

Wireless networking on vista doesn't get a valid DHCP IP

When trying to connect to the UCLAWLAN, the IP obtained would be 169.254.x.x. This is sign that the machine cannot reach the DHCP server.

From Microsoft's knowledgebase article on this.

Consider the following scenario:

â€¢ You connect a Windows Vista-based computer to a network.

â€¢ A router or other device that is configured as a Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP) server is configured on the network.

â€¢ The router or the other device does not support the DHCP BROADCAST flag.

In this scenario, Windows Vista cannot obtain an IP address.

Cause:

This issue occurs because of a difference in design between Windows Vista and Microsoft Windows XP Service Pack 2 (SP2). Specifically, in Windows XP SP2, the BROADCAST flag in DHCP discovery packets is set to 0 (disabled). In Windows Vista, the BROADCAST flag in DHCP discovery packets is not disabled. Therefore, some routers and some non-Microsoft DHCP servers cannot process the DHCP discovery packets.

See Microsoft's knowledgebase article for the solution:

<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/928233/EN-US/>

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