

BizTalk 2004: File Receive Location Problem

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/BizTalk/microsoft.public.biztalk.general/2005-12/msg00234.html>

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Greetings all.

I am investigating/trying to resolve an issue with BizTalk and a pile of file receive functions monitoring different folders on a remote linux box via file shares..

I have noticed that the files on our file shares aren't picked up some times and that the receive locations end up shutting down saying it exhausted network retry events.

While scouring google groups, I came across a post by Rasmus Kristensen (subj: Files are taking long time to be picked up by a file receive location on a network fileshare) which talks about the redirector object / current commands counter in PerfMon and that if the value is too high, it will cause problems. He also mentioned setting the "FileReceivePollingInterval" for the biztalk service to 1 to prevent polling of the folder (which reduced the number of current commands.)

I attempted this as well but noticed that files were just sitting in our directories, not getting picked up at all. The BizTalk receive locations were still running however but they didn't seem to do anything. If I stopped and started BizTalk, shortly thereafter the files would disappear and be processed.

So, being the vaguely curious fellow that I am, I started looking into this redirector::Current Commands counter to find out what exactly it is. And what values I should be expecting for this counter so I have a rough idea what to look for. I came across the following:

"Shows the number of requests to the Redirector that are currently queued for service. If this number is much larger than the number of network adapter cards installed in the computer, the network(s) and/or the server (s) being accessed are seriously bottlenecked."

(source:

http://www.microsoft.com/resources/documentation/Windows/2000/server/reskit/en-us/Default.asp?url=/resources/documentation/Windows/2000/server/reskit/en-us/counters/counters2_irof.asp)

And this:

"Current Commands: This counts the number of requests to the Redirector that are currently queued for service. Ideally, this value should not be more than one command per installed NIC. If a value higher than one is present, the redirector may be the bottleneck. This can happen if there is an asymmetry between the speed of server and the redirector which is causing inefficient communication between the local and remote systems. This can also indicate that the network capacity is being pushed to its limits and that it may be necessary to break the network into subnetworks to reduce traffic."

(source: <http://www.windowstlibrary.com/Content/435/09/3.html>)

So, the questions then are:

1) Why is this counter so high? On our current production box, the value is lurking at about 34 (it varies slightly from time to time) and I am pretty sure that we do not have 34 network cards on this machine. Our Biztalk Server has roughly 27 receive locations pointing to various directories on this Linux box where clients FTP files to. Plus a few other receive functions pointing to other boxes (windows 2003) and local directories

- a) Does this counter go up by one for every file receive location defined?
- b) Should I *really* be concerned about this counter, or am I just focusing on the wrong issue because the counter value is abnormally high compared to what seems to be the going theory on how high this should be?
- c) What happens if we put a pile more file receive locations pointing to this Linux server (say 30 more). Rasmus, mentioned in the thread I mentioned at the start of this post that there seemed to be a ceiling of about 50 current commands. Would this start causing BizTalk to shut down receive locations more frequently because network attempts have been exhausted?

2) What can I do to lower this counter? Is there anything which can be done or will it 'just be that high given the number of file receive locations being used'? Should I change the configuration and just use the FTP file receive to ftp files from our FTP server to BizTalk instead? (I would rather not)

3) I have also been noticing a lot of events from the MRxSmb source stating that "The redirector failed to determine the connection type" (event ID: 3019. See: <http://www.eventid.net/display.asp?eventid=3019&eventno=149&source=MRxSmb&phase=1>). Given that this seems to be related to the Redirector (mentioned above) as well, does this have something to do with this problem? I keep reading in other posts that this warning can safely be ignored. This just doesn't sit right with me given that the current command counter seems high according to what I am reading.

Anyone have any thoughts/ideas on the subject?

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Thanks in advance..

Craig..

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- **Follow-Ups:**
 - ◆ **RE: BizTalk 2004: File Receive Location Problem**
 - ◇ From: "WenJun Zhang[msft]"
 - Prev by Date: **Re: Execution/Dehydration Scheduling**
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