

# Why does DNS.EXE listen on a ephemeral TCP port?

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.server.dns/2006-09/msg00052.html>

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  - *Date:* Sun, 3 Sep 2006 18:23:00 -0500
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I noticed my x64 Windows 2003 R2 machines running DNS were listening on wierd TCP ports. DNS.EXE is the listening process. Restarting DNS changes the port number. I know DNS uses ephemeral UDP ports, but I can't find anything that describes the use of TCP in this manner. None of the Microsoft firewall guides I've seen make allowances for this port to be used, nor does anything in the security configuration wizard indicate that inbound TCP connections should be allowed to anything other than 53.

Does anyone know what it's for and how it's used?

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