

Creating an ad-hoc network in Windows 7 Starter, for use with TypeWell software (wireless linking, computer-to-computer network)

Introduction:

Windows 7 Starter has the ability to create and connect to pre-existing ad-hoc networks. Use these linking instructions in conjunction with the linking instructions found on the TypeWell website for use with other Windows operating systems

(<http://www.typewell.com/linking.html>). When you set up a new ad-hoc network, you should do so on both computers simultaneously to ensure the reliability of the link.

However, it is also possible to connect to networks already established by other operating systems. Set up a new ad-hoc network the first time you want to link your Windows 7 Starter computer to another computer. After this, your Starter computer should be able to recognize other ad-hoc networks established by other Windows operating systems.

Wireless Network Set-up for Windows 7 Starter:

1. Go to Start Menu
2. Click on Search - enter the word "ad-hoc"
3. Click "Set up an ad-hoc (computer-to-computer) network"
4. This brings up the window: Set up a Wireless ad-hoc network; Click Next
5. Create a name for the ad-hoc network (ex. TypeWellA). This must be the same on both computers.
6. Set security type to "No authentication (Open)"
7. Leave Security Key blank
8. Click box "Save this network"
9. Click Next. The prompt will say "Setting up the TypeWellA network"
10. The next screen should say "The TypeWellA network is ready to use"

Wireless Network Set-up for Windows 7 Home Premium:

1. From the Start Menu, select Control Panel
2. Click on Network and Internet
3. Select Network and Sharing Center
4. Click option: Set up a new connection or network
5. In Home Premium, this brings up the Startup Wizard to create an ad-hoc network
6. Create a name for the ad-hoc network (ex. TypeWellA). This must be the same on both computers.
7. Set encryption to "No authentication (Open)"
8. Leave Security Key blank
9. Click box "Save this network"
10. Click Next. The prompt will say "Setting up the TypeWellA network"
11. The next screen should say "The TypeWellA network is ready to use"

To set up file Sharing for Windows 7 Starter and Windows 7 Home Premium:

You will be directed to open Network and Sharing Center in Control Panel to turn on file sharing. On the left column, click "Change advanced sharing settings." When this window opens, under "file and printer sharing," click "turn on file and printer sharing."

Also click to “Turn on sharing so anyone with network access can read and write files in the Public folders.”

To Set Adapter Properties (IP address) for both Windows 7 Starter and Windows 7 Home Premium:

1. Select Control Panel from the Start Menu
2. Click on Network and Internet
3. Select Network and Sharing Center
4. On the left of screen, click Manage Wireless Networks
5. At the top of the screen, select Adapter Properties; this will open up a box
6. Highlight Internet Protocol Version 4 (TCP/IPv4)
7. Click Properties
8. Choose “use the following IP address,” enter 192.168.247.1 into one computer, and 192.168.247.2 into the second computer (See TypeWell Linking Instructions for information on how to link more than two computers at a time).
9. Hit Tab to fill in the subnet mask, and then click OK to save changes.
10. Close the box and click on the Back arrow at the top left of the screen to return to the Network and Sharing Center.
11. Click on “Connect to a Network” in blue. This brings up a list of available networks. Select TypeWellA and click to connect. If the set-up process has already connected you to the TypeWellA network, click to disconnect, then reconnect. This will re-set the IP address to your designated value.

Open TypeWell, and follow the steps to allow wireless linking (computer-to-computer). You will probably get a message asking if TypeWell is permitted to use the newly created network. Click OK. At this time, your computers should be flashing “Linked” at the top of the TypeWell screen.

Switching to an Internet Connection:

If you wish to switch from your ad-hoc network to an access point for Internet, you will need to reset the IP address under Adapter Properties (unless you are also using an external wireless card; see linking instructions on TypeWell website). Follow steps 1 - 7 above. Instead of selecting “Use the following IP address,” select “Obtain IP address automatically.” Click OK to save changes, and close the box. In the Network and Sharing Center, click “Connect to a Network” in blue. As in step 11 above, this will bring up a list of available networks. Click on the desired network to connect. To switch between your ad-hoc connection and an Internet connection, the only thing you need to do is change this IP address, and connect to the target network.

Conclusion:

If you are familiar with linking with XP or Vista, the only difference in using Windows 7 Starter is the step to Search for ad hoc in the Start menu. Some of the screens are presented a bit differently, but have very similar content. The important steps are the same, with creating the ad hoc network, setting the encryption, and the IP address. Turning off Windows Firewall might be helpful in initially establishing your ad-hoc

network; turn the firewall back on when you have established your ad-hoc. Please refer to the linking instructions on the TypeWell website.

Written by:

Carrie Scoone

Vital Signs, LLC

Email: Remote@VitalSignsLLC.net

Resource: <http://www.typewell.com/linking.html>

3/25/2010