

Re: Please Help – I have networked my laptop to my pc and can only

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- *From:* Jesper <Jesper@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Mon, 8 Jan 2007 14:47:01 -0800
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Malke, I welcome you jumping in! You have way more experience with Home Edition than I do. I'm used to managing 12,000–50,000 users so I don't use Home Edition a lot.

Candace, yes, please calm down. :-) We're sorry this is so frustrating.

One thing to try, before you try Malke's excellent advice. When you are on the laptop, can you see the "SharedDocs" folder on the other computer? If so, can you save a document to it? If so, that's your single share point. Malke made me realize that you probably can't make the "Documents" share writeable on Home Edition. You will probably need the kids to copy everything they want to share with you into the "Shared Documents" folder, which is shared as "SharedDocs." Try that first.

If that does not work, try to follow what Malke has in here. Alternatively, if it is too complicated, I bet you could work around the problem by using the laptop as a server. Train the kids to put things they want you to review on that system, since they can access that. You can then review them, and when you are done, they can retrieve the documents from the laptop again. That way you don't have to push the docs around. It is usually far easier to have a single place to store things than to share documents from every system on the network.

The local computer shop is mistaken. Windows XP Media Center Edition is the full-featured version. Home Edition is the limited one. It is Home Edition that is causing the problems, not Media Center. If you had Media Center Edition on both computers you probably would not have needed our help. The issue is in Home Edition limiting the shares to read-only shares.

"Malke" wrote:

Candace Reed wrote:

The original post was on December 26, 2006 at 10:30 p.m. It was titled "Please Help – I have networked my laptop to my pc and can only open files

Re: Please Help – I have networked my laptop to my pc and can only
from pc in read only"

You were correct. I am having problems accessing the pc that is running
Windows XP Home. The laptop that is running Windows XP Media Center
can
be
accessed by the pc and changed. The laptop can access the files from the
pc but only in read-only and I cannot make any changes to the files or
resave them back to the pc that is running Windows XP Home.

As per the below, I did steps 1 to 4 but when I right click "Documents" in
the right-hand pane, I only see Refresh and Help. I do not see properties
or security. This is driving me crazy.

The local computer shop says it is because my laptop is running Windows
XP
Media Center. Are you saying that is not the problem? WHAT IS THE
PROBLEM? I'm a single mom and I am trying to fix this so the kids can use
my laptop to access their documents and make changes and print them on the
"fancy"
printer. I cannot afford to pay someone to look at this and yet I can't
seem to fix it. I don't get it. Everything is set up the same on each
computer and yet the laptop which is running Windows XP Media Center
will
not allow me to make any changes to the pc that is running Windows XP
Home. ALL DOCUMENTS ARE ACCESSED IN READ ONLY MODE.

I have the two computers networked together by a router. My laptop has a
wireless router. I am running Trend Micro PC-cillin Internet Security so
that should be keeping others out, right?

I hope that Jesper will not mind me popping in at this point. First, you
need to calm down. You are having a problem that is very simple to solve
and you are making things far more complicated than they need to be. Let's
take it from the beginning.

1. Turn both machines on. Run the Network Setup Wizard (in Control Panel) on
both machines, one at a time. When you get to the end of the Wizard, choose
the option that you don't need to do anything else at this time (instead of
plugging in a thumbdrive or the like). Then reboot both machines.

2. 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
with "Internet Worm Protection" (like Norton 2005/06) which acts as a
firewall, then you're fine. If you have third-party firewall software,
configure it to allow the Local Area Network traffic as trusted. I usually
do this with my firewalls with an IP range. Ex. would be
192.168.1.0–192.168.1.254. Obviously you would substitute your correct
subnet. Since I can't see your computers, you'll have to determine if you
have a third-party firewall/firewall function or not.

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3. Go to Control Panel>User Accounts on each machine and create identical user accounts and passwords. I don't care if you weren't using a password before; create one that you will remember now. You can always set the machine to log in automatically afterwards. See this link for how to do that: <http://windowsxp.mvps.org/Autologon.htm> – but do it *later*. You do not need to be logged into the same accounts on both machines to share files; the accounts and matching passwords must just *exist* on both machines.

4. Now make your shares. On the Media Center machine, you can share whatever you want. You can share the users' My Documents. **YOU CANNOT DO THIS ON THE XP HOME MACHINE** (and yes, the capital letters were on purpose). XP Home does not permit sharing of users' home directories (My Documents) or Program Files, but you can share folders inside those directories. A better choice is to simply use the Shared Documents folder on the Home machine.

Now you should be able to copy files between the two machines. If you want to share a printer connected to the desktop, go to the Printers applet and right-click on the printer icon and then left-click on Sharing. Share the printer. Depending on the printer, you may need to use its installation cd on the laptop. Read the printer manual.

Malke

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