

Re: Log DHCP request with Sniffer/Ethreal...

Source:

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"Malic" <spam@houston.rr.spam> wrote...

- > *We are experiencing the following issue with new PCs we have purchased from*
- > *IBM. We did not experience the issue with machines before the IBM*
- > *thinkcentres we purchased.*

You may be looking in the wrong place. This may not be IBM thinkcentre related at all. You may be experiencing this problem simply because you have faster machines now. Read on...

[snip]

> *Issue:*

- > *On a warm or cold boot, immediately login and it will not run our kixtart*
- > *login script form Domain. After being logged in for 30 seconds to 1 minute*
- > *we then get our network connection. Browse internet connec tto email etc...*
- > *We have to log off and log back in to reprocess our login script.*

This sounds *_very_* familiar to me...

Assuming that you have a switched network, make sure that workstation ports go into the forwarding state as soon as link integrity is established. On Cisco switches the feature you are looking for is called 'portfast'.

Normal spanning tree behavior is to set a port blocking until the spanning tree protocol has decided that it must be forwarding. This takes 30-40 seconds. During this time the port blocks all traffic. So DHCP will fail and you cannot talk to your domain controllers.

For old slow systems, this may not be a problem because the system boot takes longer than it takes spanning tree to set the switch port forwarding. New fast machines will complete the boot cycle before the port goes into the forwarding state and have no network connection for some time.

When configuring portfast, the port goes into the forwarding state immediately and the spanning tree protocol may switch is back to blocking if there is a good reason to (no workstation attached but another network switch that is closer to

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the spanning tree root).

Alternatively you can swith off spanning tree at workstation ports, but portfast
is much more fool proof.

Good luck,
-Roger

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