

APIPA

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APIPA, or Automatic Private IP Addressing, is a mechanism where Microsoft Windows computers self-assign an IP address when they cannot reach a DHCP server. These self-assigned IP addresses fall within the range of 169.254.0.1 to 169.254.255.254, along with a 16-bit subnet mask. The purpose of APIPA is to allow computers on the same local network or subnet to communicate with each other, even without a DHCP server. However, computers with APIPA addresses cannot access the internet or devices on different subnets. Computers periodically check for DHCP server availability and will switch to a DHCP-assigned IP address if a server becomes reachable.

