

ARK SERVER MANAGER LAN ONLY PROBLEM

ARK SERVER MANAGER LAN ONLY PROBLEM IS A COMMON ISSUE FACED BY MANY PLAYERS TRYING TO HOST OR JOIN ARK: SURVIVAL EVOLVED SERVERS OVER A LOCAL AREA NETWORK (LAN). THIS PROBLEM CAN STEM FROM VARIOUS CONFIGURATIONS AND SETTINGS THAT NEED TO BE ADJUSTED TO ENSURE SMOOTH CONNECTIVITY. IN THIS ARTICLE, WE WILL EXPLORE THE CAUSES OF THE LAN-ONLY PROBLEM, HOW TO TROUBLESHOOT IT, AND SOME BEST PRACTICES FOR USING ARK SERVER MANAGER EFFECTIVELY.

UNDERSTANDING THE ARK SERVER MANAGER

ARK SERVER MANAGER (ASM) IS A USER-FRIENDLY TOOL DESIGNED TO SIMPLIFY THE PROCESS OF SETTING UP DEDICATED ARK SERVERS. IT ALLOWS PLAYERS TO CONFIGURE SERVER SETTINGS, MANAGE MODS, AND MONITOR SERVER PERFORMANCE WITHOUT NEEDING EXTENSIVE TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE. HOWEVER, WHEN PLAYERS ENCOUNTER THE LAN-ONLY PROBLEM, IT CAN LEAD TO FRUSTRATION AND HINDER THEIR GAMING EXPERIENCE.

WHAT IS THE LAN-ONLY PROBLEM?

THE LAN-ONLY PROBLEM OCCURS WHEN PLAYERS ATTEMPT TO CONNECT TO A DEDICATED ARK SERVER RUNNING ON THE SAME LOCAL NETWORK BUT ARE UNABLE TO DO SO. INSTEAD OF BEING ABLE TO JOIN THE SERVER VIA THE SERVER LIST OR DIRECT IP CONNECTION, PLAYERS MAY FIND THAT THE SERVER IS EITHER NOT VISIBLE OR INACCESSIBLE. THIS ISSUE IS PARTICULARLY PREVALENT IN LOCAL SETUPS WHERE PLAYERS EXPECT SEAMLESS CONNECTIVITY.

COMMON CAUSES OF THE LAN-ONLY PROBLEM

THERE ARE SEVERAL REASONS WHY THE LAN-ONLY PROBLEM MAY OCCUR WHEN TRYING TO CONNECT TO AN ARK SERVER. UNDERSTANDING THESE CAUSES CAN HELP PLAYERS TROUBLESHOOT THE ISSUE EFFECTIVELY:

1. **FIREWALL SETTINGS:** LOCAL FIREWALLS ON THE HOST MACHINE MAY BLOCK INCOMING CONNECTIONS TO THE SERVER, PREVENTING OTHER PLAYERS FROM JOINING.
2. **NETWORK CONFIGURATION:** INCORRECT NETWORK SETTINGS, SUCH AS PRIVATE VS. PUBLIC NETWORK CONFIGURATIONS, CAN ALSO LEAD TO CONNECTIVITY ISSUES.
3. **SERVER CONFIGURATION:** MISCONFIGURED SERVER SETTINGS IN ASM CAN RESTRICT VISIBILITY OR ACCESSIBILITY TO THE SERVER.
4. **IP ADDRESS ISSUES:** USING THE WRONG IP ADDRESS OR PORT NUMBER CAN PREVENT PLAYERS FROM CONNECTING TO THE SERVER CORRECTLY.
5. **GAME VERSION MISMATCH:** IF PLAYERS ARE USING DIFFERENT VERSIONS OF ARK: SURVIVAL EVOLVED, THEY MAY NOT BE ABLE TO CONNECT TO THE SERVER.

TROUBLESHOOTING THE LAN-ONLY PROBLEM

IF YOU ARE EXPERIENCING THE LAN-ONLY PROBLEM, FOLLOW THESE TROUBLESHOOTING STEPS TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE:

1. CHECK FIREWALL SETTINGS

FIREWALL SETTINGS ARE OFTEN THE FIRST BARRIER TO CONNECTIVITY. TO CHECK AND CONFIGURE YOUR FIREWALL:

- OPEN THE CONTROL PANEL AND NAVIGATE TO "SYSTEM AND SECURITY."
- SELECT "WINDOWS DEFENDER FIREWALL" AND CLICK ON "ALLOW AN APP OR FEATURE THROUGH WINDOWS DEFENDER FIREWALL."
- ENSURE THAT BOTH ARK: SURVIVAL EVOLVED AND THE ARK SERVER MANAGER ARE ALLOWED THROUGH THE FIREWALL FOR BOTH PRIVATE AND PUBLIC NETWORKS.
- IF YOU HAVE THIRD-PARTY ANTIVIRUS SOFTWARE, ENSURE THAT IT IS NOT BLOCKING THE CONNECTIONS AS WELL.

2. VERIFY NETWORK CONFIGURATION

ENSURE THAT YOUR NETWORK SETTINGS ARE CONFIGURED CORRECTLY:

- GO TO "NETWORK AND INTERNET" SETTINGS IN WINDOWS.
- CONFIRM THAT YOUR NETWORK IS SET TO "PRIVATE" RATHER THAN "PUBLIC." A PRIVATE NETWORK ALLOWS DEVICES TO COMMUNICATE MORE FREELY.

3. REVIEW SERVER CONFIGURATION IN ASM

MISCONFIGURATIONS IN ARK SERVER MANAGER CAN LEAD TO CONNECTIVITY ISSUES:

- OPEN ARK SERVER MANAGER AND NAVIGATE TO THE SERVER CONFIGURATION SETTINGS.
- CHECK THE "SERVER IP" AND "PORT" FIELDS. MAKE SURE THE IP ADDRESS CORRESPONDS TO THE HOST MACHINE'S LOCAL IP ADDRESS AND THAT YOU ARE USING THE CORRECT PORT (DEFAULT IS USUALLY 7777).
- ENSURE THAT "ENABLE LAN" IS CHECKED IF YOU INTEND TO HOST A LAN-ONLY SERVER.

4. USE THE CORRECT IP ADDRESS

CONNECTING WITH THE WRONG IP ADDRESS IS A COMMON MISTAKE:

- TO FIND THE HOST MACHINE'S LOCAL IP ADDRESS, OPEN THE COMMAND PROMPT (CMD) AND TYPE 'IPCONFIG'.
- LOOK FOR THE "IPv4 ADDRESS" UNDER THE ACTIVE NETWORK CONNECTION, AND USE THIS ADDRESS WHEN ATTEMPTING TO CONNECT FROM CLIENT MACHINES.

5. ENSURE VERSION COMPATIBILITY

MAKE SURE THAT ALL PLAYERS ARE USING THE SAME VERSION OF ARK: SURVIVAL EVOLVED:

- CHECK FOR ANY UPDATES AVAILABLE FOR THE GAME AND ENSURE THAT ALL PLAYERS ARE RUNNING THE SAME VERSION.
- CONSIDER DISABLING MODS TEMPORARILY TO SEE IF THEY ARE CAUSING ANY VERSION MISMATCHES.

BEST PRACTICES FOR USING ARK SERVER MANAGER

TO MINIMIZE ISSUES AND ENHANCE YOUR EXPERIENCE WHEN USING ARK SERVER MANAGER, CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING BEST PRACTICES:

1. KEEP SOFTWARE UPDATED

REGULARLY UPDATE BOTH ARK: SURVIVAL EVOLVED AND ARK SERVER MANAGER TO THE LATEST VERSIONS. THESE UPDATES OFTEN INCLUDE BUG FIXES AND IMPROVEMENTS THAT CAN ENHANCE STABILITY AND PERFORMANCE.

2. BACKUP CONFIGURATIONS

MAKE IT A HABIT TO BACK UP YOUR SERVER CONFIGURATIONS AND SAVED WORLDS. IN CASE OF ISSUES, YOU CAN RESTORE YOUR SETTINGS WITHOUT LOSING PROGRESS.

3. TEST CONNECTIVITY REGULARLY

BEFORE INVITING FRIENDS TO JOIN YOUR SERVER, CONDUCT TESTS TO ENSURE THAT CONNECTIVITY IS FUNCTIONING CORRECTLY. THIS CAN INVOLVE JOINING THE SERVER YOURSELF FROM ANOTHER DEVICE ON THE LAN.

4. DOCUMENT SETTINGS CHANGES

KEEP A RECORD OF ANY CHANGES MADE TO SERVER SETTINGS, AS THIS CAN HELP YOU TROUBLESHOOT PROBLEMS IN THE FUTURE. IF SOMETHING GOES WRONG, YOU CAN REVERT BACK TO A PREVIOUS CONFIGURATION.

5. ENGAGE WITH THE COMMUNITY

IF YOU ENCOUNTER PERSISTENT ISSUES, CONSIDER REACHING OUT TO THE ARK COMMUNITY FORUMS OR DEDICATED DISCORD SERVERS. MANY EXPERIENCED PLAYERS CAN PROVIDE INSIGHTS OR SOLUTIONS BASED ON THEIR EXPERIENCES.

CONCLUSION

THE **ARK SERVER MANAGER LAN ONLY PROBLEM** CAN BE FRUSTRATING, BUT WITH A SYSTEMATIC APPROACH TO TROUBLESHOOTING, IT IS OFTEN SOLVABLE. BY UNDERSTANDING THE COMMON CAUSES, FOLLOWING THE TROUBLESHOOTING STEPS, AND IMPLEMENTING BEST PRACTICES, PLAYERS CAN CREATE A STABLE AND ENJOYABLE LAN GAMING EXPERIENCE. ENGAGING WITH THE COMMUNITY AND STAYING INFORMED ABOUT UPDATES CAN FURTHER ENHANCE YOUR SERVER MANAGEMENT SKILLS, ALLOWING YOU TO FOCUS ON WHAT MATTERS MOST: PLAYING AND ENJOYING ARK: SURVIVAL EVOLVED WITH FRIENDS.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS THE 'LAN ONLY' ISSUE IN ARK SERVER MANAGER?

THE 'LAN ONLY' ISSUE OCCURS WHEN PLAYERS CANNOT CONNECT TO A DEDICATED ARK SERVER THAT'S SET UP FOR LOCAL PLAY, OFTEN DUE TO INCORRECT SETTINGS OR NETWORK CONFIGURATIONS.

HOW CAN I ENSURE MY ARK SERVER MANAGER IS PROPERLY CONFIGURED FOR LAN PLAY?

TO ENSURE PROPER CONFIGURATION, CHECK THAT THE SERVER IS SET TO 'LAN' MODE, VERIFY THE CORRECT IP ADDRESS IS USED, AND MAKE SURE THAT THE PORTS ARE FORWARDED CORRECTLY ON YOUR ROUTER.

WHAT FIREWALL SETTINGS SHOULD I CHECK FOR LAN CONNECTIONS IN ARK SERVER MANAGER?

MAKE SURE THAT THE ARK SERVER MANAGER AND THE GAME ITSELF ARE ALLOWED THROUGH YOUR FIREWALL. YOU MAY NEED TO CREATE EXCEPTIONS FOR BOTH THE EXECUTABLE FILES IN YOUR FIREWALL SETTINGS.

WHY CAN'T MY FRIENDS JOIN MY ARK SERVER EVEN THOUGH IT'S SET TO LAN?

IF FRIENDS CAN'T JOIN YOUR SERVER, IT MIGHT BE DUE TO NETWORK ISSUES, SUCH AS DIFFERENT IP ADDRESSES, OR THEY MAY NEED TO BE ON THE SAME LOCAL NETWORK. ENSURE THAT YOU ARE BOTH USING THE SAME SUBNET.

IS IT NECESSARY TO USE A STATIC IP FOR LAN PLAY IN ARK SERVER MANAGER?

WHILE NOT STRICTLY NECESSARY, USING A STATIC IP FOR YOUR HOST MACHINE CAN HELP REDUCE CONNECTIVITY ISSUES, AS IT ENSURES THAT THE IP ADDRESS DOES NOT CHANGE, MAKING IT EASIER FOR FRIENDS TO CONNECT.

WHAT STEPS SHOULD I TAKE IF MY ARK SERVER MANAGER DOES NOT SHOW MY LAN SERVER?

IF YOUR SERVER ISN'T SHOWING UP, TRY RESTARTING BOTH THE SERVER AND THE GAME, CHECK THE SERVER SETTINGS FOR ANY MISCONFIGURATIONS, AND ENSURE THAT YOU'RE USING THE CORRECT LOCAL IP ADDRESS TO CONNECT.

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