

NetScanTools® Pro



Monthly Newsletter

www.netscantools.com

November 2014



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News...

From the Editor...

Happy Thanksgiving to those of you in the USA! We will be closed on Thanksgiving Day and sort-of open on Friday Nov 28.

-Kirk

Managed Switch Port Mapping Tool 2.40.1 Released Nov 11, 2014

You may be asking yourself 'what happened to v2.40?' – good question! Version 2.40 was released on Nov 7 and immediately a customer noted a minor problem that with IP address formatting in the CDP column on a large Cisco switch. A couple lines of code fixed it and we released 2.40.1. Look at the top titlebar of the software to find out which version you have. If Cisco CDP is important to you, make sure you have 2.40.1. If not, don't worry about it.

The USB version patch was delayed for v2.40.1 and it shows that version across the top titlebar – but there is an ‘oops’: the image in the Help/About window still says 2.35. Just be sure to check the top titlebar to see your actual version.

Get the latest version 2.40.1 at SwitchPortMapper.com – you will be downloading spm240.zip.

Here is what is new in v2.40.1. This is what we call the Extreme Networks release. The software now fully supports switches running ExtremeXOS 15.x, 12.x and even old ExtremeWare 7.7. A number of miscellaneous fixes and improvements were done including more VLAN work. In order to speed up tech support we added a new tool to ‘walk’ OIDs in the switch or other SNMP devices. That way we can see the information returned by the devices without asking you to get another tool to do it.

2.40.1 November 11, 2014

- Fixed occasionally seen IP address formatting problem in CDP column.

2.40 November 7, 2014

- Added full support for mapping Extreme Networks switches running operating systems ExtremeXOS 15.x, 12.x back through older ExtremeWare 7.7. Expanded switch properties gathering for Extreme Networks switches.
- Additional improvements for better readability on 3200x1900 Hi-DPI displays.
- Improved algorithm for showing assigned VLANs on unused ports on switches utilizing qBridge MIB reporting.
- Improved support for older 3Com 4500 Series switches by showing assigned VLANs for unused ports.
- If the switch reports an IPv4 or IPv6 Multicast Address, we now indicate that in the Manufacturer column.
- Corrected an issue with LLDP where the MAC address might not always show up correctly.
- Added SNMP Walk Tool to the Help/Technical Support menu.
- Updated SQLite to version 3.8.7.1
- Updated MAC address/Manufacturer database.

Get the new release at www.SwitchPortMapper.com.

Using SNMP – Core Tool in NetScanTools Pro (see the new website look and feel)

This new page explains how to use SNMP Core Tool to retrieve the HOST-RESOURCES-MIB information from a device and more importantly, how to interpret what you see. It goes in depth on how to interpret the host resources storage table that shows things like memory size, hard drive size and how to calculate usage information.

Another reason for showing this page is to give a preview of the long overdue website makeover. We are converting all the sites to use Bootstrap. Bootstrap allows us to create one site that is viewed equally well on the desktop or a phone or a tablet. Bootstrap automatically scales the menus, images and layout to conform to the viewport. Our nwpsw.com site was converted last year. Let us know what you think!

Please visit:

<http://www.netscantools.com/snmp-host-resources-mib-analysis.html>

NetScanTools Pro release coming soon

The next NetScanTools Pro release is coming soon – still working on it. Current release version is 11.62. Most changes being implemented are in the Packet Generator Tool – a vastly improved the Packet Player (in case you don't know what that is, it plays back a Wireshark capture) and some other things to make it easier to send packets. There is also a new DNS Testing tool under development that may make it into the release – not sure about that today.

If you have suggestions or problems, email or call us.

ipPulse 1.84 released October 9, 2014

This release fixes some problems with adjusting the Ping settings to shorter timeouts than the default 2 seconds on Windows 8.1 and Windows 7. It also changed the message about reports that appears when you press Stop to an 'autoclose' message meaning that if you do not answer, it will close and assume the answer is no. As part of the transition to newer operating systems, this program was recompiled on Windows 8.1 using Visual Studio 2012 (next release will use 2013).

Changes in release v1.84:

- Corrected problem with Ping using short timeouts on Windows 8.1 and 7.
- Added autoclosing question about viewing reports after pressing Stop.
- Recompiled all software on newer compiler on Windows 8.1.

Getting our download link emails past your SPAM filters

Every week it happens – we email a download link to someone, then couple days later we follow up only to find out they never got the email. SPAM filters – they are becoming more and more of a problem.

We have tried splitting our download emails into two parts so that if you get only the second part, you can look for the first part in your spam filter folder.

We have also recently changed our link to zip files to a link to a .txt file. You are supposed to replace txt with zip *prior* to downloading – it seems get more

messages past the filters, but our logs show people clicking on the .txt link and getting a 404 before reading the message.

If you order something from us and expect a download link and you don't get the email in a reasonable time, please check your SPAM filters, then email or call us!

USB Flash Drives are not created equally

We are talking here about the tradition of the drives showing up as 'removable' on a Windows computer. Windows 8 changed all that.

Windows 8 certified USB Flash Drives appear as type 'Local Drive' (fixed disk/hard disk) as opposed to the traditional type 'Removable Disk'. The effect of this is that any software that expects to be running from a removable disk (USB Flash Drive) will not work properly if the USB drive appears as a fixed disk. *That includes both NetScanTools Pro USB Version and the Managed Switch Port Mapping Tool.*

The difference is apparently the state of a bit or bits in the USB flash drive controller. Some manufacturers have a utility to flip this bit and others just put out Windows 8 certified drives in addition to their standard design flash drives.

The USB's we use are Windows 8 *Compatible* which means it appears as a removable flash drive – and they are also USB v3 in addition to USB v2 compatible. Look carefully at the packaging Windows 8 logo or the online description and check the wording when they talk about Windows 8.

You can tell the state of your USB Flash Drive by opening File Explorer and right clicking on the flash drive and selecting Properties. Look for Type: Removable Disk on the General tab. That's what you want if you are using our software on a USB flash drive.

Contact Information

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

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