

Windows XP Home Network Setup: Step-by-Step

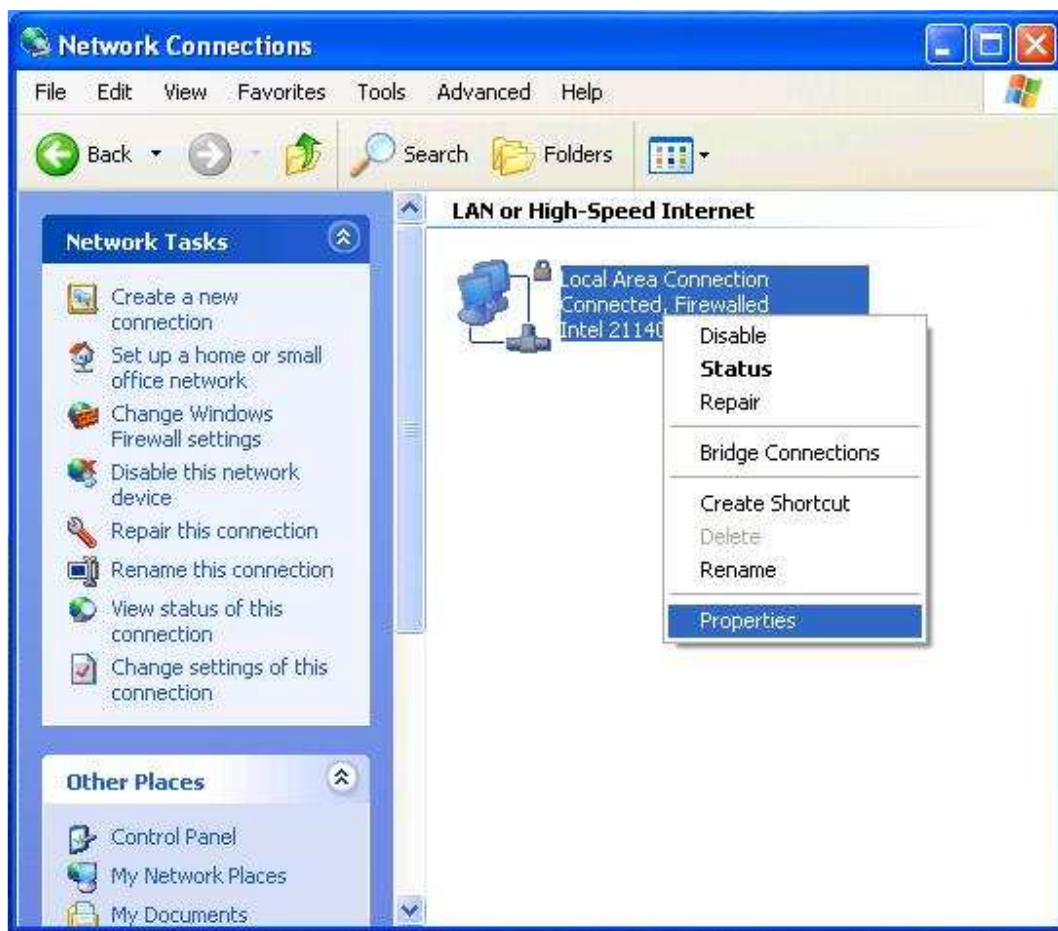
Before we begin, please uninstall any and all firewall software. Software firewalls such as Norton Internet Security, Zone Alarm, Black Ice, McAfee Firewall, Sygate, Zero Knowledge Freedom, PC-Cillan, [Cisco VPN Client](#) and other firewall software can wreck havoc with configuring a home network.

Simply disabling many of these programs in many cases does not completely disable them, which is why an uninstall is recommended. Consider installing (or reinstalling) a software firewall once you have your network configured and running correctly.

Failure to do this may make the instructions that follow an exercise in futility.

The following instructions are click-by-click. Please do not click **Apply** or **OK** until instructed to do so.

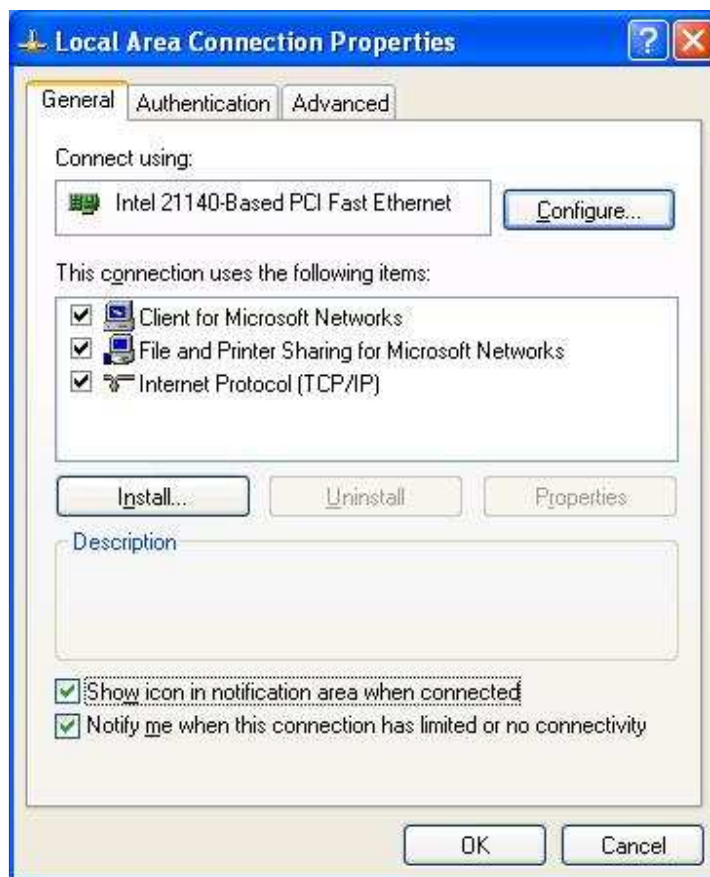
Right-click on your **Local Area Connection** and select **Properties**.



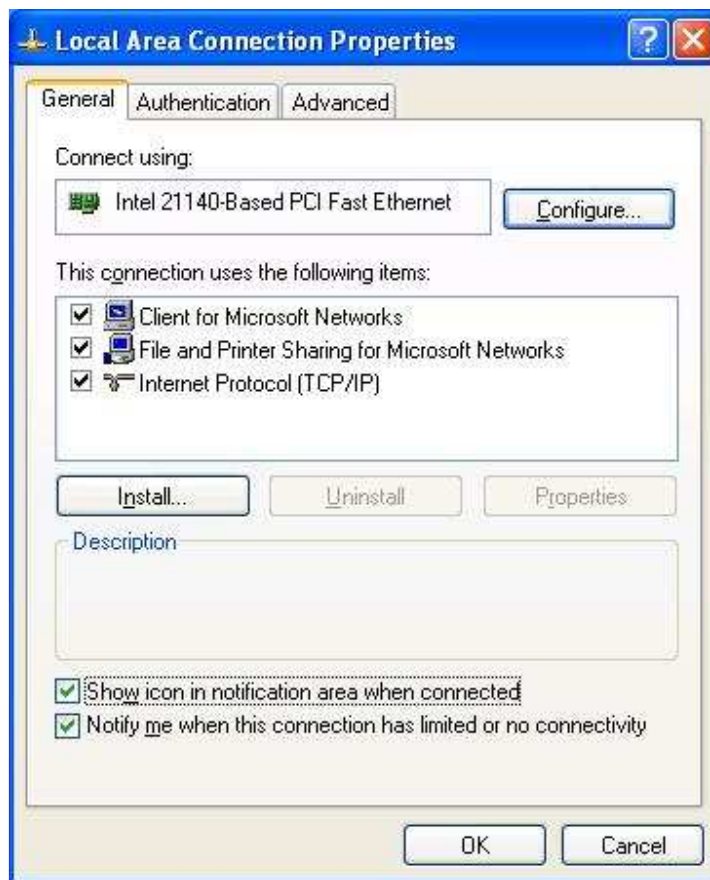
Make sure you have the following clients, protocols and services loaded as shown in the example below.
(your adapter may vary from what is pictured)

The focus here is to ensure you have **Client for Microsoft Networks**, **File and Printer Sharing for Microsoft Networks** and **Internet Protocol (TCP/IP)** installed with a check in the box beside each one.

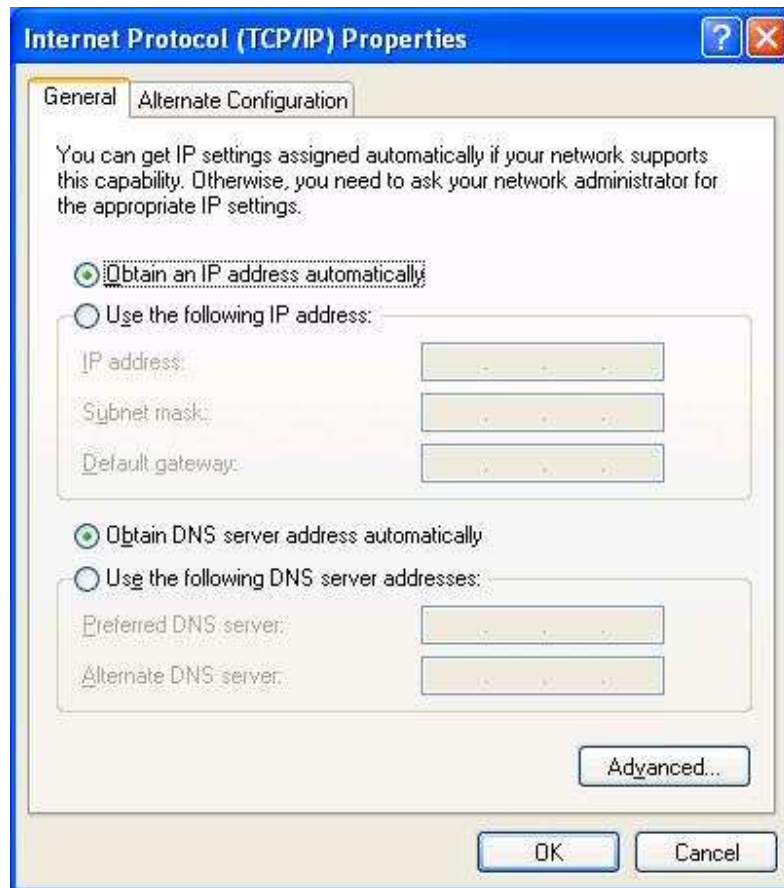
If you see other items in addition to these, please uninstall them.
Your screen should closely match the example below.



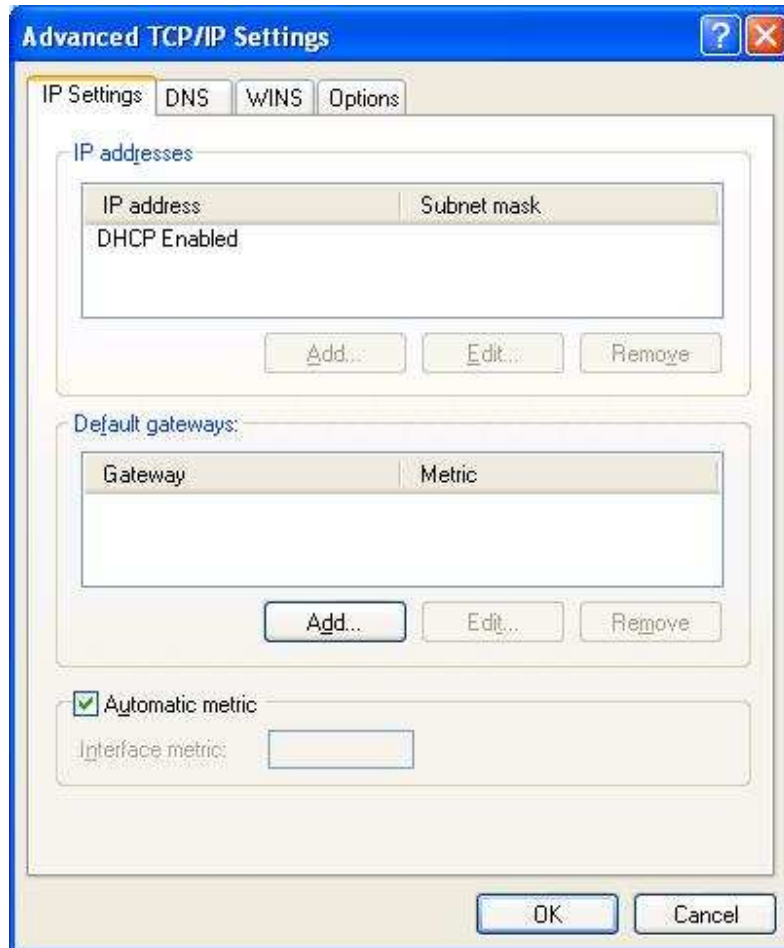
Double-click **Internet Protocol (TCP/IP)**



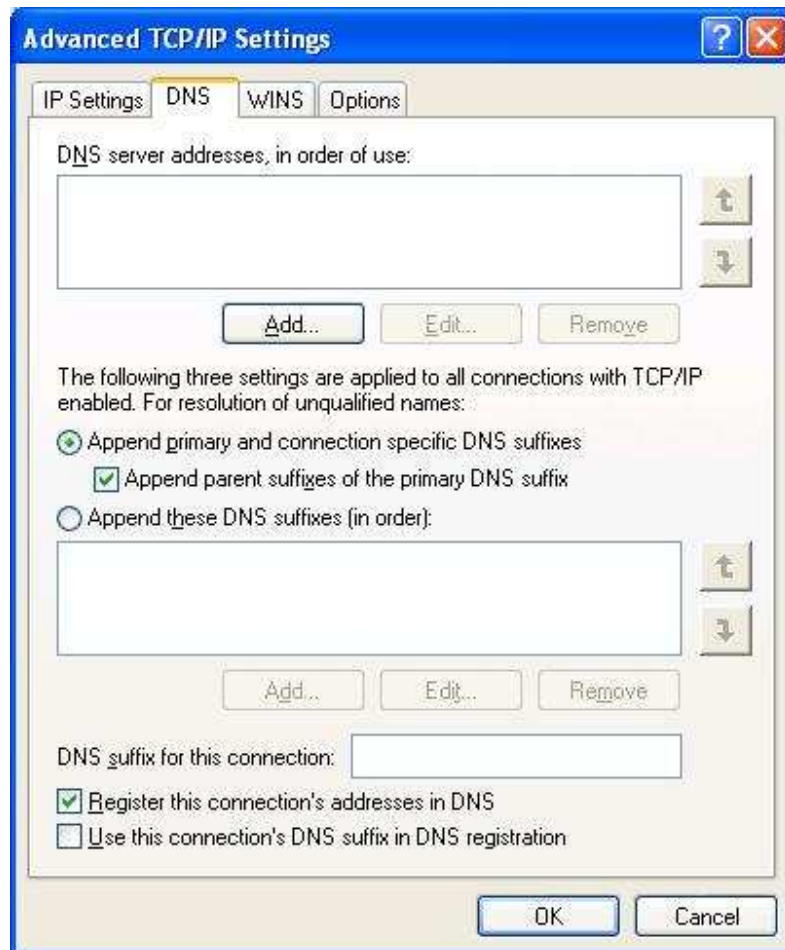
Ensure **Obtain an IP address automatically** and **Obtain DNS server address automatically** are selected.



Click the **Advanced** button, and ensure your screen matches the example below.

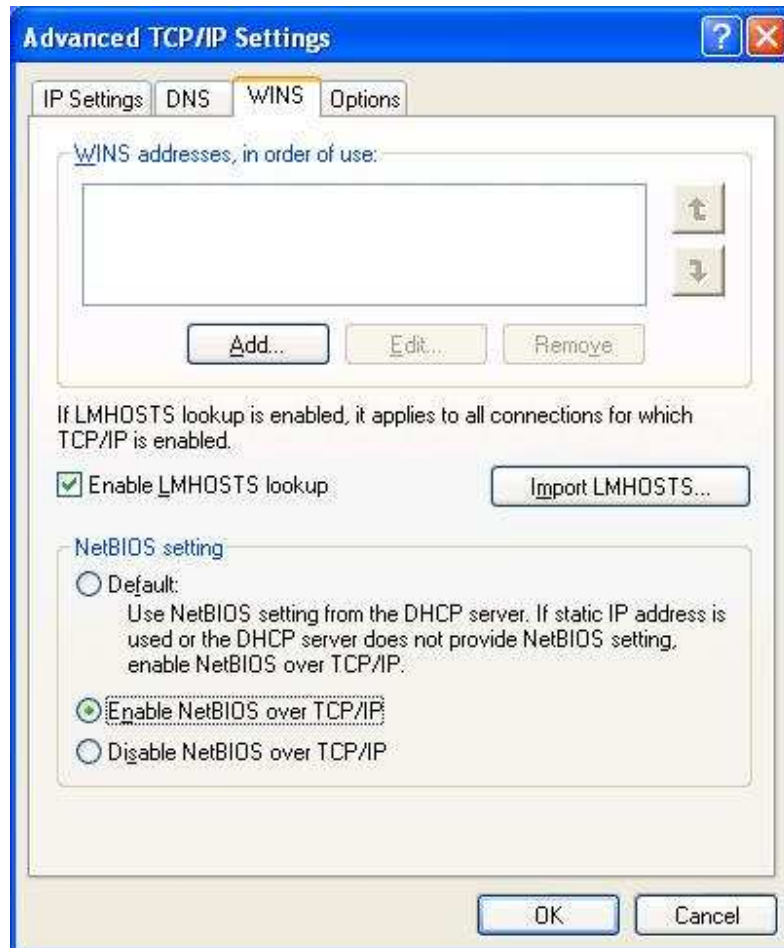


Click the **DNS** tab, and ensure your screen matches the example below.

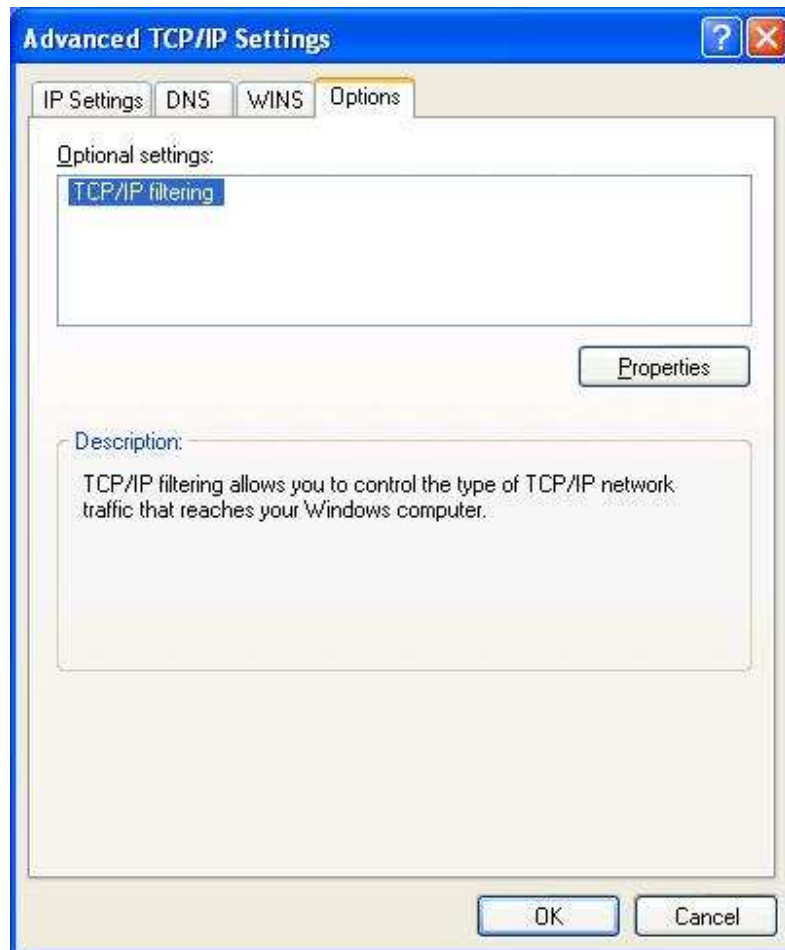


Click the **WINS** tab, and ensure **Enable NetBios over TCP/IP** is selected.

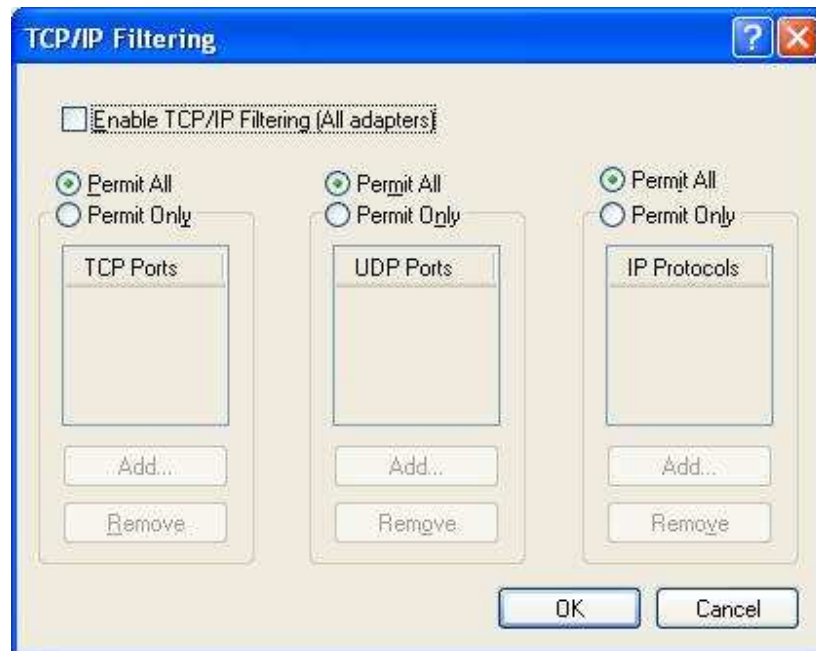
Ensure your screen matches the example below.



Click the **Options** tab, and ensure your screen matches the example below.



Click the **Properties** button, and ensure your screen matches the example below.



Finally, click **OK**, click **OK** and click **OK** once more.

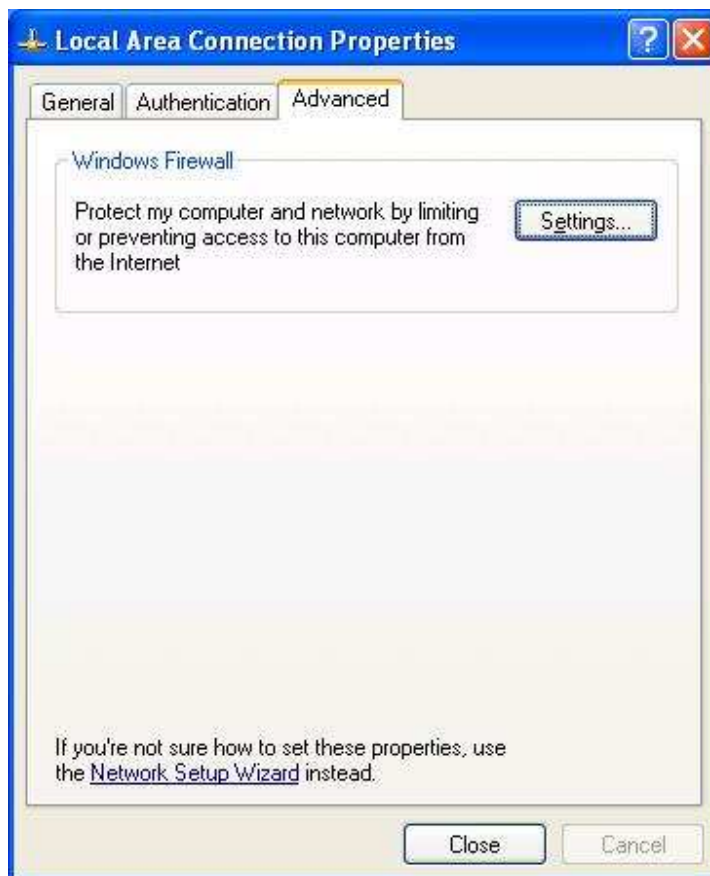
Click the **Authentication** tab and ensure your screen matches the example below.



Click the **Advanced** tab and click the **Settings...** button.

Note: If your screen looks differently than what is pictured, you do not have Service Pack 2 installed.

Please install SP-2 before continuing.



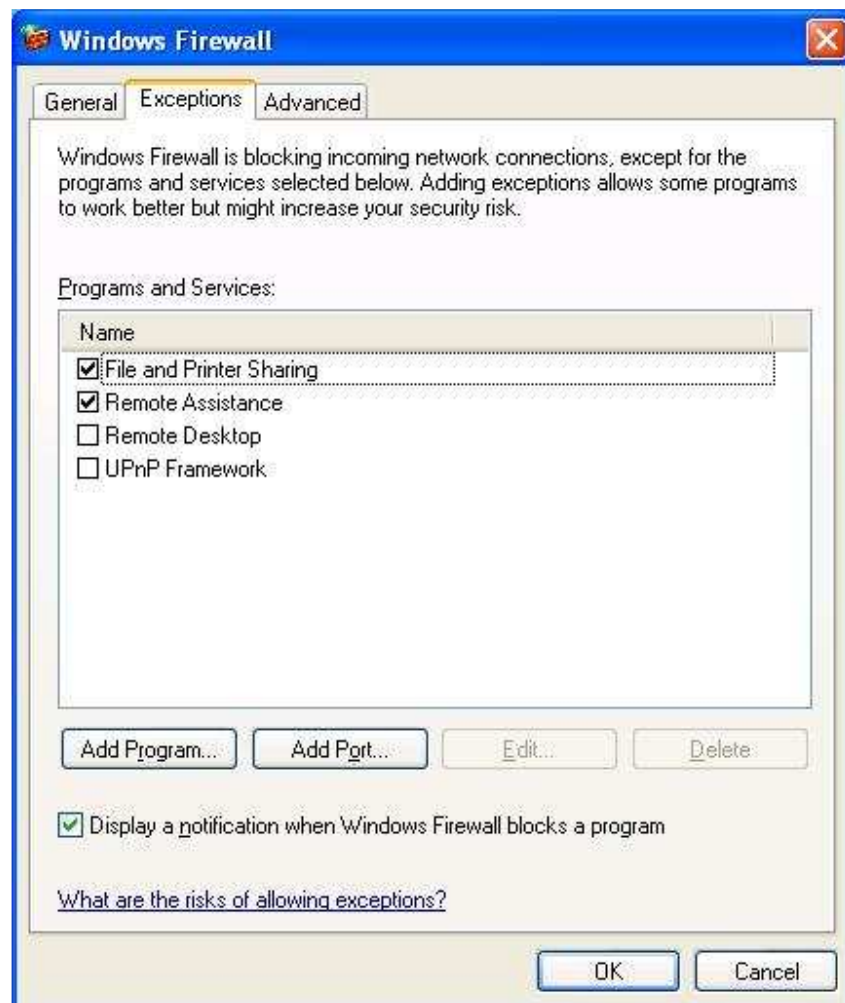
On the **General** tab, ensure your screen matches the example below.

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Please install SP-2 before continuing.



On the **Exceptions** tab, ensure **File and Printer Sharing** is listed and has a check beside it.

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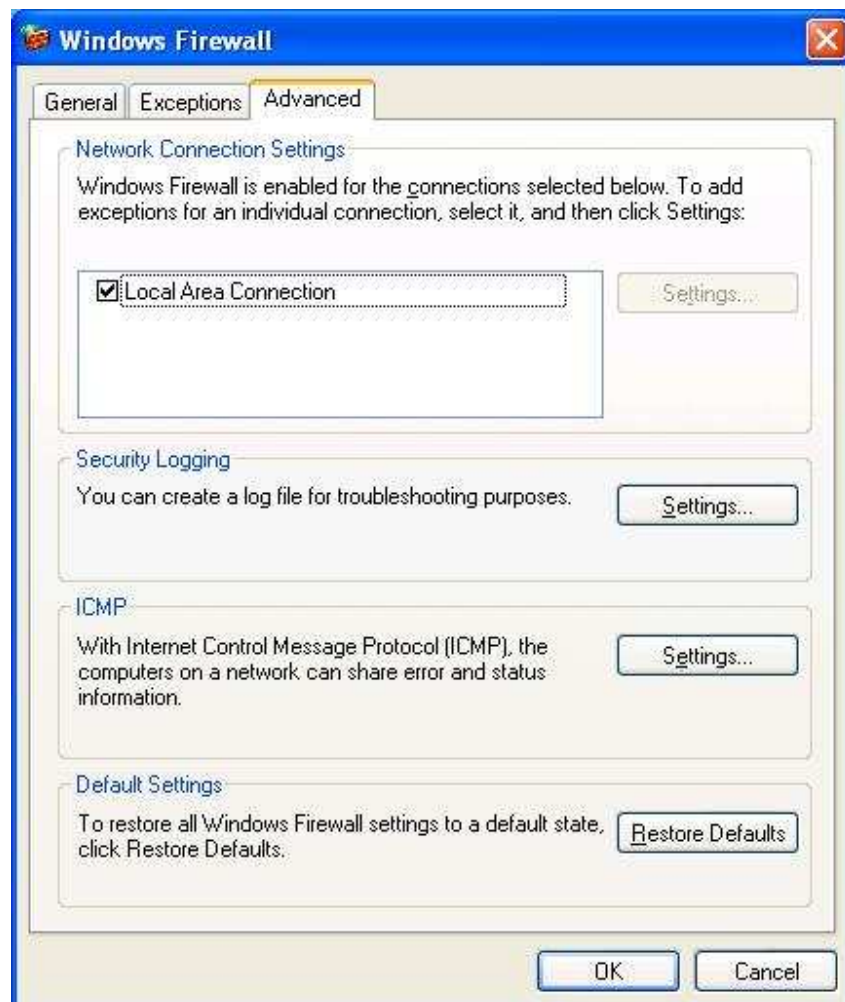


On the **Advanced** tab, ensure **Local Area Connection** is listed and has a check beside it.

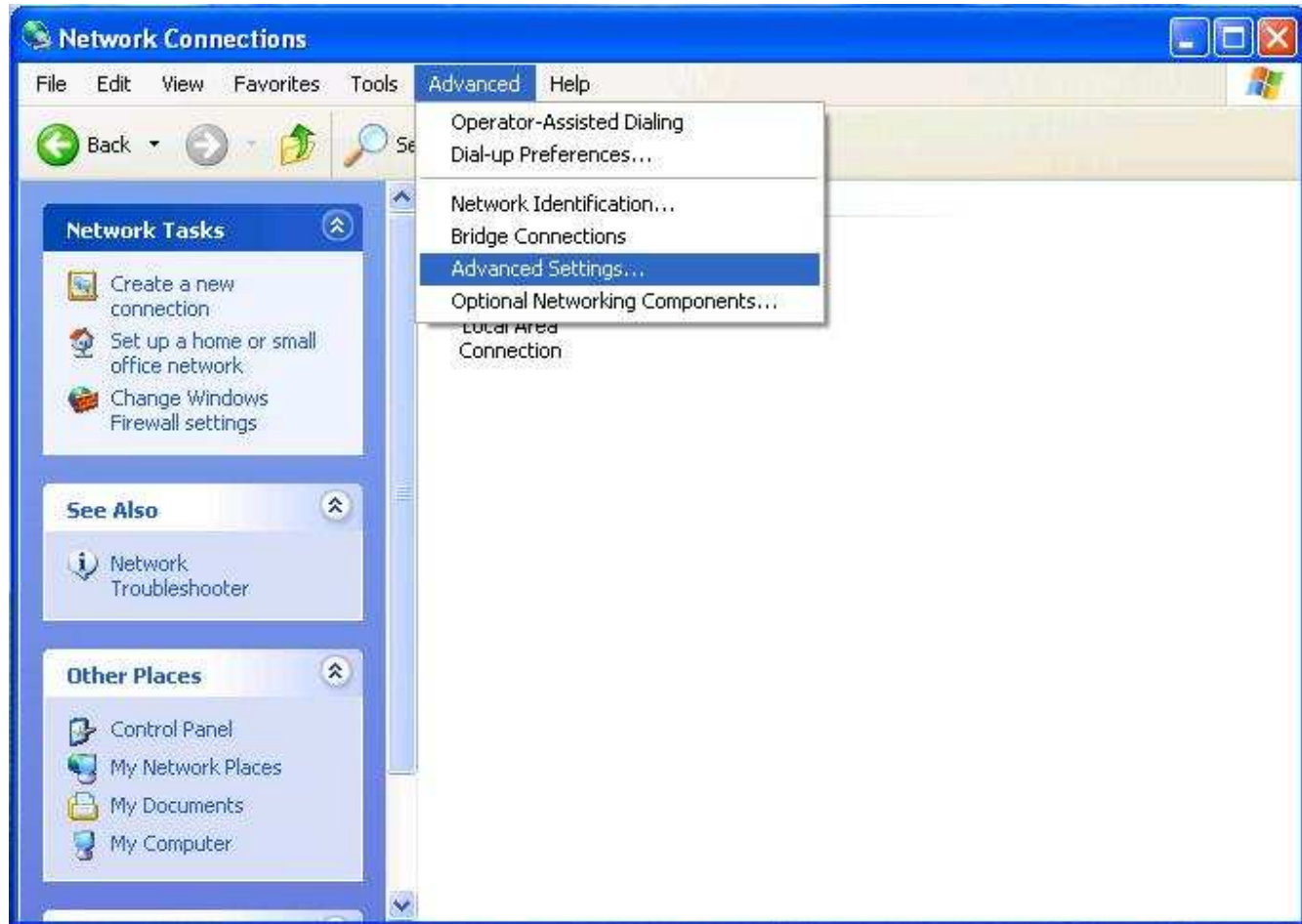
Note: If you have more than one item listed and are unsure which to select, select them all.

Click **OK**, then click **OK**.

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Please install SP-2 before continuing.

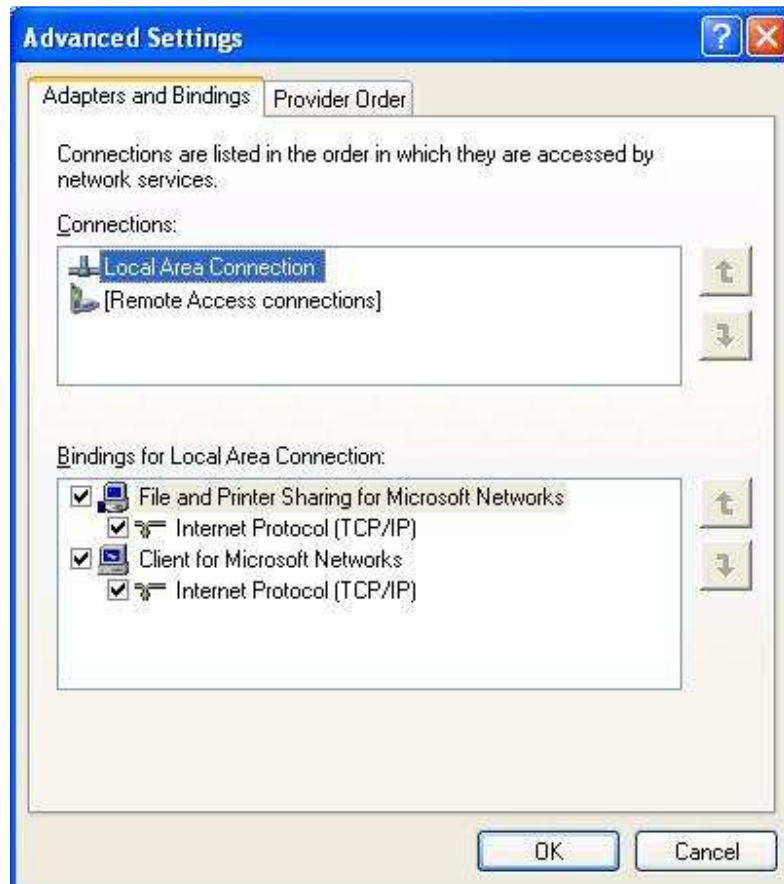


Back in the Network Connections window, click **Advanced** and click **Advanced Settings...**

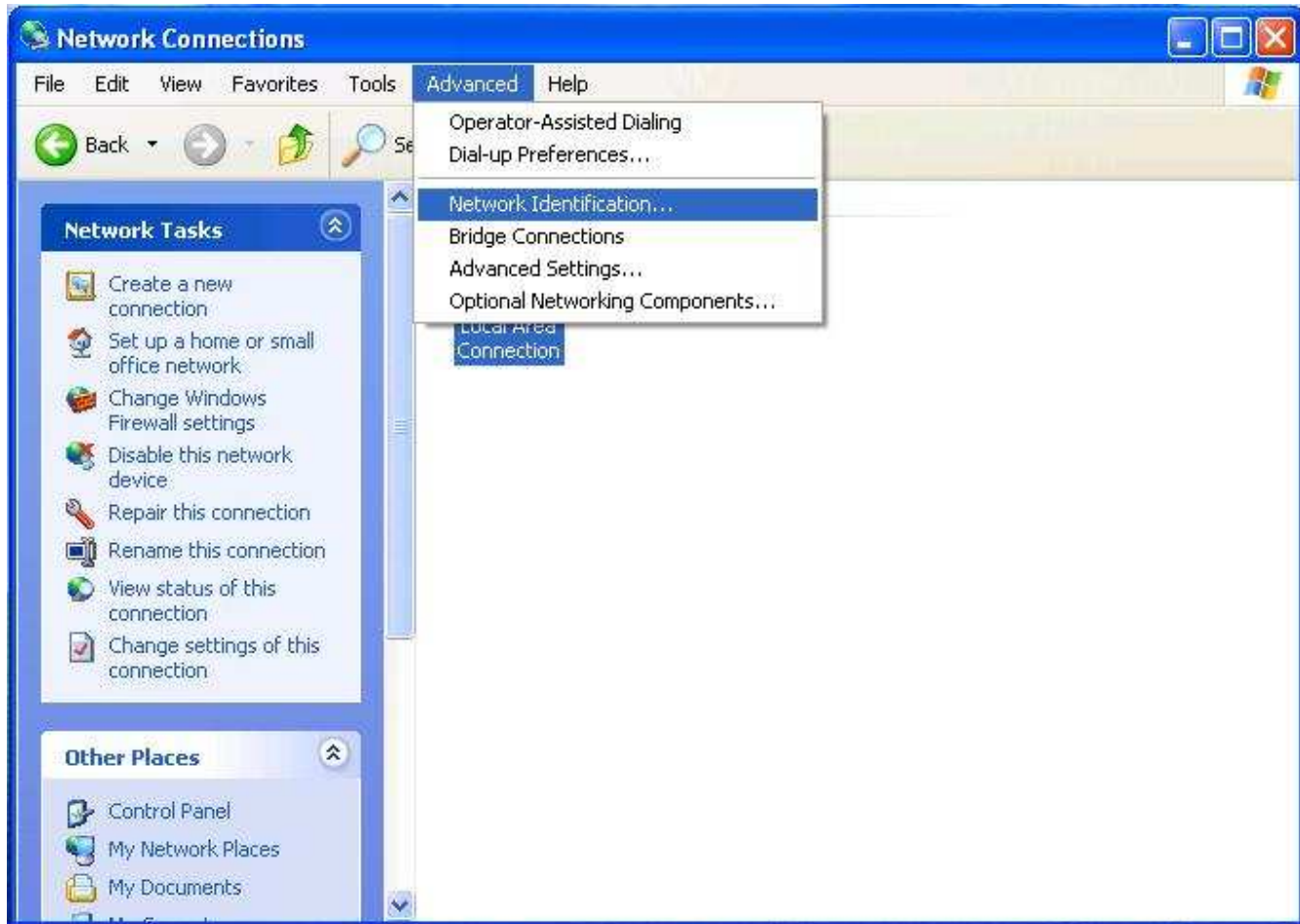


Ensure bindings are enabled for your network connection, as shown in the example below.

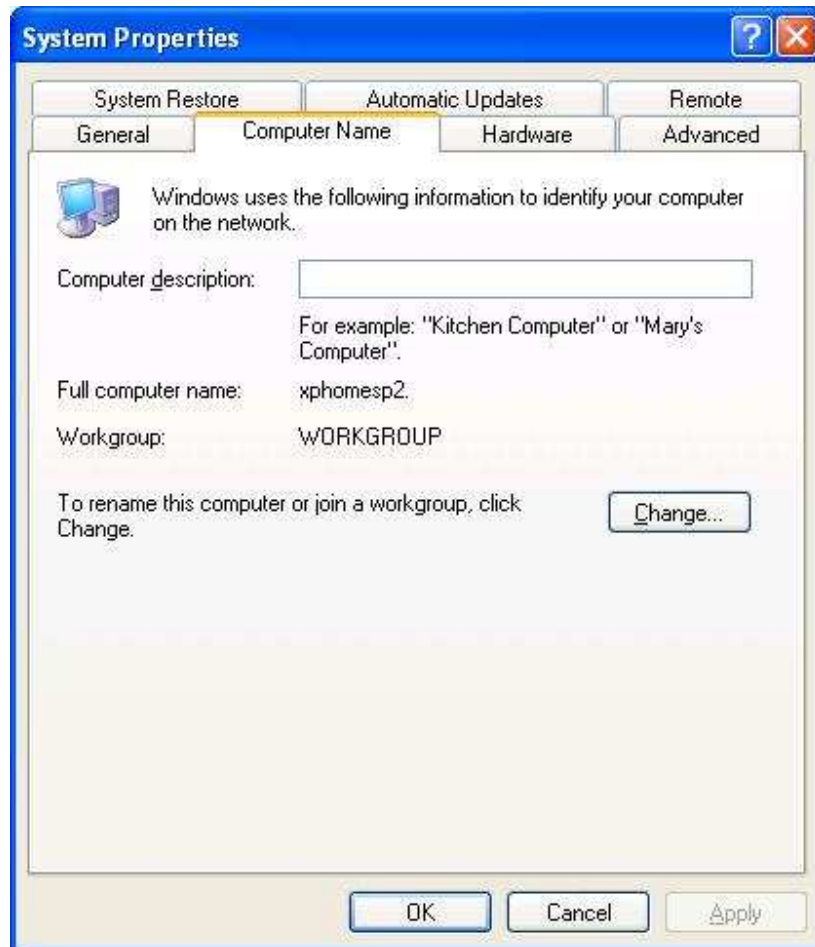
Then click **OK**.



Back in the Network Connections window, click **Advanced** and click **Network Identification...**



Next, click the **Change...** button.



Ensure your Computer name is 12 characters or less, with no spaces, using only letters and/or numbers.

Verify that your workgroup name matches the same workgroup name on your other PCs.



If you made any changes to the computer name or workgroup name, click **OK**. otherwise click **Cancel**.

Then click **OK**.

Click **Start**, click **Run**, type: **net user guest /active:yes** (and hit enter)



Then, click **Start**, click **Run**, type: **control userpasswords2** (and hit enter)



Click once on the **Guest** account and click the **Reset Password...** button, as shown in the example below.



Leave the password dialog boxes blank , and click **OK**.



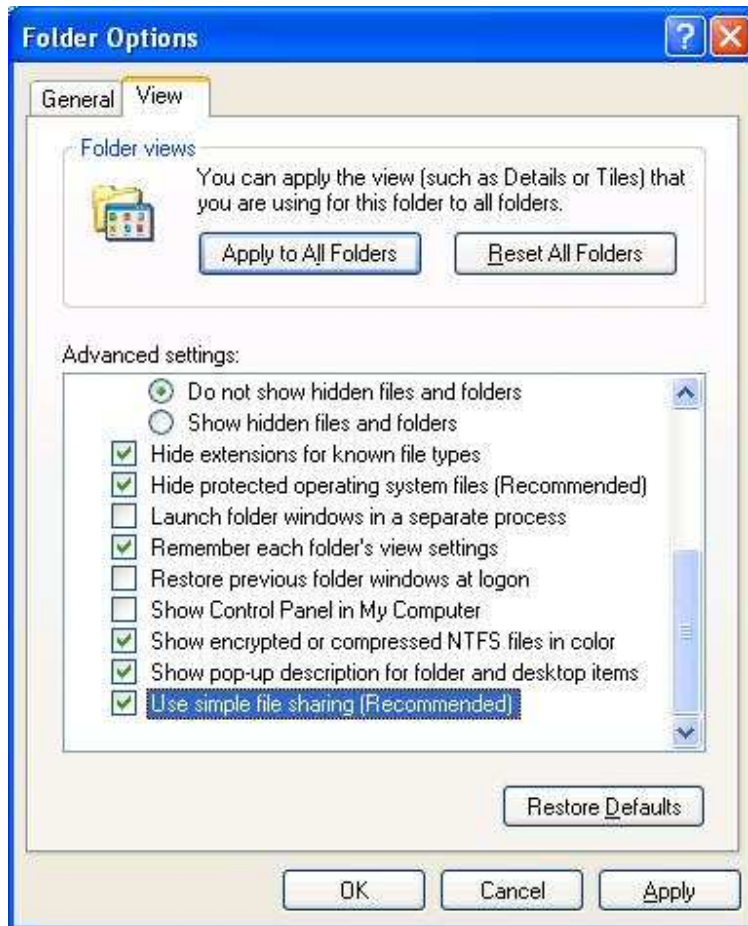
Then click **OK**.

Download and install this [registry patch](#) on all XP PCs.

Finally, if you are running XP Pro, click **Tools** and click **Folder Options...**



Click the **View** tab and ensure **Use simple file sharing (Recommended)** is selected.



Congratulations! You're all done! Re-boot the PC for changes to take effect.