

## Re: Computer Browsing Service – anyone want to contribute for a good conversation?

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.server.networking/2005-11/msg00520.html>

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- *From:* "GreenGoblin" <none@xxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* Mon, 21 Nov 2005 22:26:32 -0500
- 

Yes, I understand, however I am only concerned with 2 vlans currently and both have dc's.

One holds all master roles and is a gc, the other is a dc and gc.

The master browser as you know is the 1st dc in subnet 1. The other one is subnet 2 and that is a dc.

I get clients promoting themselves on both subnets.

I am not sure why.

"Bill Grant" <not.available@online> wrote in message

<news:%23SjVVNx7FHA.740@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

> I suggest you read it again. Many of your VLANs will not have a server  
> in them at all!

>

> GreenGoblin wrote:

>> Bill,

>> that's great information.

>> So I do have a 1b entry but that is the dc on the .70 subnet. So my

>> machines are on .60 and .70. So if I am following this then machines

>> on .60 won't get the master browse list from the dc on the .70? So

>> they got to the SMB which is the DC on the .70. Well, I checked name

>> resolution and all that is fine. So where can I look next? Does

>> this have to do with clients netbios over tcp settings?

>> If the browse list isn't replicated with wins, what method is it that

>> makes the browsers replicate to eachother?

>>

>> There are many servers on each subnet so that makes no sense that the

>> clients are promoting themselves?

>> "Bill Grant" <not.available@online> wrote in message

>> <news:e4b%23Y9w7FHA.476@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

>>> GreenGoblin wrote:

>>>> Hi,

>>>> I have read many posts on this subject recently. I am in the same

>>>> dilemma's as many other people on here and I have read all the

>>>> recent posts but there hasn't been a good solution offered.

>>>>

>>>> I can't find a clear answer on this so maybe if everyone sticks to

>>>> one post we can all work it out? Basically I have 15 vlan's routed

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>>>> with cisco equipment and run mostly on hp/cisco switches. This is a  
>>>> 2003 domain with 3 sites and 2 dc's at each location. All dc's are  
>>>> GC's as well. 1 location is coming down soon so let's just work  
>>>> with 2 sites. We have WINS running on 2 dc's at one location and  
>>>> then at another location on 2 different servers, 1 of which is a dc  
>>>> and 1 that is not. I don't replicate WINS to the other location as  
>>>> it is in another country and we don't see a need to browse through  
>>>> sites or that it is even needed to replicate, is that wrong?  
>>>> Therefore let's just work with a single site and that is my  
>>>> trouble. So I have 2 dc's with all the FSMO roles on one of them. They  
>>>> are both on different subnets. I have about 140 clients. I  
>>>> am trying to find out how to control the browsing and how to set  
>>>> the reg key "isdomainmaster" or if I set that manually at all. I  
>>>> would like to know how most people are handling this issue where xp  
>>>> clients are just filling up the event logs with errors about  
>>>> machines promoting themselves. This seems to be quite a common  
>>>> issue and I haven't read a good response yet on how to really fix  
>>>> this? I know it is a "chatty" service but there must be a  
>>>> solution. Some of you MVP's recommend that people shut off the  
>>>> browser service while others are quite opposed to that. I have  
>>>> used browstat and browmon but the only thing I see is that  
>>>> multiple member servers or clients are promoting themselves and I  
>>>> don't know why they can't reach the DMB anyway. Is it in fact  
>>>> correct that the browser service will not traverse a router? If  
>>>> that is true then doesn't the information get replicated to the DMB  
>>>> on one subnet via WINS? My dc/dns/wins server 1 is on a .60  
>>>> subnet. My dc/dns/wins server 2 is on a .70 subnet. Server 2  
>>>> should send it's info over to server 1 when wins replicates right? So  
>>>> why is my network neighborhood not updating? Why are clients  
>>>> promoting themselves instead of going to the master browser –  
>>>> server 2 on the .70 subnet or a backup server? Don't server OS'  
>>>> take precedence for promotion?  
>>>> Thanks  
>>>> your friendly neighborhood Goblin.

>>>

>>> First off I will repeat what I said in another post recently. The  
>>> entries you see where workstations appear to be promoting themselves  
>>> is usually a symptom that the browser service has already failed.  
>>> They are not really trying to become master browsers. They send the  
>>> announcement to trigger off a browser election because they cannot  
>>> get a browse list. This is the standard method for a client to force  
>>> an election when browsing is not working.

>>>

>>> Building a browse list is done by LAN broadcasts. That is why it  
>>> doesn't just work in a routed network. The router blocks the  
>>> broadcasts, and each segment builds its own browse list. There are  
>>> two things necessary for browsing to work in a routed network.

>>>

>>> The first essential is a domain controller. Only a domain  
>>> controller can merge browse lists from different segments to build a  
>>> network-wide list. The second essential is a method for the Domain

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>>> Master Browser to find the Segment Master Browsers in other  
>>> segments/subnets. That is where WINS comes in.  
>>>  
>>> WINS does not store or replicate browse lists. The part it plays  
>>> is simply to provide a means for the DMB to find the SMBs (and vice  
>>> versa). Because they are in different subnets/segments they cannot  
>>> communicate by broadcast. They need to be able to go to WINS to  
>>> resolve names to IP addresses. They can then communicate directly  
>>> with machines in other subnets/segments.  
>>>  
>>> If browstat/browmon isn't giving you the info you need, you will  
>>> need to go to a network monitor/sniffer. That is the only way to  
>>> really see why a client machine cannot get a browse list. You need  
>>> to see how it requests a browse list and why it fails.  
>>>  
>>> The normal process is that the client will query WINS for the  
>>> special Netbios name <domainname 1B> (ie the domain master  
>>> browser) . If WINS has an entry for this name, it should return the  
>>> IP address of the DMB. The client then sends off a request for the  
>>> browse list. Common causes of failure are that the client doesn't have  
>>> the  
>>> correct domain name (this is common with remote access clients which  
>>> are logged in elsewhere) , or WINS doesn't have an entry for the  
>>> DMB. The most common cause of master browser failures is multihomed  
>>> browse masters. If a master browser is multihomed (and this includes  
>>> remote access servers which have a "internal" interface with its own  
>>> IP), browsing fails when the "wrong" IP is used to contact the  
>>> browse master. Netbios bound to one interface is not seen if you use  
>>> the IP address of a different interface on the machine.  
>>>  
>>> VLANs complicate the situation because each VLAN is a separate  
>>> broadcast domain. So each VLAN has its own SMB. In VLANs without  
>>> servers, the SMB will be a workstation. Because workstations come  
>>> and go, the SMB will not be consistently the same machine. When the  
>>> current SMB shuts down, you get the same situation as in a workgroup  
>>> when the current master browser shuts down.  
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>

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• **References:**

- ◆ **Computer Browsing Service – anyone want to contribute for a good conversation?**  
    ◇ From: GreenGoblin
- ◆ **Re: Computer Browsing Service – anyone want to contribute for a good conversation?**  
    ◇ From: Bill Grant
- ◆ **Re: Computer Browsing Service – anyone want to contribute for a good conversation?**  
    ◇ From: GreenGoblin

Re: Computer Browsing Service – anyone want to contribute for a good conversation?

◆ *Re: Computer Browsing Service – anyone want to contribute for a good conversation?*

◇ From: Bill Grant

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