November 2006 Newsletter

In this newsletter:
- **NetScanTools Pro 10.41 was released on Oct 16, 2006**
- **Status report on upcoming version 10.42**
- **NetScanTools Pro USB Version**
- **Managed Switch Port Mapping Tool 1.42**
- **Version 10 Maintenance Plan Renewals – Online Renewals Now Available**

This is our first newsletter since July, look for another in December.

NetScanTools Pro Version 10.41 was released on October 16, 2006.

This release concentrated on fixes to problems found after the release of 10.4 on September 25. It is also a critical release for those who have the new USB version in that it corrects database opening problems and improves the speed of switching between tools. The 10.4 release was fairly major with quite a few internal changes and the addition of a new tool: SNMP Dictionary Attack. This tool is an SNMP v1/v2c community name guessing program that uses a dictionary. Access this new tool through the Tools/SNMP dropdown task selection menu.

You can view the full list of changes in both 10.4 and 10.41 from within NetScanTools Pro by selecting Online/NetScanTools Pro News or going to this URL:
http://www.netscantools.com/nstpronews.html

Upgrade to v10.41** by running NetScanTools Pro 10 and going to Online group, then selecting Check for New Version. ****You must have a valid maintenance plan to upgrade to 10.41.**

Version 10.42 Status Report

This new version is nearly complete. It has some bug fixes but more importantly, it begins to directly address the many issues that Windows Vista raises. Vista has a completely new network software interface; because of that several parts of NetScanTools Pro ceased to function. 10.42 will allow ARP Scan, ARP Ping, Promiscuous Mode Scanner and Packet Generator to work again. Problem areas are Ping, Traceroute, NetScanner, Network Topography, any Automated tools that use these and Network Statistics. The workaround for everything except Stats is to go to the Set Preferences window and select MS ICMP DLL. There are no workarounds yet for Network Statistics. To use NetScanTools Pro under Vista, you must right click on the executable or the desktop link and select Run As Administrator. We are continuing to address Vista incompatibilities and will have more fixes in subsequent releases.

10.42 also drastically speeds up the Packet Generator for multiple bursts of the same packet. Instead of being 90 milliseconds per packet (this is because of all the setup required to send a packet), it is now down under 100 microseconds between successive identical packets.

NetScanTools Pro USB Version

We will begin offering a USB Flash Drive Version of NetScanTools Pro when 10.42 is ready. This version runs completely off the USB drive and does not require installation of itself or WinPcap. Here are the highlights of the USB Version:

- Runs completely off the USB Flash Drive for truly mobile usage of NetScanTools Pro.
- Requires Windows 2000/XP/2003. Runs on Windows Vista with the same limitations as above. Requires USB 2.0 port.
- We will be selling it as a package preinstalled on a high speed USB Flash Drive from a major manufacturer.
- Initial sales will be limited to USA with other countries added as we determine customs rules for shipping USB drives.
- Cost: new license $349, currently licensed NST Pro 10 user (sidegrade) $95 – this includes a 1GB USB Flash Drive.
- Licensing: independent of 'installed' NetScanTools Pro. Software must be run from the USB Drive.
- USB Version is completely different set of binaries and is not interchangeable with the installed version.

If you are interested in the USB Version, please email us at <u>sales@netscantools.com</u> and indicate your interest. We are simply taking a poll to help us gauge interest level and your email does not commit you to a purchase.

Managed Switch Port Mapping Tool 1.42 released May 12, 2006

New in this release
1.42 fixes a longstanding problem with XML exports to Microsoft Excel. If you had too many items attached to a port, then the height of a single row in the grid exceeded a maximum. We now limit the row height to that maximum when exporting – your data is still there, nothing is lost. There were also improvements to the feedback users receive while resolving IP addresses to hostnames including new status bar indications, better monitoring of the Stop button and a DNS lookup watchdog timer. A problem calculating the speed of gigabit and above interfaces was corrected.

About the Managed Switch Port Mapping Tool
This is a tool that can be integrated into NetScanTools Pro or used as a standalone program. It is designed to map managed network switch physical port connections to MAC addresses and with additional queries, the IPv4 addresses of attached network devices. This tool is intended for use by network administrators and other specialists who maintain managed switches. The program uses SNMP v1/v2c to communicate with any SNMP enabled switch and presents the switch mapping results in a spreadsheet-like grid.

Cost is $99 if you own NetScanTools Pro (any version) or $199 if you do not own NetScanTools Pro. More information about the Managed Switch Port Mapping tool is here:
<u>http://www.netscantools.com/spmapmain.html</u>

How to get the 15 day fully functional trial version:
- From within NetScanTools Pro 10.x or NetScanTools 2004 sp4 (9.4) click on Online/Check for new version. The web page in the right hand window has a direct download link to the Managed Switch Port Mapping tool.
- Or you can visit this URL to request the trial –
  <u>http://www.netscantools.com/spmaptrialrequest.html</u>

V10 Maintenance Plan Renewals – Online Renewals Now Available

Starting with v10, we introduced a one year maintenance plan included with the license. The initial plans began expiring February 18, 2006. Each user has a different expiration date. Your

expiration date can be found on the Program Info/About NetScanTools Pro. The software will present you with a renewal reminder window at startup beginning 21 days prior to the expiration date (assuming you have registered). You can turn off the reminder in Tools/Set Preferences (Enable Reminder Check).

The maintenance plan enables you to get upgrades and support. You must login with the use of the access credentials to download the upgrades from our **"Online Left Panel Group/Check for New Version"** page (the access credentials are found below the controls at the top of that window). You must renew the plan to continue to get access after your plan expiration date. **The renewal cost is $75** (or more) per v10 license.** Please contact us by phone (360-683-9888) or email us to get more information about renewing. The contact information is at the bottom of this newsletter. **We now have online ordering for plan renewals linked from this page:**
http://www.netscantools.com/nstpromaintenance.html
**cost may be higher if you wait too long to renew your plan, see web page above for more details.

**

Other things…

Spam Filtering Issues
We are having significant ongoing problems with our email not getting through to our customers. Please whitelist or permit email from sales at netscantools dot com and support at netscantools dot com.

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

Northwest Performance Software, Inc.
PO Box 1375
Sequim WA 98382-4322
(360) 683-9888
www.netscantools.com
sales-at-netscantools[dot]com