NetScanTools® Pro
Monthly Newsletter

www.netscantools.com

October 2011

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News...

Editor's Note: Revised Year End Roadmap

Four releases in October - I've been pretty busy! Here is what we are doing the rest of the year. Work goes into high gear on the Managed Switch Port Mapping Tool 2.0.

Managed Switch Port Mapping Tool version 1.99.7 released on October 27, 2011

This release fixed a problem exporting to XML that was introduced in 1.99.6. Specifically, the Worksheet Name tag was empty causing spreadsheet programs like Excel to fail on the import of the file.

Managed Switch Port Mapping Tool version 1.99.6 released on October 25, 2011

This release addressed a few things that have been brought to our attention by end users more than once. In particular the ongoing issue of not having IP addresses to match the MAC addresses, the presence of the ifAlias information AKA user defined port names, and resolving IP addresses to hostnames. We have had several calls and emails regarding these, so work was done to improve the ARP table information messages and make the last two things 'on' by default.

- Changed logic relating to displaying duplex information from Cisco® devices that support STACK-MIB.
- Improved warning message relating to ARP table download limit. Particularly
- important for core switch mapping: ex. Cisco® 6509 series.
- Removed tab area in lower section of results.
- Export and import of Device SNMP information and Switch Configurations has been added to the Database Maintenance tool.
- Resolving of IPs to hostnames now defaults to on.
- ifAlias is now a default active column.
- Cisco® Small Business MIB now used to gather detailed device info and duplex status about switches from that series.
- User is now notified if hostname column is visible and resolve IPs to hostnames is not checked.
- Updated SQLite to version 3.7.8
- Updated MAC address/Manufacturer database.

New Freeware: IPv6ScopeFinder 1.00 released on October 18, 2011

IPv6ScopeFinder was introduced on October 18, 2011 as a freeware product designed to help you quickly find the Scope ID used to communicate with neighboring link local IPv6 addresses.

In Windows, if you need to send packets to a neighboring computer link local address, you must append %n to the end of the IPv6 address (fe80::12:34%7), where '7' is the Scope ID. Link local addresses are not in the IPv6 routing table, so you have to tell Windows which interface you want the packets sent out. That's where IPv6ScopeFinder is useful – it eliminates

having to open up a Command Prompt and using ipconfig to find the Scope ID.
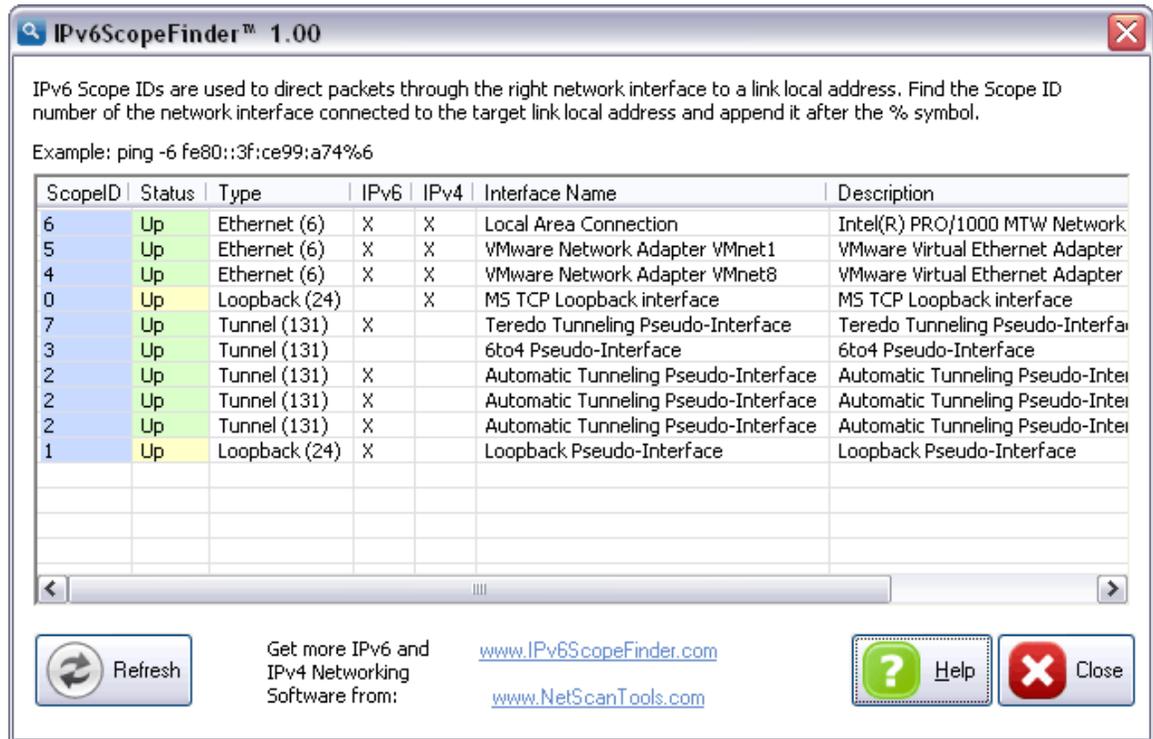
IPv6ScopeFinder shows you this important information about each network interface:
- ScopeID (IPv6 interface index)
- Status (up or down)
- Interface Type (ethernet, tunnel, etc.)
- Presence of IPv6 and IPv4 addresses
- Interface Name
- Description

This program is designed for and has been tested on Windows 7 32/64, Vista 32/64, 2008, 2003, and XP.

NetScanTools® Pro version 11.11 released October 14, 2011

This release is mostly minor changes and correction with very little of what could be considered new.

Changes
- Packet Generator: Packet Interval now accepts fractional time,
- ie. 0.6 = 600 microseconds.
- Packet Flooder: Number of packets sent and time interval added to the status line.
- Packet Flooder: Added Packet Flooder to the menu bar Accessibility/Packet Level group.

- IPv6/Show IPv6 Compatible Interfaces: Now shows the presence of IPv4 and IPv6 addresses bound to each interface.
- Maintenance Plan Expiration Date warning now works as intended.
- All menus on the menu bar are now fully expanded by default.
- The tool sourcing the 'use at your own risk' warning message now shows in the message title bar.
- Ping Scanner: The 'use at your own risk' warning message was added.
- Automated Tools: Pressing the Stop button before all tests are complete now correctly ends the testing process.
- Automated Tools: Graying out of the DNS controls now works correctly.
- Whois: ASN lookups now work correctly.
- Left Control Panel right click action menu: Adding a tool to favorites now works better, the menu item stays active even if you move your cursor outside the icon. Removed 'Shortcuts Bar' option from the menu - you would be unable to select tools without the shortcuts bar which is the left control panel.

ipPulse 1.81 released on October 4, 2011

This release was prompted by problems with the command sequence used to talk with SMTP email server in TLS secure mode. This has been corrected and tested with a number of secure email servers. Other minor changes were made to assist you in reviewing the logs. ipPulse is a device connectivity monitoring tool that uses either Ping or TCP connects to determine device status.

- Improved TLS secure email server mail sending logic. It should now work correctly with secure email servers.
- Settings/Failure Alerts: Added window showing the path to the log files. Added log file stats buttons and clear log file buttons.
- Removed completely any code dealing with Pagers so the executable filesize was reduced.

You have a maintenance plan: Why haven't you upgraded to v11?

We have noticed through recent product registrations that many people with active maintenance plans are not taking advantage of the upgrades available to them – they are still on v10. Why? –Obviously it's your choice, why not get the new version and use the new tools and updated databases?

To get the latest version, start NetScanTools Pro, click on the Help menu item and click on Check for New Version. Login and download either the full install or the USB version patch – full instructions are near the end of this newsletter under 'How to Upgrade NetScanTools Pro'.

Video: How to login and upgrade NetScanTools® Pro

We have created a helpful video that shows you how login in to the secure site and download NetScanTools Pro updates. Please review it here:

http://www.netscantools.com/videos/updating-nst-pro/updating-nst-pro.html

V11: A new easy method for updating your maintenance plan expiration date

When people renew their maintenance plan we send them an email with a number you are supposed enter into the program. This number is your new expiration date. We have found that many people do not do this. We get emails and calls saying that the program is showing the old expiration date. There is a new button that will update the plan expiration date by contacting our server – press it and your expiration date will be updated (the software must be registered first). Eventually we will make this an automatic check on a periodic basis. This image below shows where you can find the button the Help/About NetScanTools Pro window.
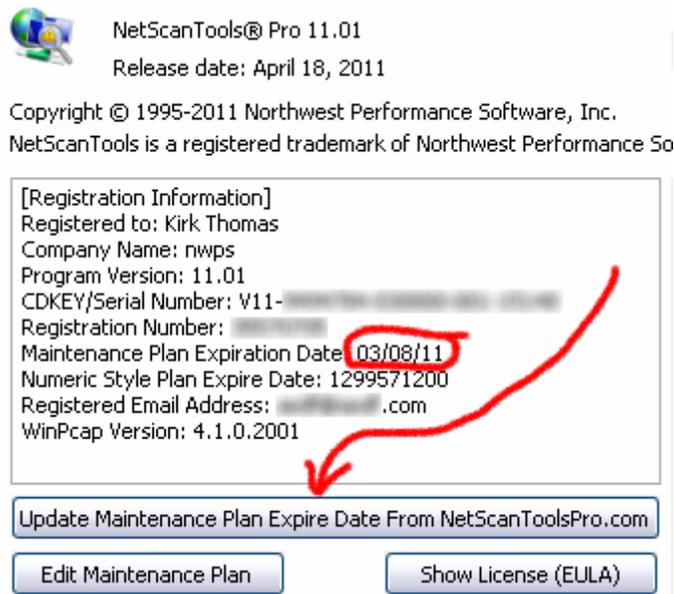
Left Control Panel Mousewheel Scrolling in v11.10

Something intuitive and necessary was missing from the new program shell that we use in NetScanTools: mousewheel scrolling of the icons in the left control panel. Try it for yourself, place your cursor over the Manual Tools left panel and scroll the mousewheel. It moves one icon up or down per mousewheel detent.

Packet Flooder and Packet Playback in v11.10

Over the last several years we have noticed that many people coming to our Packet Generator web page were actually looking for a network traffic generator or a packet flooder. We finally have one and it is capable of putting out UDP packets at a rate fast enough to use up almost all the bandwidth in a 100BaseT interface (depending on how fast your computer is). Why UDP and why not use WinPcap? The native winsock layer interface can send packets out any compatible network interface and it can send them faster than WinPcap. Why not send TCP too? On the consumer versions of Windows (7/Vista/XP) there are limits on simultaneous active TCP connections, there are no limits on UDP. Be careful with this tool – use it only when you have permission to send packets to the target.

One new thing you will see in the Packet Flooder is a Bandwidth usage gauge and a historical bandwidth use chart. You are going to see more user friendly gauges and charts in future versions of NetScanTools.

Packet Playback is an interesting new tool that you can find on the Packet Generator Tool. It can take a .cap capture file saved from Wireshark or our Packet Capture tool and play it back either in real time (using the same timing intervals as it was captured in) or as fast as WinPcap can send the packets to your interface.

Older News and Reminders

NetScanTools® Pro Versions Compatible with Windows 7 and Windows Vista

People have asked us which versions of NetScanTools Pro 10.x can be used on Windows 7 and Windows Vista. These are the minimum NetScanTools Pro versions that you should be using on each operating system.

- **Windows 7 - 64 Bit:** We highly recommend using NetScanTools Pro version 10.94 or newer because it incorporates WinPcap 4.1.1 or 4.1.2 which are designed for Windows 7 - 64.
- **Windows 7 - 32 Bit:** NetScanTools Pro version 10.81 or newer. For best results, always use the latest version.
- **Windows Vista/2008:** You must have NetScanTools Pro version 10.42 or newer. All known Vista issues were completely fixed by version 10.52.
- **Windows XP/2003/2000:** Any NetScanTools Pro version 10.
- **We no longer recommend using the first three versions on any operating system: 10.0, 10.1, or 10.20.**

What happens if you use an earlier version of NetScanTools Pro on Windows Vista? The difference between Windows Vista and Windows XP was much greater than between Vista and 7. You may experience crashing

particularly in the Network Statistics Tool. You may experience missing results in certain modes of traceroute. These are some examples – there are others. If you use Windows 7 or Vista, please use a version equal to or newer than what we are showing above.

Using NetScanTools® Pro on Windows 7 – 64 Bit

NetScanTools Pro version 10 is a 32 bit program that runs fine in the 32 bit subsystem found in Windows 7 - 64. It will show up in task manager as "nstpro.exe *32". If you are using the USB version, we highly recommend using version 10.94 or newer if you are plugging it into Windows 7 - 64 bit. And yes, we plan on making a 64 bit native version at some point.

USB Version Users – Make a Backup of Your Software!

Please make a full backup of your USB Version after you have registered it and applied the NST Pro 10/11 Registration Code message we sent back by email. If you have a backup of the contents of the drive, we can easily assist you in restoring it to another drive in case you lose the original drive. Remember that the Patriot Xporter XT Boost drive we supply the USB version on is one of the fastest drives currently available. If you do have to restore it, we highly recommend that same drive series or a faster model. Other types of larger USB drives that cost less are often much slower.

Backup your drive by copying all files and directories to another drive either on your computer or a portable backup drive. Saving the files to CDR is even better. Please do it today!

Contact Information

If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to email.

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