1017-11-150 **Nigel Boston*** (boston@math.wisc.edu), Department of Mathematics, 303 Van Vleck Hall, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI 53706. *Realizing Groups with Minimal Ramification.* Preliminary report.

If G is a finite group, let ram(G) denote the smallest number of primes (including the infinite prime) ramified in any Galois extension of Q with Galois group G. Then ram(G) is at least max(1,d(G/G')) and we conjecture that there is always equality. This talk describes consequences of this conjecture and work of Nadya Markin establishing special cases of it. (Received February 19, 2006)