

Re: FreeBSD challenged by Internet

Source: <http://unix.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/FreeBSD/questions/2007-01/msg01512.html>

- *From:* "Ted Mittelstaedt" <tedm@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Thu, 18 Jan 2007 00:43:02 -0800
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Hi Bob,

As I am an administrator of an ISP that is a DSL ISP that offers DSL, and also runs FreeBSD on its servers, I am going to address your point.

The problem you are having is present on MANY of these "some box(s) which connects me to the net" Generally, it's older Linksys and Netgear routers that are the worst offenders. The newer devices don't generally have this problem – the manufacturers aren't completely stupid, and do learn from their mistakes – but not always. I'm still seeing stupid crap like this in even the latest boxes.

Now, here's where I'm going to take you somewhat to task. You have to understand some things about marketing these boxes.

When a company like Airlink101 produces a "cable/DSL" ethernet router and sells it for \$30, or a company like 2 Wire, or Westell, or ActionTec, produces a DSL modem/router combo that sells for \$60, it is absolutely impossible for them to make a profit doing this unless they configure their support offering so that the quality of technical support you get is on the level of that which would be provided by your average 6 year old. Also, these companies simply cannot afford to put their best programming and design talent on solving things like slow DNS resolver queries through their proxy, when these problems are reported.

Instead when they get these problems, they spend the R&D money and talent they have building next year's model – which is then sold for another \$30, next year.

Slow DNS queries are just one of the problems on a very long, long, long laundry list of problems with these small cheapo routers.

Re: FreeBSD challenged by Internet

Yet, do the customers that actually have these devices, after going through 2 or 3 of them in that many years, actually stop one day and say "Gee, I'm really stupid to keep urinating my money away on these cheezy little routers when I could spend \$600 on a nice new Cisco 800 series and get expert Cisco support on it, and it would work and I could then just forget about it"

Of course not. So, who do you think ends up picking up the slack? I'll tell you, it's us ISP's that's who.

If you were our DSL customer and you called in with this problem, we would have known immediately what it was, and instructed you in how to correct the configuration. In your case the absolute best way is to ditch your router and turn on pppoe on your BSD box and config your DSL modem out of routing mode and into bridging mode. Or your cable modem, or whatever.

You wouldn't get that as a response if you were running Windows – since Windows attracts security crackers like dog shit attracts flies – but any UNIX – be it Linux, MacOS X or whatever, you would get that response.

Anyway, I think you should have availed yourself of your ISP's tech support department first. And if your ISP's support department stinks – some unfortunately do – then drop service and get a better one. There's plenty more ISP's in the phone book.

Ted

----- Original Message -----

From: "Bob McIsaac" <bobmc@xxxxxxxxxx>

To: <questions@xxxxxxxxxx>

Sent: Monday, January 15, 2007 10:32 PM

Subject: FreeBSD challenged by Internet

Hi:

This is not exactly a question rather it is wrapup for a series of questions. I had a tricky, confusing problem getting FreeBSD on the net but I was able to solve it with help from this list.. Ian Smith in particular.

The DHCP lease from my ISP set the nameserver address as being 192.168.1.254, the IP of some box which connects me to to net. Correct me if wrong,

Re: FreeBSD challenged by Internet

but whois would not reveal a nameserver IP in this form for a net host.

Linux accepted this but FreeBSD-6.1 had 10 second delays in TCP connects for mail and web pages. This does not imply a problem with BSD. It probably implies that Linux is more tolerant of loosely configured web services. But in the world of security it's "casual configuration considered harmful".

I spent many hours reading and testing before hitting on a solution in dhclient.conf. I think this would be discouraging for most FreeBSD newbies. But making setup a no-brainer does not seem possible. It is difficult to provide a quality, standards-compliant OS unless all net-citizens share that focus on quality.

Just my 2cents.

Cheers,
-Bob-

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