

Re: SMTP delivery failure when NIC DNS server points to router

Source:

http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Internet-Server/microsoft.public.iis.smtp_nntp/2005-04/msg00077.htm

- *From:* Andrew Aronoff <NOSPAM_WRONG.ADDRESS@xxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Fri, 15 Apr 2005 15:25:13 +0200
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>>What these articles do not explain is **why** MS SMTP's use of port 53
>>gets blocked by the firewall. DNS resolution is used by every web app
>>and service. How do the others manage to work across the firewall?

>

>How do you know the firewall is blocking port 53 TCP or UDP? Have you
>added a rule to allow it? What do the firewall logs show?

I better understand this problem.

I'm running SMTPSVC under Windows 2000 Professional SP4.

I own a Netgear RT314 router. Per the thread here:

<http://www.dslreports.com/forum/remark.3964885>

I learned that the router's DNS server does not listen to TCP queries.

This explains why SMTPSVC, which by default sends TCP DNS queries, does not work if it sends its query to the NIC which forwards to the router's DNS server. OTOH, if SMTPSVC forwards to the NIC which forwards to an **external** DNS server (which obviously handles TCP DNS queries), SMTPSVC works correctly.

Two solutions suggest themselves:

1. Leave the external DNS servers configured in the NIC. The drawback is that it's never a good idea to "hard-wire" IP addresses for DNS.
2. Configure the SMTPSVC to use UDP for DNS queries. That's explained in MSKB 330070, "Mail May Not Be Delivered When DNS Resolution Uses Only the UDP Protocol".

So, I launched MetaEdit 2.2, went to LM\SmtSvc\1 and added the DWORD "36997" with data = 2. I then restarted IIS/SMTP and opened two command line windows. In the first, I started up NSLOOKUP, set a virtual connection with "set vc", restricted queries to MX records with "set q=mx", and queried "microsoft.com". The query failed with the following error, "*** UnKnown can't find microsoft.com: Unspecified error". While the query was running, in the second command window I ran "netstat -n" and saw that the router's IP address was

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being queried on port 53 via TCP, not UDP.

I tried again after rebooting. Same result. In MetaEdit, I added the DWORD to LM\SmtSvc and restarted IIS/SMTP. Same result. I rebooted. Same result.

So, here's my question:

Do the MetaEdit configuration instructions to restrict SMTPSVC DNS queries to UDP apply to the SMTPSVC supplied with Windows 2000 Professional (SP4)? If so, what am I doing wrong? If not, is there any other way to restrict the SMTPSVC to UDP DNS queries in this O/S?

regards, Andy

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Please send e-mail to: usenet (dot) post (at) aaronoff (dot) com

To identify everything that starts up with Windows, download "Silent Runners.vbs" at www.silentrunners.org

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• **Follow-Ups:**

- ◆ **Restrict SMTPSVC to UDP DNS under W2K Pro**
◇ From: Andrew Aronoff

• **References:**

- ◆ **SMTP delivery failure when NIC DNS server points to router**
◇ From: Andrew Aronoff
- ◆ **Re: SMTP delivery failure when NIC DNS server points to router**
◇ From: Andrew Aronoff
- ◆ **Re: SMTP delivery failure when NIC DNS server points to router**
◇ From: Jeff Cochran

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