

NetScanTools® Pro



Monthly Newsletter

www.netscantools.com

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In this newsletter:

News

- **NetScanTools® Pro Version 11.52 released September 24, 2013**
- **New NetScanTools Pro USB Version Behavior with WinPcap**
- **New Managed Switch Port Mapping Tool 2.12 coming this week**
- **New NWPSW.com Website Up and Running**
- **USB Versions of NetScanTools Pro and the Managed Switch Port Mapping Tool**
- **You have the NetScanTools Pro® Maintenance Plan, but you are still many versions behind – why?**

News...

From the Editor...

I hope you had a great summer and now there is much work to do updating websites and software. Watch for a new release of NetScanTools Pro with new tools and a new release of the Managed Switch Port Mapping Tool with some new helpful features.

-Kirk

NetScanTools® Pro version 11.52 released September 24, 2013

This release has a number of small changes and improves operation on Windows 8.0 and 8.1. There is a change for the way WinPcap is used on the USB version. Please review the list of changes below.

DNS Tools Core: A warning is now shown explaining that editing the HOSTS file requires administrator privileges, ie. right click 'Run as administrator'.

Network Interfaces Wireless: wording changes to the data presented make it clearer what wireless parameters have been found. Added support for recognizing the new PHY type 'very high throughput' (VHT).

Packet Generator: improved performance on Windows 8.x. When sending continuously or in long sets of packets, it no longer appears 'no responding' to the operating system and the program should not appear hung (even though it was not hung).

DNS resolver changes make starting a Ping, Traceroute and some other tools faster.

Ping and Traceroute: it now detects if a firewall is preventing the software from seeing the outgoing packets which results in being unable to calculate the round-trip-time cannot be established. When the problem is detected a message is shown telling you of the problem and suggesting firewall changes.

Ping and Traceroute: improved analysis section, round-trip-time (RTT) is now shown with sub-decimal timing calculations, ie. 123.456 ms instead of 123 ms.

SMTP Server Tests: the SMTP server name or IP address is now correctly added to the list of recently used servers when doing a Relay Test.

Timesync: a warning is now shown explaining that TimeSync requires administrator privileges, ie. right click 'Run as administrator'.

Whois: updated server database with support for .com.ru and .msk.ru domain queries.

Slightly modified wording in Help menu regarding the Maintenance Plan Renewal webpage.

USB Version Only: change to the loading sequence for WinPcap. If a suitable or newer installed version of WinPcap is found on the host system, that WinPcap will be loaded instead of the WinPcap Pro 4.1.2 found on the USB Flash Drive.

Updated SQLite to 3.8.0.2 and updated database files.

How to get v11.52: 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.

New NetScanTools Pro USB Version behavior with WinPcap

Here are some additional details and background about the changes to the USB version 11.52 with respect to WinPcap. For several years we have been using a version of WinPcap known as WinPcap Pro or OEM. This special version did not require installation but rather installed and activated the WinPcap temporarily then deleted it. However, to do so it required Administrator privileges and gave us the requirement for NetScanTools Pro USB version to be started with right click 'Run as administrator'.

Last year the makers of WinPcap discontinued WinPcap Pro and this year they released v4.1.3 which is compatible with Windows 8.x (the 4.1.2 installer was not compatible). Since the last version of WinPcap Pro that we have is 4.1.2, we decided beginning with version 11.52 to check the host operating system for the presence of installed version WinPcap. If it is v4.1.2 or greater, we use the installed version found on the host. Therefore, if you know the host OS has WinPcap installed, you can start without using 'Run as administrator'.

Further changes will be necessary in subsequent NetScanTools Pro releases, possibly offering to install whatever the current version of WinPcap is at the time. We are going to phase out the use of WinPcap Pro since it is no longer updated.

New Managed Switch Port Mapping Tool 2.12 coming this week

Yes, it's time. 2.11 came out in July and now it's almost October. So v2.12 will include a minor algorithm change and also the new ability to optionally save the switch alias as part of the xml filename instead of the switch IP address. Look for this new release Oct 1 or 2, 2013.

New NWPSW.com Website Up and Running

Our original business website, nwpsw.com has been converted from Frontpage to Bootstrap. The content has been moved and most of it extensively rewritten and new images added. The site is mostly finished but I still have some small changes to make to the CSS. The nice part about it is that there is one site, one codebase of html for both desktop or mobile viewers. Visit getbootstrap.com for more information about Bootstrap.

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.

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