

Re: Best networking books on mixed Windows environments?

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From: Steve Winograd [MVP] (winograd_at_pobox.com)

Date: 08/23/04

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In article <ezfZ1ZSiEHA.1644@tk2msftngp13.phx.gbl>, "Fred Marshall" <fmarshallx@remove_the_x.acm.org> wrote:

>> "Steve Winograd [MVP]" <winograd@pobox.com> wrote in message >news:44kci0pgq8geuefb3drv51dfpgt31hdk5s@4ax.com...

>> In article <OR9cgbthEHA.2916@TK2MSFTNGP12.phx.gbl>, "Fred Marshall"

>> <fmarshallx@remove_the_x.acm.org> wrote:

>> >I'm continually working on mixed Windows networks.

>> >In all this time I've not found good descriptions of how all the pieces

>> >fit together, work together.

>>

>> Hi, Fred. I know what you mean: there's a lot of networking

>> information available, but much of it is fragmented, and much of it is

>> just plain wrong. I've seen more misinformation about networking than

>> about any other area of Windows -- so much that I've written a web

>> page about it:

>>

>> Windows Networking Myths

>> <http://www.bcmaven.com/networking/myths.htm>

>>>

>>> What happens if TCP/IP, NetBEUI and IPX are all installed on all computers?

>>> Are there protocol priorities for doing one task or another? etc. Some say

>>> to use all 3, others insist that TCP/IP is enough and others insist there is

>>> a proper mix for security purposes.

>>

>> All three protocols support file sharing. Some networked games

>> require TCP/IP or IPX. Only TCP/IP supports Internet access. Nothing

>> in Windows networking has ever required NetBEUI.

>>

>> NetBEUI was the default protocol in Windows 95, but TCP/IP has been

>> the default protocol since Windows 98. Even in Windows 95, you can

>> un-install NetBEUI and use a different protocol. Microsoft wouldn't

>> have dropped support for NetBEUI in Windows XP if anything required

>> it.

>>

>> It's possible, but rarely useful, to use TCP/IP for Internet and one

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>>of the others for file sharing.

>>

>>Using more than one protocol for file sharing can cause browsing
>>problems and make the network unreliable, especially when XP is
>>involved. Unless there's a specific need for them, remove NetBEUI and
>>IPX from all computers and use only TCP/IP. If the network needs more
>>than one protocol (e.g. TCP/IP for Internet access and IPX/SPX for
>>networked games), choose one protocol for file sharing and un-bind
>>sharing from the other(s). I've written a web page with details:

>>

>>Windows XP Network Protocols

>>http://www.practicallynetworked.com/sharing/xp/network_protocols.htm

>

>Steve,

>

>Thanks again!

>

>I had one case where an existing network with WFW3.1 and WinNT4sp6 and ME
>were networked. All had TCP/IP and NetBEUI. Added an XP Home machine. XP
>couldn't see the network until NetBEUI was added.... ?

>

>In view of that experience, it seems like an expedient to just add NetBEUI.

>Because I couldn't make it work until I did that. So, now what am I

>motivated to do in the field in order to save on-site time ?

>

>Or, how might I have avoided that situation without adding NetBEUI to the XP
>machine?

>

>By your comments, I'm motivated to try using just TCP/IP

>

>Fred

You're welcome, Fred. Early versions of WFW didn't include TCP/IP. Some computers used a third-party product called Trumpet Winsock. Microsoft eventually released its own TCP/IP product, which is still available for download. I've used it successfully on WFW 3.11 (released 11/1/93), but I don't remember whether it works on WFW 3.1 (released 10/1/92):

How to Obtain TCP/IP-32 3.11b for Windows for Workgroups

<http://support.microsoft.com/?id=99891>

The key to Windows networking is to use the same protocol for file sharing on all computers. It's possible that the network that you saw had un-bound file sharing from TCP/IP and bound it only to NetBEUI. It's also possible that there was something wrong with the TCP/IP configuration. Certainly, it was expedient to add NetBEUI to XP to get things working.

All versions of Windows, even as far back as WFW 3.11, can use TCP/IP as the only protocol. If you and the client have the time available,

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I recommend getting that to work on that network, especially if you'll be adding more XP computers.

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Best Wishes,

Steve Winograd, MS-MVP (Windows Networking)

Please post any reply as a follow-up message in the news group for everyone to see. I'm sorry, but I don't answer questions addressed directly to me in E-mail or news groups.

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<http://mvp.support.microsoft.com>