

NetScanTools® Pro



Monthly Newsletter

www.netscantools.com

January 2013



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News...

From the Editor...

January flew by fast and several things were released. The USB version of the Switch Port Mapper is high on the priority list as is another small release of NetScanTools Pro to correct some minor issues on Windows 8. NetScanTools LE needs to be updated soon too. Lots to do, so little time...

-Kirk

Managed Switch Port Mapping Tool v2.05 released January 28, 2013

The Managed Switch Port Mapping Tool v2 has been updated again in direct response to user input. We had a couple users run into some issues, so it became important to update it.

While the changes are mostly on the surface minor, they are still quite important. In fact, the issue that was addressed regarding Ping Sweep is a separate topic following this one – have a look if you are on a big network.

2.05 January 28, 2013

- -Fixed long standing problem where opening an XML results file would at times show distorted fonts in the results grid.
- -Fixed problem where Spanning Tree Protocol multi row cell information was not being saved properly to XML results file. It was not appearing as a multi row cell when imported into a spreadsheet or reopened from this app.
- -Fixed problem where community names or SNMPv3 credentials that contained SQL reserved characters like single or double quotes caused an SQL exception.
- -Changed the default action of Ping Sweep so that it now will only default to 'active' if the subnet mask is 255.255.255.0 or smaller.
- -Updated documentation to reflect methods for saving individual XML files during a Switch List action.
- -Updated SQLite to version 3.7.15.2
- -Updated MAC address/Manufacturer database.

Get the software by going to <http://www.SwitchPortMapper.com> or visiting NetScanTools.com and clicking on Managed Switch Port Mapping Tool.

Using Switch Port Mapper Ping Sweep option on a large subnet

Many releases ago we added in a Ping Sweep option and made it 'on' by default. We did this because we wanted to be sure the ARP tables were populated as best as possible. The default Ping Sweep IP range was calculated based on the computer IP address and the subnet mask – having it on by default for all subnet ranges was probably not such a good idea. Why? If you have a 10.x.x.x with a subnet of 255.255.0.0, the default calculated range has about 65,534 hosts. While that doesn't sound like too many it does take a fair amount of time to go through that many targets, it does detract from the purpose of the tool. It's even worse for 10.x.x.x if the subnet mask is 255.0.0.0 which it *can be*, so in that case the Ping Sweep default range would be **16,774,214 hosts** – way too many to ping. **So if you are pinging more than 1000 hosts or so, we recommend turning it off. Check the default range before mapping a new switch.**

We started to address this in v2.00 by adding a popup message when Ping Sweep gets going that warns you if you have over 1024 targets, but that was not enough. Version 2.05 looks at the subnet mask and if it is going to have more than an old style Class C number of hosts (253), it turns the Ping Sweep checkbox on the left panel off for NEW switches.

However, if you have a previous switch defined, the switch config saves that Ping Sweep checkbox state, so you will need to manually turn it off, then map the switch. Or you can go into left panel/Switch Lists/Switch Configuration Editor/Edit Switch Configuration to change the Enable Ping Sweep setting.

IPv6ScopeFinder v3.0 Released January 11, 2013

IPv6ScopeFinder is a freeware utility that helps you find the 'scope ID' which is used for link local network communication with IPv6. This release has somewhat of a facelift – we added the Window 8 style look and significantly changed the results grid. The results grid area now is immediately searchable by entering something into that search area below the column header. We can now also show multiple IPv6 global addresses for a particular scopeID and there are new export options like CSV, tabbed and HTML on the right click popup menu.

Here are the revision notes:

Version 3.00 released on January 11, 2013

- improved results grid to report multiple IPv6Global and IPv4 addresses per interface.
- changed lifetime reporting for IPv6 addresses.
- implemented searching, exporting and printing. New right click menu.
- User interface updated to Windows 8 style.

NetScanTools® Pro version 11.40 released December 28, 2012

You may be asking 'why hasn't there been a release since July?' – Most of my efforts were directed at finishing the Managed Switch Port Mapping Tool v2 – but at the same time the newest tool in 11.40 was being developed – it just took more time than I had anticipated.

About the newest tool: SSL Certificate Scanner

This tool was developed in response to several users requests for a tool that would inventory SSL enabled internal websites at those user's companies. It accepts a list of web server hostnames or IP addresses then retrieves the SSL Certificates from those sites using the https protocol. The information from the certificates is displayed such that you can see the expiration date and several other parameters of the certificate. If the certificate has expired, the date is shown in red. Not only does it look at the SSL certificate, but it looks at the connection. It shows the current connection bits and it also tests to see if the web server allows weak SSLv2 connections.

IPv6 Additions: Network Connection Endpoints now shows connected and listening IPv6 ports. You can recognize them by their IPv6 style IP addresses – note that “::” is like 0.0.0.0 in IPv4 which means listening on all IPs. The IPv6 address “::1” is like localhost or 127.0.0.1 in IPv4.

How to get v11.40: Click on Help/Check for New Version, then on Login Here – this requires an active maintenance plan and your access credentials are shown on the check for new version window in the program.

11.40 December 28, 2012

Changes:

- Registration Reminder Window: the Paste button now works properly.
- Windows 8 and Server 2012 hosted platforms are now properly identified for internal use.
- Favorites Left Panel Control Group: added new right click option to REMOVE a tool from the Favorites Group. You can also uncheck the box on any manual tool labeled 'Add to Favorites'.
- Most button heights have been increased by a couple units.
- DHCP Server Discovery now allows double clicking in the list of interfaces to start the discovery process.
- DNS Tools Core: added the MX preference to Get Basic DNS Records.
- Maintenance Plan Expiration Date is now checked periodically using our server to update the expiration date (you can turn this off in Preferences). We found that after plan renewal many users did not update the locally saved plan expiration date. Of course, the program continues to operate even if the plan expires, the locally saved date is there only as a reminder.
- IPv6 - Network Connection Endpoints now displays IPv6 for both TCP and UDP.
- Network Interfaces, Wireless now has a better message if the wireless interface is not active on Windows 8, 7 and Vista.
- Packet Flooder: improved the random target port generation and random packet length generation. They are now thread safe.
- Port Scanner now offers to generate a report in the web browser for Target List (multiple targets) results at the end of a scan.
- Port Scanner: added right click options to launch Telnet, FTP, web browser to connect with the target.
- Added more Real Time Blacklist servers to the list.
- SMTP Server Tests now has a dropdown list for retaining tested SMTP servers.
- SNMP Tools - SNMP Manager reworked and now supports using libeay32.dll both
- versions 0.9.8 and 1.0.x.
- TCP Term: fixed a problem where a error message would appear if the 'any' source port option was checked. It only affected operation on 64 bit platforms.
- Updated SQLite to 3.7.15.1
- Updated database files.

Coming Soon to NetScanTools Pro

A tool to find duplicate IPv4 addresses in a subnet and another tool to graphically layout a network.

Switch Port Mapper: Did you know?...

There is a full PDF manual available for immediate download for the Managed Switch Port Mapping Tool v2. Click on Help/Download PDF Manual from within the app.

NetScanTools Pro, LE and WinPcap on Windows 8

Windows 8 was formally released on October 26. Our software is compatible with it – however, in both NetScanTools Pro and NetScanTools LE we use a driver package called WinPcap for capturing and generating packets. WinPcap's installer has a problem running on Windows 8 because it does not recognize it as a 'supported' operating system. When you try to run it, you get an error message from the installer. It's not only NetScanTools Pro and LE that have problems installing because of WinPcap, other programs using WinPcap like Wireshark also have trouble installing.

I first noticed this problem back in March 2012 and informed the WinPcap authors of it, but as to this writing they have not updated the installer. Please use this blogpost as a guide to install the official WinPcap 4.1.2 package on your Windows system:

<http://netscantools.blogspot.com/2012/11/how-to-install-netscantools-pro-or.html>

Older Topics and Reminders

ipPulse v1.83 Released September 6, 2012

Thanks to some valuable feedback from a trial version user, we added these things to the program.

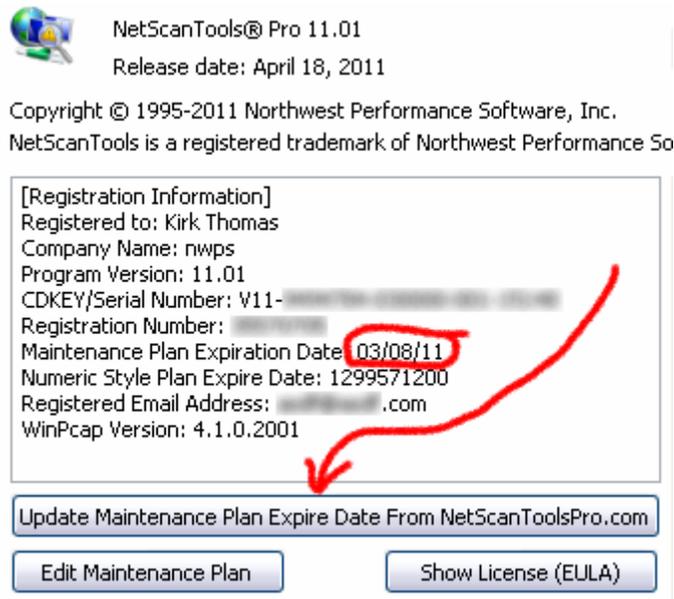
- Sorting has been added. Click on a header after you have stopped scanning to sort.
- Drag and reorder columns has been added. Left click on a header, hold down the button and move the column right or left. Note this is not 'sticky', in other words the columns will return to their original order on program restart.
- Improved 'autosizing' columns and added new right click menu options for autosizing.
- Some internal cleanup was done.

Updating your NetScanTools Pro Maintenance Plan Expiration date is easy – here's how

I got a call today that went sort of like this: “NetScanTools Pro is showing that the maintenance plan is expired and I didn’t get a renewal notice”.

It turns out that his plan was not expired in our database. So why was he seeing that message? His expiration date was not updated. The expiration date is kept locally in the registry so that when the program starts it can remind you that the expiration is coming up or has past. You can always ignore the message and use the software – you can even dismiss the message forever.

How to update your expiration date: Press the large button and your expiration date will be updated from our server (the software must be registered first). This image below shows where you can find the button the Help/About NetScanTools Pro window.



NetScanTools® Pro version 11 Demo available

The NetScanTools Pro v11 demo is ready now. Since it’s a demo, there are a few minor limitations like disabled saving.

If you have a license of NetScanTools Pro and you need a new full version download, please contact support – the demo will not help you – do not download it because we cannot unlock it.

How to get the demo:

<http://www.netscantools.com/nstprodemorequest.html>

Windows 8 and Compatibility with our Software

NetScanTools Pro 11.40, NetScanTools LE 1.50, NetScanTools Basic 2.20, IPv6ScopeFinder 2.00 and the Managed Switch Port Mapping Tool 2.04 all have been successfully installed and tested on Windows 8 retail version 32 and 64 bit. Our test platform uses Windows 8 installed in virtual machines with VirtualBox (try it out – it's pretty good). The detailed testing of each of NetScanTools Pro's tools has not been completed but it appears to operate within expectations.

Contact Information

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

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