USING
WINDOWS'
"NETWORK BRIDGE"

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SUMMARY

Windows' "Network Bridge" is a virtual network device that is located inside any computer that are running "Windows XP" and higher. It allows you to attach a new/additional computer to your local area network by attaching it to an existing Internet-connected computer.
Windows' "Network Bridge"

• Steps for installing and using a virtual "Network Bridge" in "Windows XP" and higher

• Step 1: Open the "Control Panel":
Windows' "Network Bridge"

• Steps for installing and using a virtual "Network Bridge" in "Windows XP" and higher (continued)

• Step 2: Open the "Network Connections" window/applet:
Local Area Connection
Network
Intel(R) PRO/1000 MT Network Conn...

Local Area Connection 2
Identifying...
Intel(R) PRO/1000 MT Network Conn...
Windows' "Network Bridge"

• Steps for installing and using a virtual "Network Bridge" in "Windows XP" and higher (continued)

• Step 3: Hold down a "Ctrl" key.

• Step 4: While holding down a "Ctrl" key, click on each and every network adapter that you want to connect together into a virtual "network bridge":

Windows' "Network Bridge"

• Steps for installing and using a virtual "Network Bridge" in "Windows XP" and higher (continued)
  
• Step 5: Release the "Ctrl" key.
• Step 6: Use the RIGHT mouse button to click on any of the network adapters that you click on in "Step 4".
• Step 7: A pop-up context menu will be displayed:
Windows' "Network Bridge"

• Steps for installing and using a virtual "Network Bridge" in "Windows XP" and higher (continued)

• Step 8: Click on "Bridge" in the pop-up context menu.

• Step 9: The pop-up context menu will disappear.

• Step 10: A new, virtual "Network Bridge" will be displayed inside the "Network Connections" window:
Windows' "Network Bridge"

• Steps for installing and using a virtual "Network Bridge" in "Windows XP" and higher (continued)

• Step 11: Use the RIGHT mouse button to click on the virtual "Network Bridge".

• Step 12: A pop-up context menu will be displayed:
Windows' "Network Bridge"

• Steps for installing and using a virtual "Network Bridge" in "Windows XP" and higher (continued)
  • Step 13: Click on "Properties" in the pop-up context menu.
  • Step 14: A "Properties" box for the "Network Bridge" will be displayed:
Windows' "Network Bridge"

• Steps for installing and using a virtual "Network Bridge" in "Windows XP" and higher (continued)

• Note that the network adapters that you selected in "Step 4" are now shown as belonging to the "Network Bridge".
Hardware view of a single, Internet-connected "Windows XP/Vista/7" computer

Upstream to the real Internet

"Windows 7" Computer
A new "Windows" computer shows up.

"Windows 7" Computer

"Windows XP" Computer

Upstream to the real Internet
You wish to connect the new computer to the original computer in order to give the new computer access to the Internet and to share files/printers.
Hardware View:
This is what your hardware looks like:

Upstream to the real Internet

wired or ad hoc wireless connection between the computers

"Windows 7" Computer

"Windows XP" Computer
Physical View of the (virtual) Windows' "Network Bridge"

Real "Local Area Network" (LAN)

Upstream to the real Internet

Two real network adapters in the "Windows 7" real computer but three virtual network adapters inside the virtual Windows "Network Bridge" (Virtual network devices can have more virtual network adapters than in your physical network.)

"Windows 7" Computer

Virtual Windows "Network Bridge"

"Windows XP" Computer
Logical View of the "virtual" Windows "Network Bridge"-- it acts like it exists independently of either computer

Real "Local Area Network" ("LAN")

Virtual Windows "Network Bridge"

"Windows 7" Computer accesses the Internet and the other computer through the virtual "Network Bridge"

"Windows XP" Computer accesses the Internet and the other computer through the virtual "Network Bridge"
For "Windows XP", see
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