NetScanTools® Pro
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News...

From the Editor...

I've spent most of August doing home improvement projects and working on some changes to the new PingTrend utility.

-Kirk

NetScanTools Pro 11.90 USB Version Changes

This release is a major operational departure from previous releases. All previous releases used an old licensed version of WinPcap Pro (or OEM). This special version of WinPcap contained on the USB was activated if the host computer did not have WinPcap or Npcap installed and running. WinPcap Pro operated by creating a service in the windows/system32/drivers directory and launching it. However, in Sept 2017 users began to tell us that NetScanTools Pro reported WinPcap Pro was not working on Windows 10 64 while it worked fine on Windows 8.1. We were able to

confirm the behavior here. Remember, WinPcap has not been updated since Windows XP days.

For the last two years we have encouraged people to install WinPcap or Npcap on the host. As of v11.90 it became mandatory. I know this may be a problem for some people, however as more and more people are using it on Win10 and as the demise of Win7 becomes imminent, it simplified things to expect WinPcap or Npcap to be preinstalled on the host. Wireshark expects it and now we do.

For XP and older, use WinPcap from WinPcap.org – the installer is in the WinPcap directory on your USB flash drive. It does still work on Windows 10 for now.

For 10/8.x/7/Vista, use Npcap from nmap.org/npcap. Due to licensing restrictions we cannot include the Npcap installer.

You no longer need to use right click 'Run as administrator' when launching nstpro.exe, that was required to start WinPcap Pro. Just double click on it or 'open' it normally.

## Upcoming Managed Switch Port Mapping Tool Changes

September marks the start of changes to the switch port mapper. One request we have is to do a custom OID retrieval for ARP caches that are not in the normal place – they are in the 'private' mib area for the device. Another change will be to the text that appears when there is a communication issue with our server when the software does a check for new version at startup. If you have suggestions, email them by clicking on Help menu/Email Technical Support.

NetScanTools Pro 11.90 Released July 30, 2019

This release has a major new tool addition and a big improvement Ping Flooder. The new tool is a vastly superior version the existing Graphical Ping Tool. It operates much faster and saves all the latency data to an SQLite database. Read about it in detail in the next topic "NetScanTools Pro PingTrend".

The other major improvement is to the **Packet Flooder**. We have had several requests by customers to alter the flooder so that you could specify the percentage of outgoing bandwidth used. It's here. It's called 'auto' mode. You specify the desired bandwidth and press Send UDP Packets. The old mode is now called 'manual'.

As you can see in the running example below, we asked for a 30% bandwidth utilization in the Flood Mode section.
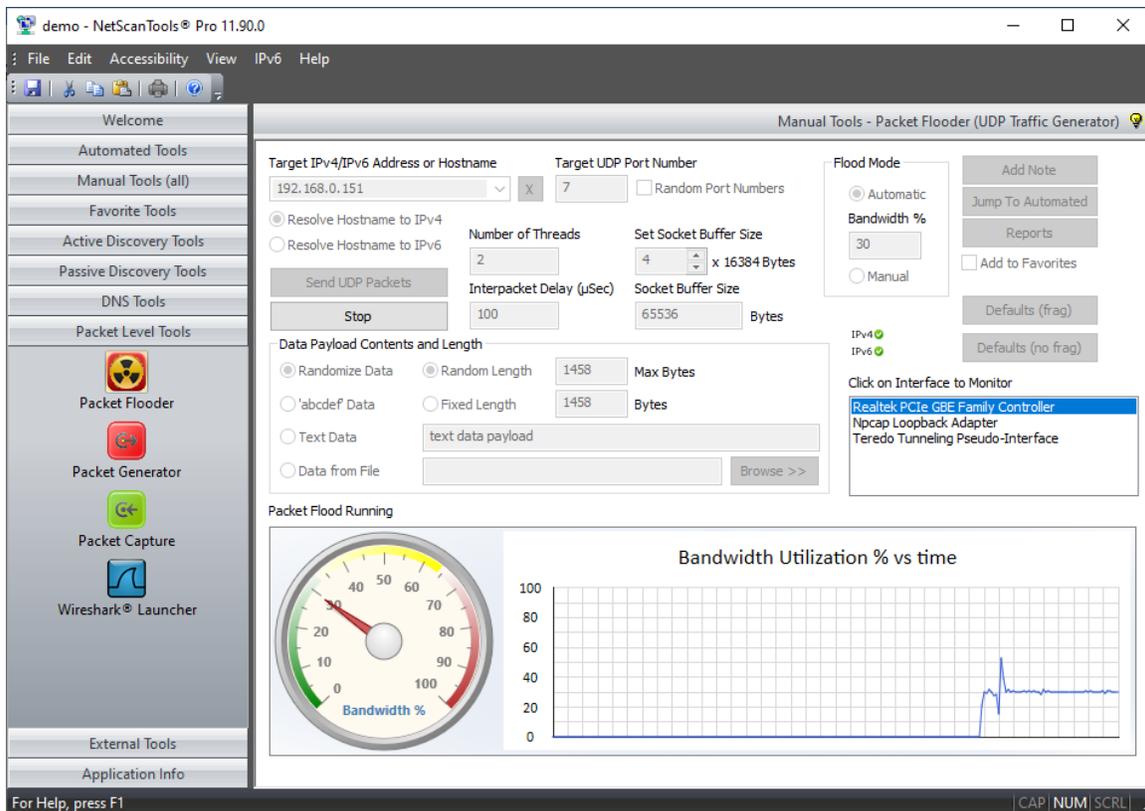
WinPcap. As you may know, WinPcap has not been updated for years. Several tools in NetScanTools Pro depend on WinPcap for capturing and sending packets. The Nmap developers took over the task of improving WinPcap and have done a great job. Npcap uses NDIS 6 instead of the old NDIS 5 that WinPcap uses. There are technical differences between the two drivers and this release looks for the presence of both drivers instead of only WinPcap. If either one is not running on the host, you will be told. It will also tell you if they are not installed. If you decide to install Npcap we recommend you use the default WinPcap API Compatibility mode.

USB Version Only/WinPcap: in all previous versions of NetScanTools Pro we have included the old WinPcap OEM or Pro. We licensed it years ago. The purpose of it was to have WinPcap available for use without installing it on the host system. However, Microsoft disallowed the method WinPcap OEM used for creating the npf.sys driver on the fly – probably for security reasons. Over the last few releases we have been deprecating it and insisting that WinPcap or Npcap be installed on the host system. 11.90 is the first version to fully require that. WinPcap OEM has been removed.

Click on Help menu/Check for Update to get the latest version – however, you must have an active maintenance plan to get this new version. USB version users will be downloading a patch – follow the directions carefully. Installed version users will be installing over the top of their current installed version.

NetScanTools Pro PingTrend

NetScanTools Pro. We have completed a new rapid repetition ping tool called PingTrend. It is being integrated into NetScanTools Pro and should be ready during the first week of July.

The purpose of this tool is to send ping packets rapidly (approx. 5ms fastest repetition rate) and save the response for analysis after sending is complete. Use it to detect link problems such as dropouts and slow responses. It is intended to run for hours. It shows graphically latency, average and jitter over the time you have run the tool. It is currently working quite well. It has been tested with 32 million pings so far.

This image shows the new tool. Note that we now have a dark and light theme for both the PingTrend tool and the reporting tool.
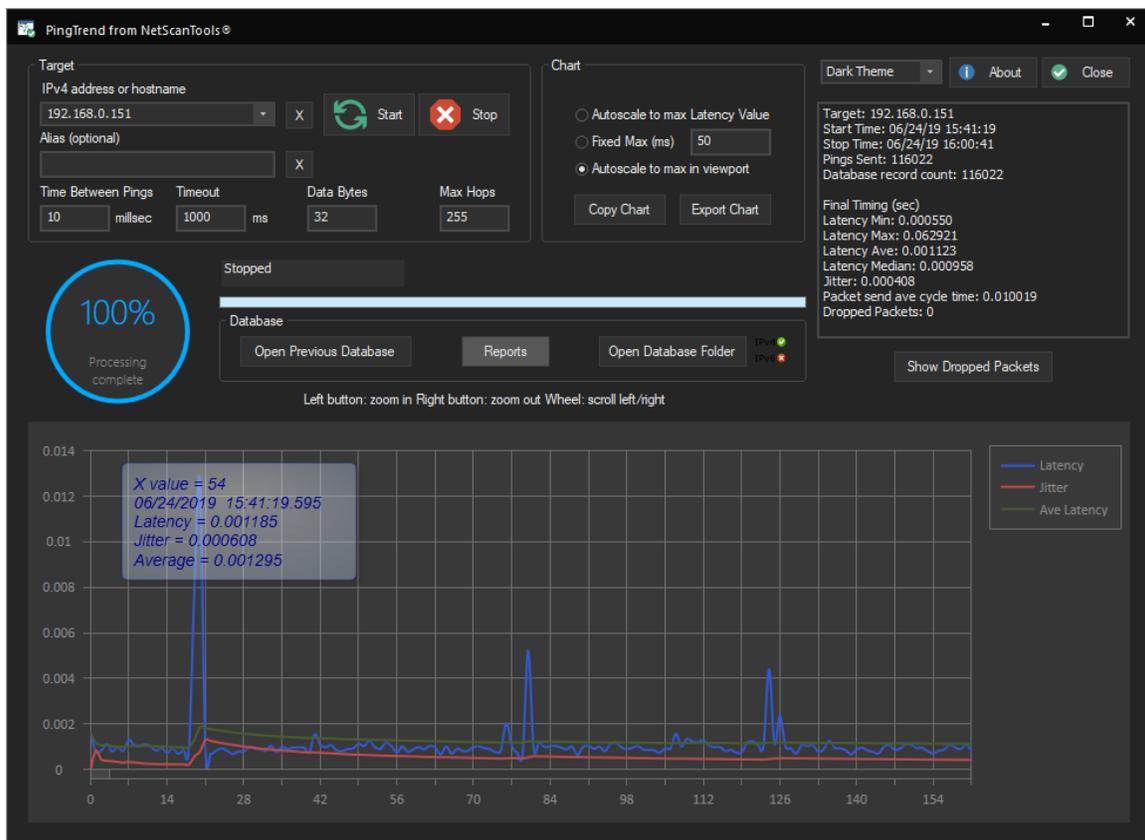
The next image shows the **new report tool** launched when you press the Report button. The Test Configuration chart shows the current data window (when launched it shows the whole database) including statistics over that window. The Latency Histogram chart breaks down the response time in groupings of milliseconds and shows a count along with an integrated bar chart. The Dropped Packets chart shows the total pings over the range, total dropped packets and sequential dropped – 2, 3, 4 and 5 or more sequentially dropped packets in a row.

As with the the main PingTrend tool, the report tool graph shows the latency, average and jitter over time. Hovering the cursor over a point on the graph gives you the time and data at that point. You can save or print the results.

'Dark mode' is shown. There is also a light mode.
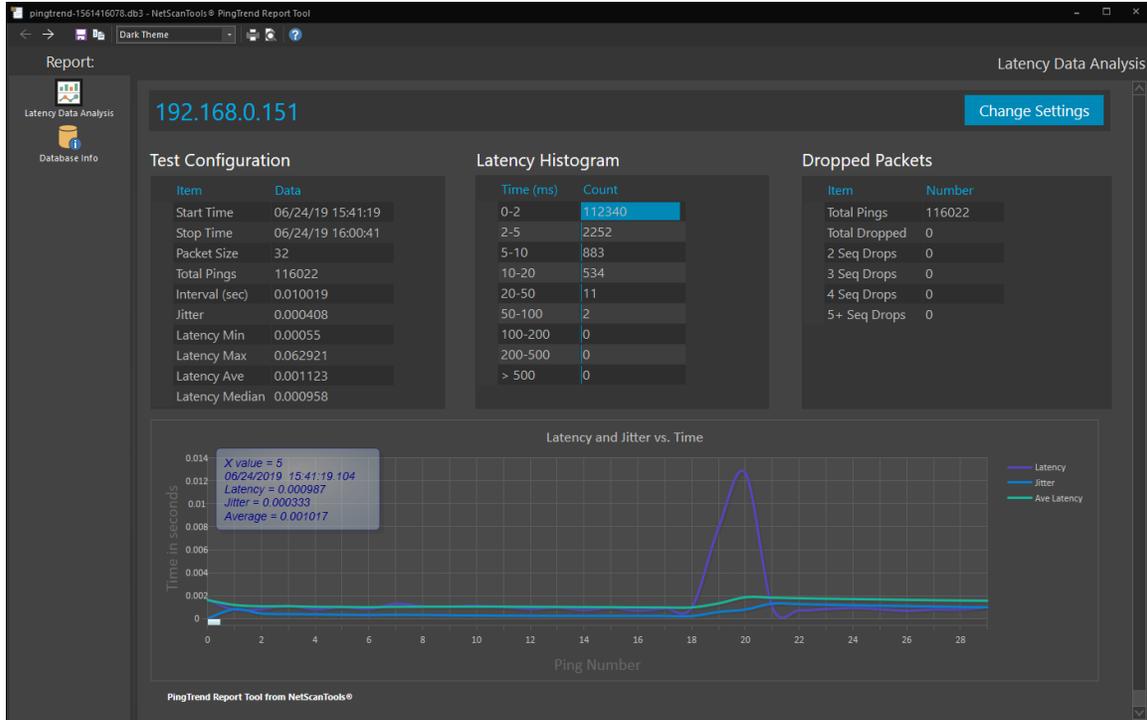
Contact Information

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