

Re: WHY WINS

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.server.networking/2007-03/msg00267.html>

- *From:* "Bill Grant" <not.available@online>
 - *Date:* Tue, 20 Mar 2007 09:31:01 +1100
-

That is about right. Yes, NN depends on the computer browser service which uses Netbios names. There is not really a replacement for the browser service in a DNS only setup.

"Bob Simon" <nobody@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message news:eo4tv2p1g6l7p3ud2vl6v6p2p4i5convse@xxxxxxxxxxxx

Bill,
Thanks!

I now see that my previous questions have missed the essential point. This is not really about DNS and WINS servers, it's about DNS names and NetBIOS names. Would it be correct to summarize the current situation this way? "Microsoft is moving away from NetBIOS names in favor of DNS names but this transition is incomplete."

Also, does Network Neighborhood depend on the computer browser service you mentioned? I think NN is a great feature and would not want to give it up. I presume from your previous answer that it is not possible to configure browser to function using only DNS, right?
Bob

On Mon, 19 Mar 2007 17:35:45 +1100, "Bill Grant" <not.available@online> wrote:

No, DNS cannot resolve Netbios names without WINS. They are different and incompatible systems. WINS is a "flat" database. All machines using a WINS server must have unique names. DNS is a heirarchical system and names can be reused. fred.mydomain.com is not the same machine as fred.sales.mydomain.com, but WINS would complain about a duplicate name, because it only uses "fred".

Integrating WINS and DNS is possible (and beyond the scope of a

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newsgroup post) but it is just that – integration. DNS cannot do it alone.

A

WINS server must exist for the DNS server to integrate with (which is why the DHCP server asks for the WINS server IP address to use).

In theory a W2k/W2k3 network with only W2k/XP clients can operate without WINS. In practice, you almost always find that something doesn't work, because it depends on Netbios names or the computer browser service (which is an NT legacy service using Netbios names).

Netbios names include a 16th character which can define special functions (like 1B for the master browser and 1C for a domain controller). These cannot be handled by DNS. AD is integrated with DNS and uses DNS to access domain resources. NT used Netbios special names for that.

"Bob Simon" <nobody@xxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message news:7s1sv25jha2drv5hi0tjtoqm8cegu78uav@xxxxxxxxxxx

So, if there are no legacy computers but only Windows 2003 servers and XP clients, can all NetBIOS names be resolved by DNS?

On Mon, 19 Mar 2007 10:43:29 +1100, "Bill Grant" <not.available@online> wrote:

That is a popular misconception. The important bit, which you quote, is support for legacy systems (like NT or Samba).

In addition, many applications require Netbios names and the computer browser service. You may find that your shared printers or your anti-virus software rely on this, and without WINS support it will fail in a routed network or a WAN. It can operate without WINS on a single segment, because broadcasts can do the job of resolving Netbios names..

"Bob Simon" <nobody@xxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message news:5epqv21sj0oj8k3klvjine0srqgo6g8hn2@xxxxxxxxxxx

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Bill,

You said, "A remote user usually can't browse if it doesn't have the correct WINS server address. It needs WINS to resolve names to IP addresses."

I just started learning Windows networking from an Osborn MCSE study guide. In the section on installing the DHCP server service, right after setting up scope clients to use DNS it says, "If your organization is still supporting older, legacy clients and servers that require NetBIOS name resolution and you are using WINS, you can enter the IP address of your WINS servers and click Add and Next."

This makes it sound like WINS has been obsoleted by DNS but your statement suggests that this conclusion is incorrect. I think this is an important point so I hope you can help clear up my confusion.

Bob

On Sun, 18 Mar 2007
11:52:54 +1100, "Bill
Grant"
<not.available@online>
wrote:

Is the SBS
server
configured
to use
WINS?
Usually the

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VPN client
gets
the
WINS
server
address
which is
configured
on the VPN
server.

A remote
user usually
can't browse
if it doesn't
have the
correct
WINS
server
address. It
needs
WINS to
resolve
names to IP
addresses.

A
remote
user can't
use
broadcasts
for this,
because
they don't
cross the
WAN
link.

"Juha"

<Juha@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

wrote in
message

news:46549F1E-7305-4391-81DA-25D0C14E5CA8@xxxxxxxxxxxx

Hi

I
have
clients
connecting
SBS
server

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with
VPN
SW
client.
They
receive
message
that
they
are
connected
to
domain.
They
can
ping
the
server.
However,
they
can't
see
network
shares
or
use
exchange
without
if
I
manually
set
in
NIC
adapter
TCP/IP
settings
WINS
server
address.
I
have
used
WINS
in
because
browsing
is
usually
problem
without

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it.

Physically
workstations
are
out
of
my
reach,
all
over
the
country.
DHCP-server
is
firewall.
How
can
I
implemet
this
VPN
without
manually
change
dynamic
TCP/IP
setting
to
use
WINS
server?

Thanks,

Juha

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