

Re: Explorer is non-responsive with tray activity when domain (AD) traffic is dropped.

Source:

http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.server.active_directory/2004-08/1090.html

From: Cinq (*cj.sibonBLAH_at_BRRchello.nl*)

Date: 08/18/04

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Hello Jason,

You're not alone (comments inline)

Jason R. Coombs wrote:

> **(repost from 11-Aug-2004)**

I started reading this newsgroup only 3 days ago and my ISP has very short retention times even for text only newsgroups :(

> **

> **Introduction**

> *I've been experiencing this problem for some time now (~months), and I'm*

> *surprised other mobile users aren't experiencing the same problem.*

I am too!

> *It does seem remotely related to a previous post in*

> *windows.server.active_directory with the title, "Windows XP Clients*

> *Explorer hangs when accessing DFS shares".*

I have it on all kind of shares, not only DFS.

> **Problem description**

> *I have a Windows Server 2003 AD (in native mode) with a single domain*

> *controller (jaraco.com). The domain controller is co-located with an*

> *ISP. The domain name resolves to three IP addresses currently.*

>

> *I have several domain client systems, all running Windows XP. Some of*

> *these clients have been added to the domain via a PPTP or other VPN*

> *connection to the server because of blocked traffic (ports 445, 135, etc).*

>

> *When these client machines are running and are on a network connection*

> *where traffic is blocked and there is activity in the explorer tray*

- > (such as an IM client updating an icon or a network adapter indicating
- > traffic), explorer will stop responding. Explorer will eventually begin
- > responding again after some timeouts take place (30–120 seconds or
- > more). If I disconnect the network connectivity (either by disabling a
- > wireless adapter or disconnecting the cable for the network), explorer
- > will begin responding in a few seconds.

While sniffing on the firewall, I indeed see more traffic hitting the 'block' rules when this happens.

- > After the timeouts occur, explorer will begin responding normally again,
- > and tray events function normally as well. After a new login or change
- > of network or suspend/resume cycle, the problem will arise once again.

I am experiencing it also after disconnecting the VPN tunnel and wanting to access my offline folders.

- > If the client machine is on a network which does not drop RPC/CIFS
- > traffic (directly or via VPN), this problem does not occur. If the
- > client machine is not on a network at all, the problem does not occur.
- >
- > When explorer is not responding, other applications continue to operate
- > normally. If no applications are running, I can use Ctrl–Alt–Delete to
- > launch Task Manager and other programs. Only other programs that
- > communicate with Explorer are affected.
- >
- > *Discussion*
- > It seems clear to me that explorer is attempting to communicate with the
- > domain controller and blocking until communication succeeds or fails via
- > lengthy timeouts. I also believe, but am not certain, that the delay is
- > relative to the number of IP addresses assigned to the domain controller
- > (as if the timeout must occur for each DC address).
- >
- > This problem occurs on at least four member workstations.
- >
- > I am an expert computer user, intimately familiar with networking and
- > software. I am a novice AD administrator, however. I was unable to
- > find this problem in the KB, but would humbly and gratefully receive
- > links to articles that address this issue.
- >
- > I appreciate any feedback.
- >
- > *More Information*
- > It occurred again a minute ago. While it was occurring, I pulled up a
- > command prompt and ran netstat. I indeed did confirm that it was
- > attempting to contact the DC on the Endpoint Mapper port (135?). It
- > seemed to be checking each of the three IP addresses at least twice, and
- > had to wait for the TCP timeout each time.
- >
- >
- > TCP metaorganism:4644 unused-colo-10.swcp.com:epmap SYN_SENT

icrosoft.public.windows.server.active_directory: Re: Explorer is non-responsive with tray activity when domain (AD) traffic is

> *TCP metaorganism:4645 69.49.174.1.swcp.com:epmap SYN_SENT*
> *TCP metaorganism:4646 69.49.174.5.swcp.com:epmap SYN_SENT*
>
> *The three lines above were not seen together, but seen upon successive*
> *calls to netstat. I guessed on the outgoing ports, but the other*
> *information is cut/paste.*

I was unable to catch them on my laptop but the firewall logged them :-)

What bothers me is that I block with the option 'icmp-port-unreachable' so you would expect the Windows client to stop trying right away but it isn't... It tries at least several times.

Fortunately for me I don't have multiple IP's it has to test so the timeout is annoying but I can live with it...

Kind regards,

Cinq