me one. Because of these VLANs, I can't seem to get any work done anymore. So I passed the buck onto the network admin, and he called the consultants. They worked on it for another hour, mostly trying all of the things I already have.

It's been a while since I pulled out of the networking side and moved over to my home in desktops & training, but since no one else has an answer it's up to me to find it. The only thing left that I can think of is the fact that I don't think there's a master browser in each vlan. Is that a necessity with an NT5-based network? Fortunately the teachers and students are all out on vacation, but we have about 2/3 of our elementary clients still using W98. I dread to turn those on.

So... if anyone out there can offer me a few pearls of wisdom, I'm all ears!! Thanks!

--Melissa

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