

Knowledge Base

## A Description of the Automatic Discovery Feature

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The information in this article applies to:

- Microsoft Internet Security and Acceleration Server 2000
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### SUMMARY

This article describes the Automatic Discovery feature of Internet Security and Acceleration (ISA) Server.

### MORE INFORMATION

The Automatic Discovery feature of ISA Server for Web Proxy and Firewall client computers is not supported for clients that connect to the local area network (LAN) with any type of dial-up connection, such as, remote access by using a modem, a virtual private networking (VPN), or a Point-to-Point Protocol (PPP) connection.

The technology for the Automatic Discovery feature depends upon:

- The client being able to directly access or query the Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP) server for option 252.
- The client having the proper domain suffix configured in its Internet Protocol (IP) properties to enable name resolution.

Remote access and VPN clients cannot access the DHCP server to directly obtain option 252. If the network is configured to enable the Automatic Discovery feature by using DHCP alone, the use of this feature is not possible for remote access (PPP) clients.

To enable Automatic Discovery, create a host record for either the name "WPAD" that points to the IP address of ISA Server (or array) or for a CNAME resource record for the common name of the array (for example, Isa-Array). This record is in the internal Domain Name System (DNS) zone that all the LAN clients belong to (or are configured with). On the LAN this domain name (domain suffix) can be configured on all clients by using a DHCP option.

For remote users, the remote computer may not be configured with the same domain suffix to ensure that the queries for the WPAD record have the proper domain suffix.

If a DHCP server does not respond with option 252, the client attempts to access this Uniform Resource Locator (URL) while attempting to automatically discover the <http://wpad.domainsuffix.net:80/wpad.dat> Web proxy or the <http://wpad.domainsuffix.net:80/wspad.dat> Firewall service.

The client attempts to reach this URL to obtain either the Wpad.dat or the Wspad.dat file that helps the Web browser or the Firewall client to connect to the proper ISA Server.

To locate this URL, the remote client queries its configured DNS servers for Wpad.domainsuffix.net, where Domainsuffix.net is the DNS domain (zone, domain suffix) that the remote client is configured with. If this domain suffix matches the domain suffix used on the LAN, and the DNS server on the LAN contains the WPAD host record, Automatic Discovery can work, otherwise it is unsuccessful.

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