

NetScanTools® Pro



Monthly Newsletter

www.netscantools.com

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News

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News...

From the Editor...

Lots of things in work – not enough hours in the day. Have a great Holiday Season!

-Kirk

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.

NetScanTools Pro release coming soon

The next NetScanTools Pro release is coming soon – targeting the first week of November. 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.

Managed Switch Port Mapping Tool release coming soon

The next Switch Port Mapper release is coming soon – possibly the first or second week of November. In addition to the HiDPI and other changes mentioned last month, efforts have been directed towards better mapping of Extreme Networks switches. We can map switches with ExtremeWare 7.x and the earlier releases of ExtremeXOS (12.0.3.16). An interim release will probably be done which we continue research on mapping the later 15.x series - we are acquiring a switch capable of running later versions.

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

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.

Managed Switch Port Mapping Tool 2.35 Released Sept 5, 2014

This release improves reporting of VLAN information in the case of a device being a member of more than one VLAN. It also no longer allows you to remove ifIndex as a visible column – this prevents problems with other columns. Help menu links were updated to include a way to email for support and to download TeamViewer for remote support.

Changes in release v2.35:

- Devices on ports reported by qBridge that are members of more than one VLAN are now shown correctly with multiple VLAN numbers separated by commas.
- The Column Order and Visibility Editor no longer allows you to remove the Interface Index (ifIndex) column from the list of visible columns. If ifIndex is not visible a warning is displayed when you start a manual mapping.

- Results grid default row height is now increased for better readability on Hi-DPI displays.
- Added Help menu links for TeamViewer remote support.
- Added Help menu link to email support.
- Updated SQLite to version 3.8.6
- Updated MAC address/Manufacturer database.

Get the new release at www.SwitchPortMapper.com.

NetScanTools® Pro Version 11.62 released August 15, 2014

This release added the new IPv6 Syntax Validation tool (thanks go to Jeff Carrell for all his help!), consolidated the currently IPv6 capable tools into one menu bar link and addressed the way the top and left panel menus look on High-DPI displays (3200x1800).

It also added the ability to properly send packets to IPv4 multicast addresses when WinPcap is used to send the packets. Prior software versions did not use the correct destination mac address. And now you can also use new scripting commands to specify the source and destination mac addresses in Packet Generator.

One important fix was a change to the way responding ARP packets are processed in the ARP Scanner and Duplicate IP Scanner tools: it now only processes packets with IP addresses corresponding to the allowed range that you specified. Prior versions would show IPv4 addresses outside the range giving uncertain or hard to interpret results.

This is from the revision history section of the help file.

New:

- Added menu and left toolbar font scaling in Preferences. This allows the fonts to be scaled larger on High-DPI devices like laptops with 3200x1800 displays.
- Added IPv6 Address Syntax Validation Tool to both the IPv6 menu and DNS Tools Advanced.
- Added links to the IPv6 menu directing users to the tools that can interact using IPv6.
- Managed Switch Port Mapping Tool Launcher now has an additional button for launching the USB version of the software in addition to the installed version.
- Wireshark Launcher now has an additional button for launching the portable version of Wireshark in addition to the installed version.
- Packet Generator: source and destination MAC addresses can be changed in scripting. UDP manual send now has option to send current timestamp as payload in each packet.

Fixes:

- ARP Scanner, Duplicate IP Tool: now makes sure returning ARP packet is in range of what was sent. Local interface IP/MAC pairs must also be in that range.

Other Changes:

- Network Shares tool now recognizes Windows 8.1 devices.
- Packet Generator, Ping, Traceroute, Port Scanner and OS Fingerprinting: Multicast IPv4 addresses can now be used as destinations using WinPcap send modes.
- Updated SQLite to 3.8.6
- Updated database files.

You have the NetScanTools® Pro Maintenance Plan, but you are still many versions behind – why?

We see this all the time when people register. We see it when they renew their maintenance plan - we check the logs and see that they have never logged in and downloaded updates. For whatever the reason, the question remains, why are they installing 11.43 (for example) when we are at 11.61?

There are many good reasons to install the latest version: First of all is bug fixes, secondly there are new tools introduced with each .1, .2, .3, .4 etc. edition and thirdly, there are database updates.

OK – A Quick Review on upgrading to a new version. First thing you need is an active NetScanTools Pro maintenance plan. Start NetScanTools Pro and click on Help/Check for New Version. An embedded browser window opens up on the right side of the program. Click on the download link, a popup window appears. Enter your login credentials (shown to you in the program right above the embedded window) and download the zip file. Exit NetScanTools Pro and run the contents of the zip file which is actually a full install. Restart it and verify the latest version.

Contact Information

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

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