

Windows 2003 Domain Browsing (NetBT) Problems

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Hi Everyone,

I've noticed some similar messages in here, but nobody has seemed to solve the problem to this point.

My network consists of three machines. All three machines are on the same subnet (192.168.2.0/24). Two machines, DIR001, and DIR002 are Windows Server 2003 w/ SP1 domain controllers. DIR001 holds all FSMO roles, and also is the master browser. DIR002 also holds a copy of the browse list and is a backup browser. I do not use WINS as I'm entirely on one subnet, and all machines resolve fine via DNS (forward and reverse).

Recently I noticed that in DIR002's event log I am seeing BROWSER errors stating that the backup browser has tried and failed too many times to retrieve a browse list from the master and is therefore shutting down the BROWSER service. Obviously, this results in being unable to browse the domain via Network Neighborhood.

I used the browstat status command to see what is going on and I see the following:

```
Status for domain COSTAKIS on transport
\Device\NetBT_Tcpip_{1BBE1170-0652-456B-A637-1D347CC668F7}
Browsing is active on domain.
Master browser name is: DIR001
Master browser is running build 3790
2 backup servers retrieved from master DIR001
\\DIR002
\\DIR001
There are 3 servers in domain COSTAKIS on transport
\Device\NetBT_Tcpip_{1BBE1170-0652-456B-A637-1D347CC668F7}
Unable to retrieve server list from DIR001: 64
```

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If I run the command again immediately, I receive the correct results:

```
Status for domain COSTAKIS on transport
\Device\NetBT_Tcpip_{1BBE1170-0652-456B-
A637-1D347CC668F7}
Browsing is active on domain.
Master browser name is: DIR001
Master browser is running build 3790
2 backup servers retrieved from master DIR001
\\DIR001
\\DIR002
There are 3 servers in domain COSTAKIS on transport
\Device\NetBT_Tcpip_{1BB
E1170-0652-456B-A637-1D347CC668F7}
There are 2 domains in domain COSTAKIS on transport
\Device\NetBT_Tcpip_{1BB
E1170-0652-456B-A637-1D347CC668F7}
```

After running this in rapid succession 8–10 times successfully, I again get the error number 64 once more and then get another string of successes. If I wait a couple of minutes between each time I run the command, I get nothing but the errors. I'm pretty sure this is what is causing the backup browsers to shut down. The odd thing is that this same behavior happens regardless of whether DIR001 or DIR002 is the master browser. My Windows XP client behaves in the same way, so I don't think that it is related to a specific machine.

There are no 3rd party firewalls installed or in use on DIR001 or DIR002. The Windows firewall that comes with SP1 is also not running, and the service is disabled. I'm starting to suspect the firewall that came with SP1 for Win2K3 — there was a similar issue with Windows XP SP2 that was just recently hotfixed. (details at <http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb:en-us:889320>)

Any help would be greatly appreciated!

Thanks,
Chris

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