NetScanTools® Pro
Monthly Newsletter
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News…

From the Editor…

I wanted to wait to release the newsletter until ipPulse was finished. I also spent a good part of June converting our old Server 2003 to Server 2012. That was a challenge and it's now done – whew!

-Kirk

ipPulse 1.85 released June 29, 2015

ipPulse is a network connectivity monitoring application primarily using ping to keep in contact with a list of targets. Once a target cannot be reached, a notification can be sent – full logging is also available. It runs on Windows 10 build 10158, 8.x, 7, Vista and XP and Server 2012GUI/2008.

This release added a new column 'Last Ping Time' – it shows the last round trip time in milliseconds of the last ping packet. We also added a new checkbox to the Email Settings controlling whether or not to do a 'verification' on any SSL certificates used during a STARTTLS email negotiations.

Please visit http://www.ippulse.com/ to download the trial or update your current version.

This is a list of the changes:

- Added new checkbox 'Validate SMTP Server Certificate' to Email Settings (see Settings/Failure Alerts/Email Settings). This checkbox controls whether or not any email server certificates are validated. Default is checked.

- Added new column 'Last Ping Time' to the main window. It shows the last ping round-trip-time in milliseconds. To activate this column, click on Settings/Program Control/Edit Column Visibility. Ensure that the checkbox 'Last Ping Time' is checked.

- User defined SNMP OID columns are now not visible by default.

NetScanTools Pro 11.70 released June 12, 2015

This version was long overdue, but it is the first NetScanTools Pro version 100% compiled with Visual Studio 2012 on Windows 8.1 moving everything off of Windows XP VS2008. We expect a minor release 11.71 soon with some changes to SSL Certificate Scanner. When Visual Studio 2015 is finalized, we will move the code base to that compiler skipping VS2013.

There were many changes to the software and we added one new tool. The changes concentrated on WinPcap, speed enhancement to the ARP based scanners, user interface changes for all separately launched sub-programs and printing fixes for the grid based results tools. The software was fully tested on Windows 10 build 10130 (last build before 10158).

As we mentioned last month, there is a new tool called the DNS Traffic Monitor. The purpose of the tool is to show the DNS's assigned to your system and show the percentage of traffic going to each DNS. Any packets sent to a DNS not in the list are shown – this could indicate everything from a program with the ability to query any DNS (like NetScanTools Pro) to a malware.

A screenshot of the DNS Traffic Monitor is on the next page.
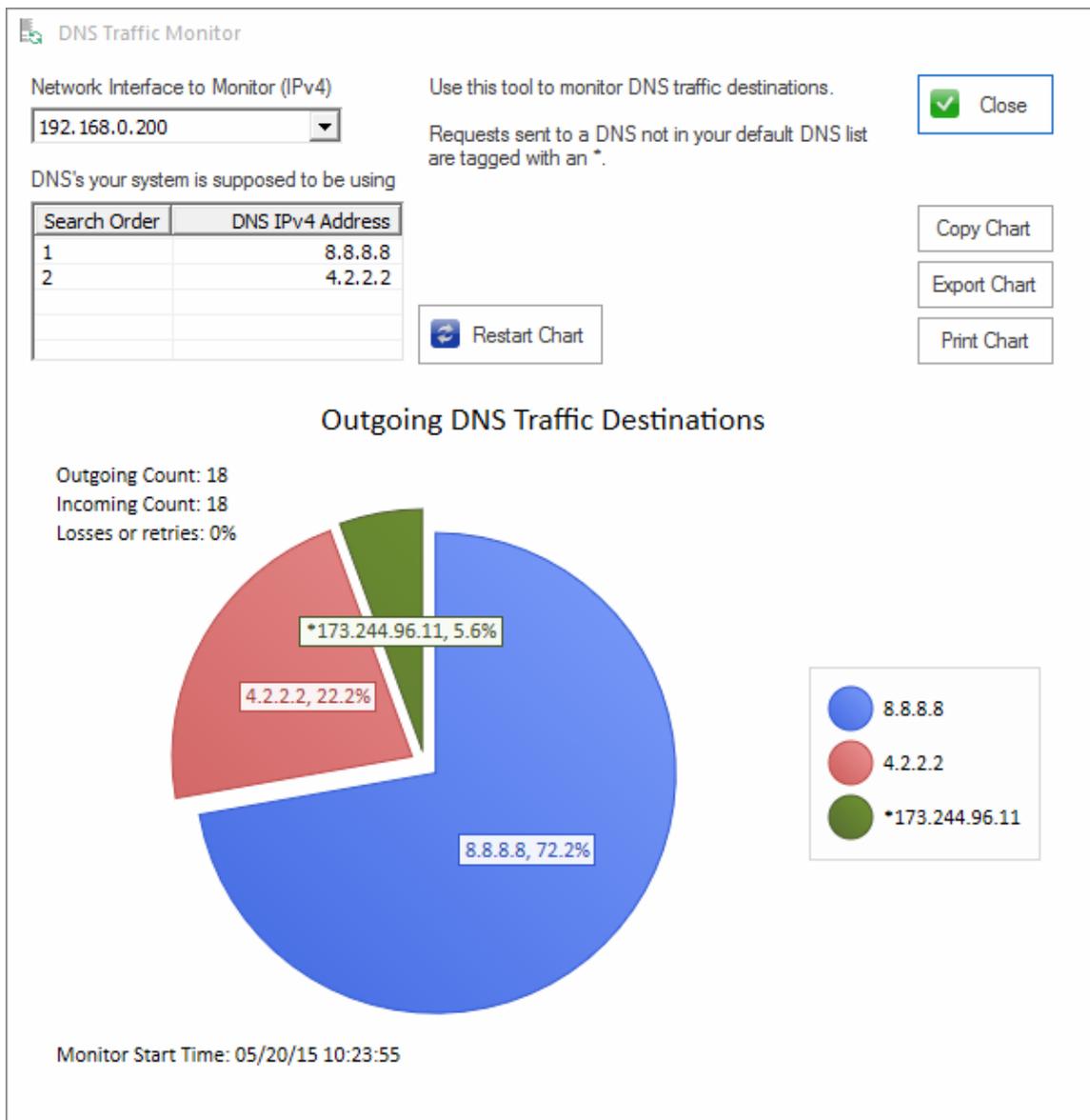
The full list of changes in v11.70 are shown here:

- All parts of NetScanTools Pro have now been recompiled with the Visual C++ 2012 compiler on Windows 8.1. Appearance and look and feel of all subprograms has been updated.
- General Cleanup: Removed old pre-Windows XP code that would not compile on the newer compiler. Expanded error messaging when Results Database cannot be opened.
- We now specifically test to verify the WinPcap packet driver is actually running. Any tools depending on WinPcap will have a popup warning if the service is not running and WinPcap is installed.
- All tool results using grid control (traceroute, arp scannner, etc): fixed printing output so that what is printed matches the current width of the control columns. Previously, it found the maximum string length in each column and printed based on that width no matter the column widths.

- New Tool: DNS Traffic Monitor added to Manual Tools, Passive Discovery Tools and DNS Tools left control panel panes. The DNS Traffic Monitor Tool shows you the default DNS's assigned to your system and the percentage of queries directed to each. Lost or retried DNS queries are shown and any queries to non-default DNS's are shown.
- SSL Certificate Scanner: the 'Validity' column now displays any errors. Since TLS1 is now considered by some to be a security risk, the 'yes' is now shown with a yellow background for caution.
- Added method for editing the Dictionary in the SNMP Dictionary Attack Tool and changed the dictionary file location to allow editing.
- ARP Scan: removed floating progress window that caused program hang if Cancel was pressed. Speeded up scan process and changed default interpacket send delay to 10 milliseconds.
- Database Maintenance: Added text showing the current path of the shared data, user data and temporary file data. Also added a button next to each to open and view each folder in your file management program.
- DNS Tools/Advanced: Added method for following SPF record redirection in SPF Domain Keys tool. Examples of sites using redirects are facebook.com and yahoo.com.
- Duplicate IP Scanner: removed floating progress window that caused program hang if Cancel was pressed. Speeded up scan process and changed default interpacket send delay to 10 milliseconds. Also added clarification of when to use the Reset Scanner Tables button.
- Maintenance Plan Reminder Window: Reminder text changes and we added a button to manually query our server for your maintenance plan expiration date. The automatic update of the date from our server has been reduced from once every 30 days to once every 14 days.
- Network Shares: now identifies Windows 10 computers.
- Port Scanner: Changed default interpacket send delay to 15 milliseconds and changed default maximum threads to 512. Going to a smaller delay value may not give desired results.
- Promiscuous Mode Scanner: removed floating progress window that caused program hang if Cancel was pressed. Speeded up scan process and changed default interpacket send delay to 10 milliseconds.
- SNMP Core and Advanced: Added method in Settings for selecting string translations: 'guess, ascii or hex'. Added button to open the MIBs storage directory so you can quickly copy in your MIB in the format .mib, .txt or .my. NetScanTools Pro must be restarted before accessing the new MIBs through the SNMP tools.
- Updated SQLite to 3.8.10.2
- Updated database files.

Windows 10 build 10158 and 10130 Compatibility

I am happy to report that WinPcap 4.1.3 continues to work on Windows 10 builds 10158 and 10130. All of our programs appear to be fully compatible with Windows 10. I test each one as much as possible when a new Windows 10 build is released. Since we are so close to the July final release, I would expect 10158 to be very close to the RTM final build.

Managed Switch Port Mapping Tool v2.52 Released May 11, 2015

Version 2.52 was the third release in three weeks and it addressed ongoing 'strange' characters that appeared in CDP and LLDP. These strange characters were not frequent, but when they appeared it was possible that the characters would make the SQL command strings fail giving the user a SQLite error message. This was particularly true if one of the characters was a single or double quote. Other problems in LLDP included algorithm issues where the LLDP information did not always get parsed and displayed. There were also user interface responsiveness issues with CDP and LLDP on large populated switches where the software appeared hung (but it was not) — those were addressed.

Version 2.50 added many improvements to help users operate the software more quickly like selection of previously used community names from the database. You can now import lists of devices along with their SNMP v1/v2c parameters from a text file.

Download version 2.52 from here:
http://www.switchportmapper.com/

Here is the full revision history for the three releases from April and May:

2.52 May 11, 2015
-This release addresses problems in LLDP and CDP parsers that occasionally presented unreadable characters which, in turn might cause an SQLite error.
-LLDP: fixed MAC address and Network address to always show hex output.
-CDP: fixed 'Port (ifName)' and 'Device ID' to show either text (if printable) or hex representation.
-Changed LLDP and CDP retrieval phases to be more responsive to user input.
-Improved LLDP parser so it now works for more switch models.
-SNMP Walk Tool: fixed output parser to show hex instead of non-printable characters. Problem was normally seen while showing MAC addresses.
-Removed an 'are you sure?' popup question for deleting a switch group from a Switch List in the Switch List Editor.
-Improved switch information in final Switch List Results Analysis Report.
-Changed unused ethernet ports section of browser reports to show only if no MAC addresses are on the port and the port is down.
-Fixed formatting on Upstream or Downstream Directly Connected Devices Reported by LLDP and/or CDP in final Switch List Results Analysis Report.
-Updated SQLite to version 3.8.10.1
-Updated MAC address/Manufacturer database.

2.51 April 29, 2015
-Fixed problem where simply moving mouse over Column Order and Visibility Editor listboxes would cause program crash.
-Updated MAC address/Manufacturer database.

2.50 April 21, 2015
-Added Bulk Import of SNMPv1/v2c Device Settings from a text file. See Switch Lists/Device Settings Editor/Import Devices.

-Added Unused Ports Table to Switch Report and improved the same table in the Switch List Results Analysis Report.
-Added new checkbox to Global Settings to control display of Ping Sweep List Empty message.
-Added new checkbox to Global Settings to control display of Duplicate Hostname Warning message.
-Added new checkbox and box to Global Settings for removing stale IP to Hostname resolver entries from the IP/Hostname table. Default is to remove entries older than 3600 seconds (1 hour).
-Added method in Review History to change to or create a new history database.
-Added a SNMP Community Name selection button into Device Settings. It brings up a window showing the currently used read or write SNMP v1/v2c community names for quick selection.
-Corrected problems with Database Protection.
-Database Maintenance/Import ARP Table can now accept comma separated fields in addition to tab separated fields.
-Updated SQLite to version 3.8.9
-Updated MAC address/Manufacturer database.

Contact Information

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

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