

Re: iMac and FreeBSD performance problems

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To: freebsd-net@freebsd.org

Even though on Fri, Oct 31, 2003 at 01:01 Keith Mitchell realized that everything he says should be taken cum grano salis, he unhesitatingly continued with this missive:

> *I'm trying to figure out why my FreeBSD box and my iMac are having trouble communicating at 100 Mbs full-duplex.*

> *To briefly describe my LAN setup, I have a 16port linksys 10/100 ethernet switch connected to two FreeBSD systems, an iMac, a PC and some other miscellaneous stuff. Everything works fine except the interaction between the iMac and the FreeBSD machines.*

> *What I see is extremely slow transfers (FTP/TFTP at least) from the FreeBSD machines to the iMac. The reverse direction (from the iMac to the FreeBSD machines work fine). If this isn't bad enough, if I connect the iMac to a 10BT hub instead of the ethernet switch then everything seems to work fine as well. The iMac can talk to all the other equipment without a problem when its connected to the ethernet switch. Likewise the FreeBSD machines can talk to each other without any problems and to all of the other networking equipment.... they just can't talk to the iMac efficiently.*

I've seen this as a client has 2 G4s and an xrack in our rack space. All machines go through a Cisco 2948, that goes through a bridge on an Etinc BWManager, to a 7120, then to the facility gigabit switch.

Transfers between any of the Apple machines are blazingly fast. >From the FBSD machines in the rack to anywhere else speed is fast. But between the BSD and the Apples speed drops to the 10KB range at times.

>From the outside world the transfers from the BSD machines are limited only by connectivity and I got 6Mb/sec transfers from some SW at AT&T to the local machines recently – as we are on a Level 3

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backbone and it's fast.

I've also heard via a 3rd party that a person we are associated with at Omneon Video Technologies [omneon.com] that they had the problem there. They reportedly got a patch from Apple on this, but this appears to be something which is not distributed.

Last week I was at an SACD listening party given by an engineer friend of mine and they were all engineers, musicians, producers, etc., and all used Macs and ProTools. A well known CD mastering engineer asked me if I knew why is Mac to XP transfers were so slow.

So this a problem – not widespread – and not occurring everywhere. It's just some machines at some times.

Just throwing this out as it appears not be isolated but not a big enough problem that Apple addressed in a general patch/fix – IF what I was told that what Omneon experienced is true.

> *Anyone have any clues on this bizarre problem?*

No.

But I'm going to see if I can trace down what I have heard, that may only be rumors.

Bill

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