

Knowledge Base

Computer Name and Host Name Must Be the Same in Windows 2000

PSS ID Number: 227410

Article Last Modified on 12/17/2003

The information in this article applies to:

- Microsoft Windows 2000 Server
 - Microsoft Windows 2000 Advanced Server
 - Microsoft Windows 2000 Professional
 - Microsoft Windows 2000 Datacenter Server
-

This article was previously published under Q227410

SYMPTOMS

In Windows 2000, you cannot specify different host (Domain Name System, or DNS) and computer (NetBIOS) names.

STATUS

This behavior is by design.

MORE INFORMATION

In some earlier versions of Windows, you can specify two or more distinct names that point to the same computer by having host names that do not match the NetBIOS name. You cannot do this in Windows 2000.

To view the current computer names:

1. Click **Start**, point to **Settings**, and then click **Control Panel**.
2. Double-click **System**.
3. Click the **Network Identification** tab.
4. Click **Properties**.

You can change the computer name at this point. If you change the host name, the NetBIOS name is also changed. The NetBIOS name is visible, but cannot be changed to a value that does not match the host name.

Windows 2000 host names are the actual point of reference instead of the computer name. The computer name is provided to allow for backwards compatibility.

Keywords: kbenv kbprb KB227410

Technology: kbwin2000AdvServ kbwin2000AdvServSearch kbwin2000DataServ kbwin2000DataServSearch kbwin2000Pro kbwin2000ProSearch kbwin2000Search kbwin2000Serv kbwin2000ServSearch kbWinAdvServSearch kbWinDataServSearch

[Send feedback to Microsoft](#)

[© 2004 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.](#)