

Letters to the Editor

A Problem and a Solution

"Optimizing Login Scripts for Remote Users" (*Novell Connection*, Apr. 2001, pp. 27–29) seems to miss an important factor in the remote-connection issue: Where is the remote machine?

When I first set up a multi-site NDS tree that included different contexts for different locations, I performed a similar setup to that suggested in the article. However, I discovered several difficulties, especially when a particular user is local for some of the time, yet remote at other times.

The answer to this challenge was to gear my login scripts to the device/machine, rather than to the user. When connecting over IPX was my only option, using the NETWORK_ADDRESS login script variable to direct systems to the correct script instructions was easy. Typically, I would set every container login script to include a text file (normally in SYS:public) that nested other INCLUDEs in an IF-ELSE logic tree for each IPX network that was known. If the network address was unknown, then the reasonable equivalent of the default login script was processed.

With NetWare 5 and pure IP connectivity, I discovered a new wrinkle: IP-connected clients no longer responded correctly to the NETWORK_ADDRESS-based logic (it only works with IPX). As a result, I needed another answer.

Unfortunately, IP address information isn't available to the login script processor, nor does the processor perform pattern matching beyond "exact match." As a result, I set the IP network number in an environment variable for each machine on an internal (local) network. The login process followed the logic of the IPX logins, and a missing network number was a remote device by definition.

Jim Millard

The Future of NetWare 6

I have enjoyed reading your articles about NetWare 6 over the last couple of months. In addition, I have also attended a reseller presentation about NetWare 6. From a technical point of view, the product appears to be a much bigger leap compared to the differences between NetWare 4 to 5.

I am pleased to see that you can manage Novell Storage Services (NSS) through ConsoleOne. I find that the NetWare console is difficult for people who are new to networking. In fact, I believe that the server console prompt should be dropped and that all management should be done through a web browser or ConsoleOne.

Although some people find it easy to criticize some of the technology in Windows 2000, you must admit, it is usable. If I were new to networking, I would instantly feel comfortable with Windows 2000 or NT. I might avoid NetWare if I thought it was difficult to learn. Everyone is looking for the easiest route (Windows 2000 and NT) not necessarily the best route (NetWare).

In addition, it seems as if NetWare 6 will focus on storage, availability, and access. From a technology point of view, this is great, but it also needs strong application support.

Mark Burgess

Correction

The article "Active Directory: How Does It Measure Up?" (*Novell Connection*, Nov. 2000, pp. 20–34) says, "The DNS NS record associates human-friendly web names with computer-friendly IP addresses." This statement is not correct. In reality, NS records are Name Server resource records. What the author meant to say is the following: "The DNS A record associates human-friendly web names with computer-friendly IP addresses." Furthermore, in the example given in the same section, you should simply replace "NS" with "A." The author's statement about 98 percent of the DNS entries being "NS" records should also say "A."

Rich Casto

You're right. We have flogged the writer (figuratively, of course).

Circulation

Novell Connection is distributed to 140,000 Novell users worldwide.

How To Contact Novell Connection

Subscriptions. If you want a free subscription to *Novell Connection*, complete the online subscription form at www.ncmag.com/subscribe. You can also complete the subscription card in this issue and mail this card to the return address.

Change of Address. To change your address, you have four options:

- Visit www.ncmag.com/subscribe
- Send an e-mail message to address@ncmag.com
- Fax the change to 1-801-861-1656
- Write to *Novell Connection*, P.O. Box 52000, Provo, UT 84605-2000

Past Issues. You can view past issues of *Novell Connection* at www.ncmag.com/past. To order past issues, send a request to *Novell Connection*, P.O. Box 52000, Provo, UT 84605-2000. Please include U.S. \$5 per issue.

Letters to the Editor. Please send your letter via e-mail to editors@ncmag.com. You can also mail your letter to *Novell Connection*, P.O. Box 52000, Provo, UT 84605-2000. We reserve the right to edit and publish all letters.

Advertising. For information about advertising in *Novell Connection*, contact a *Novell Connection* sales manager:

- Steve Branda, Eastern and Northwestern sales manager, 1-201-814-0500
- Brian Smith, Central sales manager, 1-801-465-4753
- Kaye Young, Southwestern sales manager, 1-909-338-0050

You can also send an e-mail message to advertise@novell.com.

Novell User Groups. You can find out how to join a Novell user group at www.nuinet.com. You can also call 1-800-228-4684 or 1-801-861-2651, or send a fax to 1-801-861-2631.

Article Proposals. We accept articles from Novell networking professionals. Please send a proposed outline via e-mail to dpearson@novell.com, or mail the outline to Debi Pearson, *Novell Connection*, P.O. Box 52000, Provo, UT 84605-2000.

Copyright © 2001 by Connection Publishing Inc.