

# Network Connectivity Problem

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Hi All,

I am having a network connectivity problem with a number of Windows servers.

Platform: All servers are virtualised on VMWare ESX 2.5  
OS: Windows 2000 Server, and Windows 2003

## History

Several months ago I noticed that one of my applications starting displaying runtime errors. I eventually figured out this was a network problem. The network connection would drop for a minute, then return. I could not figure out why the network connection was dropping, so I started a continuous ping from the server to our proxy. Once I did this, no other network problems occurred. When I stopped the continuous ping, a few minutes, hours later the network connection would drop and come back again after a minute or so. I left the continuous ping on, hoping to fox the problem at a later date.

Shortly afterwards, I noticed that other servers were acting in the same way. They were only minor servers, so I temperaly solved the problem using the above solution.

## Currently

We are migrating to a Windows 2003 domain. One of our domain controllers which is also our fileserver is displaying the above problems, only worse. When the network connection drops, it does not return &

## Troubleshooting Steps Carried Out

- "When I changed the duplex setting from Auto to 100 Full, the network connection immediatly came back. Stopped continuous ping
- "Connection then dropped an hour later.
- "Restart server and started continuous ping
- "Server stayed up for several hours, so stopped continuous ping
- "Connection dropped shortly afterwards
- "Switched physical network card and set to Auto
- "Connection dropped
- "Started continuous ping
- "Connection stayed up
- "Changed duplex to 100 full and stopped continuous ping

## Network Connectivity Problem

"Connection dropped just over an hour later

### Conclusion

"Switch Problem Ruled this out. I have checked the switch logs, and no errors. Several other servers are working perfectly and are using the same port on the switch.

"Faulty NIC Ruled this out, as several other windows servers are using the same physical NIC s and I also changed NICs.

"VMWare Problem Each VM is configured as it should. Most VMs are running fine with no problems. These servers are the only ones. They are using the same hardware as the others. That s why I m thinking it must be a windows setting that s causing this.

"NIC Settings– Ruled out. Same errors on Auto and 100/Full , which is what the switch is set to

All ideas greatly appreciated.

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