

Re: SQL 2005 orphaned connections

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/SQL-Server/microsoft.public.sqlserver.connect/2008-04/msg00053.html>

- *From:* "Andrew Teece" <enate@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Thu, 17 Apr 2008 11:06:23 +0100
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Charles,

The "Keep Alive" property is mentioned in the SQL BOL twice. Once under "SQL Server Configuration Manager Help --> SQL Server 2005 Network Configuration --> TCP/IP Properties (Protocols Tab)" and once under "SQL Server Configuration Manager Help --> SQL Native Client Configuration --> Client Protocols (SQL Server Configuration Manager) --> Client Protocols - TCP/IP Properties (Protocols Tab)".

It would suggest to me that the "keep alive" setting for the Server Network Configuration relates to how often the server pings the client. The definition was only added in SP1 (noted in the Change History). Also, the "Windows TCP Implementation Features" article on MSDN (<http://msdn2.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms819735.aspx>) states that an application could request "keep alive" requests to be sent on a particular connection without having them enabled on all TCP/IP connections. This would certainly be preferable as we do not know what impact enabling "keep alive" requests on all connections of all applications would be (especially the DTC and MSMQ).

Also, the KB article you refer to is for SQL 2000. SQL 2000 had no mention of "Keep Alive" requests built into the application. Why would this become something that is included in SQL 2005 settings/documentation if it still was not a feature?

Sorry to keep bothering you, but I still think this is a feature that isn't working correctly in our environment rather than a feature that doesn't exist.

Andrew

"Charles Wang[MSFT]" <changliw@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message news:GwXNt8nIHA.8872@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Hi Andrew,

Thank you for your response.

They should not conflict with each other. The KB article is for server side, while the document you saw in BOL should be for client side. In SQL Server 2005 BOL, it describes Keep Alive under TCP/IP protocol as the following:

"Keep Alive

This parameter (in milliseconds) controls how often TCP attempts to verify that an idle connection is still intact by sending a KEEPALIVE packet. The default is 30000 milliseconds."

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As you can see it does not mention that SQL Server will send keep-alive packet, instead SQL Server 2005 depends on the underlying TCP layer to send keep-alive packages. This is related to working with underlying network driver. I am not sure how SQL Server implements it since it is undocumented. According to the KB article, I think that it may still rely on Windows OS communicating with the underlying networking driver. Compared with SQL Server 2000, SQL Server 2005 just provides an user interface so that any user can configure this parameter according to his requirement. As far as I know that keep alive is naturally implemented in TCP/IP protocol since TCP/IP is connection oriented. There must be connection retrying mechanism.

The Keep Alive Interval you saw is for client protocol and only used in SQL Native Client. This is not at server side. Since SQL Native Client is a driver program, it may be able to directly manipulate TCP protocol at driver level.

If you have any other questions or concerns, please feel free to let me know. It is my pleasure to be of assistance.

Best regards,
Charles Wang
Microsoft Online Community Support

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