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Firewall setup for VPN connections

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Yesterday, 08:06 PM #1
seaken64
 Junior Member Join Date: Aug 2007
Posts: 13

Firewall setup for VPN connections

After much reading and trial and error I was finally successful in mapping a shared folder through the VPN connection. Thank you for this forum. (I had a hard time getting signed up but once I got in I found the just the help I needed).

I've never had any trouble getting the ProSafe VPN client to work with my FWG114p. That part of this exercise was relatively easy. But once I got the VPN connection working All I could do was PING the remote computers and use Remote Desktop.

What I was really interested in was mapping a shared drive on a computer in my office from my laptop at home or at some other location. But I could not get the drive mapping to work. Kept getting error 53.

I checked all the NetBIOS settings and read up on WINS and LMHOSTS. The remote computer is a running XP Pro SP2 and my laptop runs XP Home SP2. Before I tried messing with the LMHOSTS files I decided to try turning off the firewall.

Well, that did the trick. I was able to map the shares when the remote computer's firewall was off. But I didn't want to leave the firewall off. Turns out that I had to change the settings for File and Print Sharing to allow "Any" computers to come in on the TCP port 139. After making that change I am able to use drive mapping over the VPN connection.

I tried setting a "custom" IP range with no success. So far the only way I can use drive mapping over the VPN is to leave port TCP 139 open to "Any" computers.

My questions are these: how risky is it to leave this port open to "Any" computer? And secondly, how can I use the "Custom" settings to restrict the IP range used by the VPN connection?

I appreciate any help you can offer. I've learned a lot from this Netgear forum about VPN and networking. But I'm not a network administrator and don't want to do something stupid due to faulty knowledge.

Thanks,
Seaken

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Today, 03:10 AM #2

GuyAdams
 Moderator Join Date: Mar 2007
Location: Nottinghamshire, UK
Posts: 750

Re: Firewall setup for VPN connections

You do not need to turn the firewall off just make a small change.

The problem you are having is that the firewall rule for 'File and Printer Sharing' is limited to the local subnet.

You can adjust this by going to your Windows Firewall properties, Exceptions Tab, double click the 'File and Printer Sharing', double click 'TCP 445' and then change it to 'All (including those on the internet)'

If you want to be a little more secure you can add the IP addresses of your subnets into the custom list box, for example if you VPN

endpoints where on the 192.168.100.0/24 and 192.168.200.0/24 subnets you would add the rule like this:

```
192.168.100.0/255.255.255.0,192.168.200.0/255.255.255.0
```

This would only allow file and printer sharing access to those subnets.

Thanks

GuyAdams

Check out my blog [here](#) (external link)



Today, 10:04 AM

#3

[seaken64](#)

Junior Member

Join Date: Aug 2007
Posts: 13

Re: Firewall setup for VPN connections

Thank you Guy.

A couple more questions,

I did figure out that I could keep the firewall on. I changed the setting for File and Print Sharing port TCP 139 to "Any" computer. You suggested using TCP 445. What is the difference? Changing the TCP 139 port did allow me to map the shared drive. Should I put port 139 back to "Subnet" only and change 445 to "Any" instead?

I could not figure out how to use the custom IP range. I don't know what IP subnet the VPN client is using.

My office LAN is using IP addresses in the 192.168.0.1/255.255.255.0 range.

My home LAN uses 172.168.0.150 and up.

When I look at my router status at the office it shows my laptop (on the VPN connection from home) with an IP address of 192.168.0.11. But I cannot ping that address from the office LAN.

Should my Custom range be entered as?:
192.168.0.1/255.255.255.0

I'm confused on this issue.

Would you just leave the port open to "Any" or would you suggest I try to set the custom IP range?

Thank you,
Seaken



Today, 10:15 AM

#4

[seaken64](#)

Junior Member

Join Date: Aug 2007
Posts: 13

Re: Firewall setup for VPN connections

Guy, I just read a message you posted in the Firewall forum. If I am reading you correctly I would set my Custom range as:

```
192.168.0.1/255.255.255.0,172.168.0.150/255.255.255.0
```

Does that look right?

I'll give it a try.

Thanks,
Seaken



Today, 10:25 AM

#5

[seaken64](#)

Join Date: Aug 2007
Posts: 13

Junior Member

Re: Firewall setup for VPN connections

Quote:

Originally Posted by **seaken64**
 Guy, I just read a message you posted in the Firewall forum. If I am reading you correctly I would set my Custom range as:
 192.168.0.1/255.255.255.0,172.168.0.150/255.255.255.0
 Does that look right?
 I'll give it a try.
 Thanks,
 Seaken

That worked! I reset port 139 to "subnet" and set 445 to "custom" with the above range.

Now, if I set up another VPN connection from another subnet all I have to do is add a comma followed by the new subnet address. Correct?



Today, 11:09 AM

#6



GuyAdams
 Moderator

Join Date: Mar 2007
 Location: Nottinghamshire, UK
 Posts: 750

Re: Firewall setup for VPN connections

Yes you will have to add the addition subnet to the custom list. For ease of use you do a number of things, you could leave it set to 'Any' which isnt too much of a risk as your routers firewall will block unsolicited requests on port 445.

You could also just setup a common list, like this:

192.168.0.0/255.255.0.0,10.0.0.0/255.0.0.0,172.0.0.0/255.240.0.0

This will allow all private IP address traffic but not public addresses.

The port 445 is Microsoft-DS, its part of the network file sharing component and the only port needed for remote drive mapping.

Thanks

GuyAdams

Check out my blog [here](#) (external link)



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