

NetScanTools® Pro



Monthly Newsletter

www.netscantools.com

July 2013



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News...

From the Editor...

This newsletter is a bit late, but it highlights some new things in NetScanTools Pro. The biggest changes in v11.51 are more visual results in addition to the classic tabular results we have always had. More on that below along with several image examples.

Have a good summer!

-Kirk

New NetScanTools® Pro Demo with Philosophy Changes

On July 29, we released a new demo based on v11.51. Yes, we have done that many times before, but this demo is different. First of all it is based on the latest version 11.51. We have made some 'philosophy changes' that are moving it more in the direction of a trial than a demo. **What does that mean?**

Simple – user feedback showed us that some of the limitations we had in the demo were limiting trial users from fully testing the tools they wanted to try. For instance, limiting the user to their local subnet was not workable in an enterprise environment. And because the demo was behind the current version (quite a bit behind), some of the more important new tools were not in there like the Duplicate IP Scanner. These are the new limits on the demo which are far fewer than in previous demos:

1. No saving results.
2. The history database does not retain reports between sessions.
3. Packet Generator source IP address must be your computer's IP.
4. The RFC library is smaller to save download size.
5. The PDF manual is not included to save download size. It is available upon request.

You can try the NetScanTools Pro demo for 30 days and it can be found at www.NetScanTools.com.

We do not advise running the demo on the same machine as a current v11 - for best results, install it on a different machine.

NetScanTools® Pro version 11.51 released July 18, 2013

This release improves visual reporting and improves Port Scanner.

The charts that were added in v11.50 now have trend line analysis. Pie charts were also added to ARP Scan, Ping Scanner and Port Scanner giving you a quick visual summary of the responses. More on charting in the next article. Port Scanner now more clearly defines the types of responses to TCP and UDP probes.

Other changes and fixes were made to several tools. Some were minor like changing the text and making sure a tool is in the right order. But others like the changes to Port Scanner will make it easier to understand the results of a TCP or UDP scan. The most important fix was the passing of Context information into an SNMPv3 query. The Whois database was updated adding 16 new Top Level Domains (TLDs).

How to get v11.51: 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.

WHAT'S NEW IN THIS RELEASE

Version 11.51 July 18, 2013

New Features:

- ARP Scan, Ping Scanner and Port Scanner: New summary pie charts show an overview of the results. This is especially important in large data results (port scanner) situations where you may or may not quickly locate an open port in a long list of port results.
- ARP Ping, Ping - Enhanced, Ping Scanner, Traceroute: The 2 dimensional Timing Charts now have trend line analysis. There are linear line fitting plus a number of polynomial curve fitting options available. The line formula can be optionally shown. Each tool has a button to display the Timing Chart after you have used the tool.

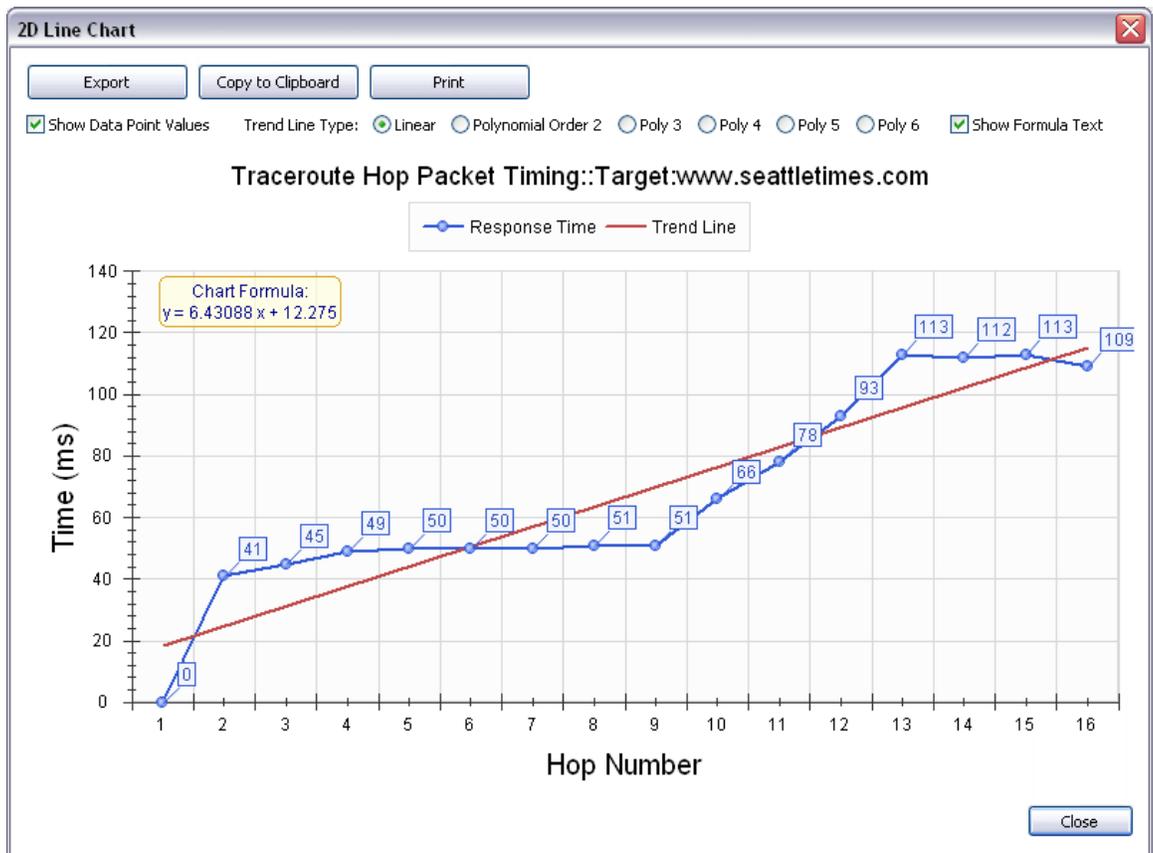
Changes:

- Packet Flooder: added total data bytes sent to status.
- Manual Tools Left Panel: Duplicate IP Scanner is now in the right alphabetic order.
- SNMP - Core and Advanced: SNMPv3 Context field is now correctly passed in the outgoing SNMPv3 packet. Bulk Repetitions now defaults to 32.
- ARP Cache: renamed Index column to I/F Index (interface index).
- Port Scanner: many internal changes to improve operation when scanning large port ranges. Changes to show rejected TCP connections and more clearly define Closed and Filtered UDP ports.
- Whois: added 16 new Top Level Domains (TLDs) to database.
- Updated SQLite to 3.7.17
- Updated database files.

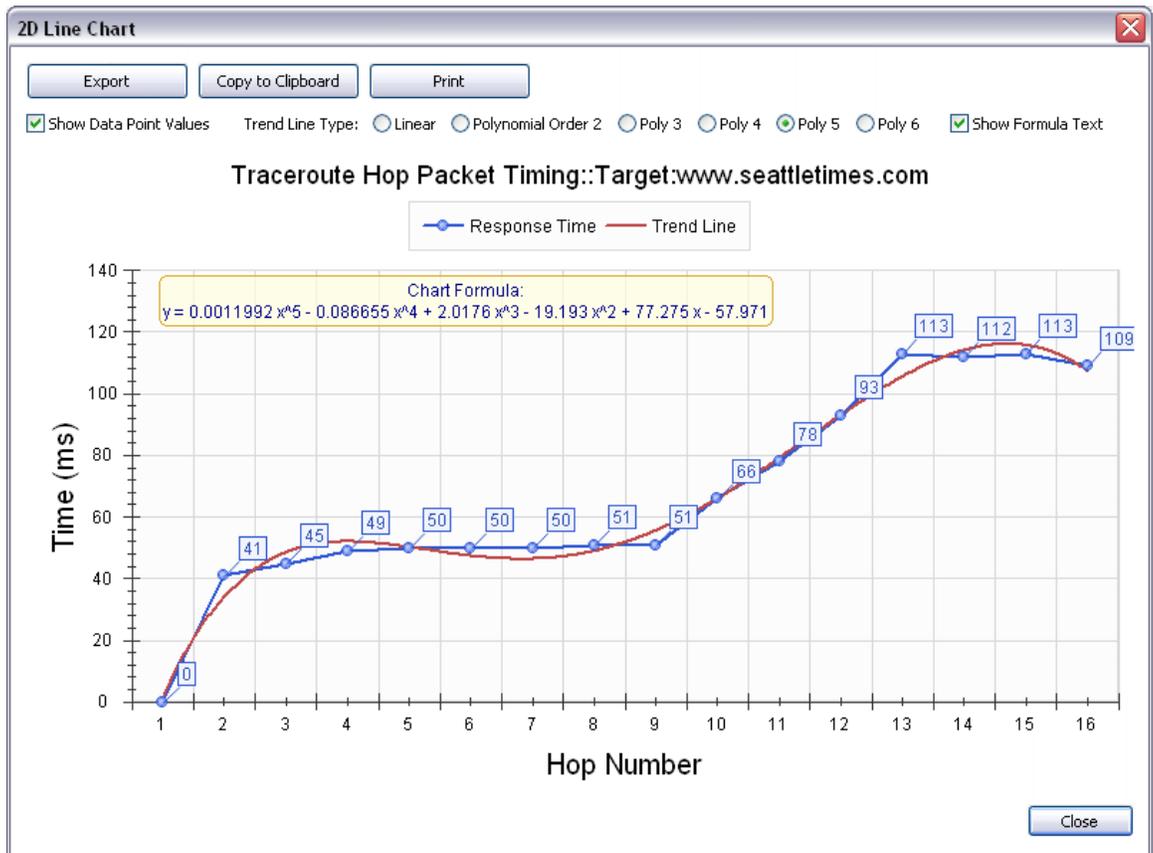
New Charts in NetScanTools Pro

The time charts introduced in NetScanTool Pro v11.50 have been modified to include Trend Line Analysis. The trend line options are linear and up to 6 degree polynomial fitting to the data. You can also see the formula used to fit the trend line to the data. The charts can be seen by using the tool, then pressing Show Timing Chart. The charts are on ARP Ping, Ping – Enhanced, Ping Scanner and Traceroute. You can print or save the charts.

Here is an example of the linear Trend Line fit to Traceroute data, Hop vs Response Time:

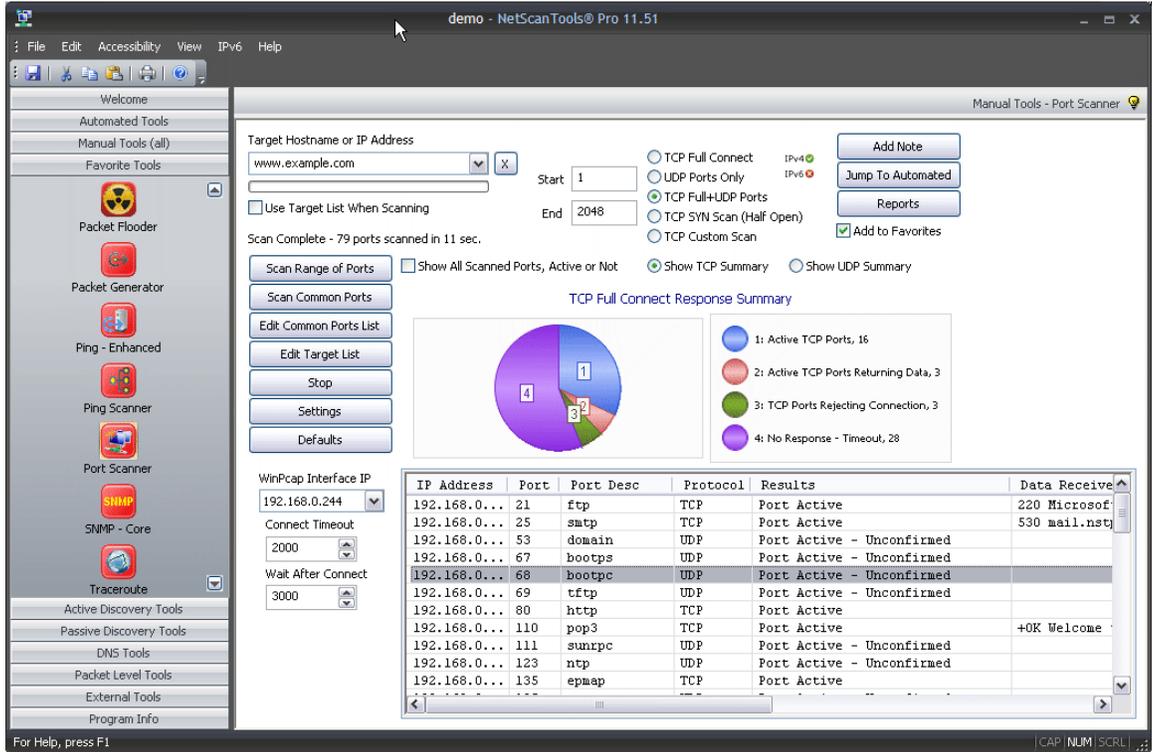


This is the same data with a 5 degree polynomial line fitting:



New Pie Charts have been added to several tools giving you a quick visual summary of the results without having to sort or search through the data. The charts are now on ARP Scan, Ping Scanner and Port Scanner.

Here is an example showing a summary of the TCP Full Connection results in Port Scanner:



Managed Switch Port Mapping Tool v2.11 released June 13, 2013

Managed Switch Port Mapping Tool v2.11 and v2.10 have significant changes affecting the operation of SNMPv3 and Ping Sweep.

The changes in v2.10 addressed the issue of Ping Sweep and the local ARP table on Windows 8, 7, Vista. Ping Sweep will now give much better results when you use it on the same subnet you are on irrespective of the allowed size of the ARP Cache (modifying the ARP cache size was discussed in the May 2013 newsletter).

The changes in v2.11 were equally important because they fixed a longstanding problem with using SNMPv3 on Cisco switches. The context field is used by Cisco to differentiate VLAN data in Bridge MIB, however, we were not properly applying the context field in our query – that is fixed. Cisco also requires some changes to the config to properly process contexts and that is now fully documented in the help file.

2.11 June 13, 2013

- SNMPv3 changes affecting Cisco® switches: corrected problem with context field that was not being added to the SNMPv3 queries.
- Documented changes to Cisco switch running-config that are required to use SNMPv3 and get meaningful results.

2.10 June 12, 2013

- Ping Sweep: significant internal changes to address ARP table issue reported in v2.09. These changes vastly improve collection of ARP information for all supported operating systems.
- Minor wording changes to Web Browser Summary Report. Added details about results of Ping Sweep action.
- Review History: it now remembers the last mode (Switch Lists or Manual Mappings) between successive uses of Review History within a session. If you were looking at a Switch Mapping, then come back to look at another, you do not have to reselect the mode again unless you are changing to a different mode.
- Review History: added switch alias column to Manual Switch Mappings view in the 'Switch Lists or Manual Mappings' list.
- Updated SQLite to version 3.7.17
- Updated MAC address/Manufacturer database.

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

USB Versions of NetScanTools Pro and the Managed Switch Port Mapping Tool

You may or may not know this, but we offer fully portable USB Versions of both NetScanTools Pro and the Managed Switch Port Mapping Tool. By 'fully portable' we mean that the software resides entirely on a USB Flash Drive. Everything is saved to the flash drive and the software runs from the drive. You do not need to install either application on the host system.

How it works: Simply plug the flash drive into a USB port on the host, then navigate with Windows Explorer to the drive and launch nstpro.exe or spmap.exe. NetScanTools Pro requires 'run as administrator' but you can run the Switch Port Mapper with normal user privileges. When you are done, you exit the application, use the operating system 'eject' to stop the USB flash drive and remove it. Your files stay on the flash drive.

It runs on Windows 8, 7, Vista and XP as well as the Windows Server Operating Systems. All you need is access to an open USB port and permission to use the port.

USB Version Purchase Options

- We can provide a new license preinstalled on a high speed 16 GB USB 3.0/2.0 compatible drive. Shipping is extra.
- Or you can install a new license on your own USB Flash Drive. We provide the files to place on the drive and interaction with Tech Support is required to activate it.
- We are also offering 'Sidegrade' which means you already have the installed version of NetScanTools Pro or the Managed Switch Port Mapper 2.x now and you also want it on on USB – you will end up with both licenses active. We can send it preinstalled on a USB Flash Drive or you can use your own flash drive.

The USB Versions are available now. Visit <http://www.netscantools.com/nstprousb.html> or <http://www.switchportmapper.com/switch-port-mapper-usb-version.htm>

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 11.01 (for example) when we are at 11.42?

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.

Northwest Performance Software, Inc.

PO Box 1375

Sequim WA 98382

(360) 683-9888

www.netscantools.com

sales [at] netscantools [dot] com

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