

RE: unexplained pausing/freezing of SSH Terminal Sessions ?

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Date: 05/24/04

Date: Mon, 24 May 2004 07:20:43 -0400

To: "OpenMacNews" <seureshell.20.openmacnews@spamgourmet.com>, <seureshell@securityfocus.com>

I may know the exact cause...

Do you use expect (scripting language) to initiate your SSH connections?

If not, I am not sure.

Something to try if not using expect, try telnet and see if it hangs, I also have had the same problem for years, the problem is (for me) I use expect, and it does not like certain characters and it will hang if it comes across them.

Using telnet or ssh ip without expect works fine.

-----Original Message-----

From: OpenMacNews [<mailto:seureshell.20.openmacnews@spamgourmet.com>]

Sent: Sunday, May 23, 2004 2:29 PM

To: seureshell@securityfocus.com

Subject: unexplained pausing/freezing of SSH Terminal Sessions ?

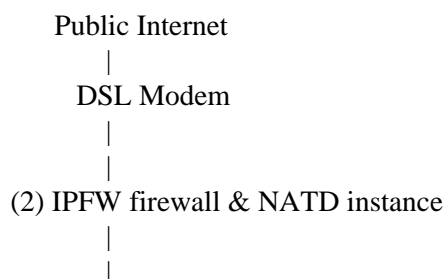
hi all,

i'm having an SSH Terminal Session "issue".

i'm honestly not sure where to turn on this one. I **think** it may be an SSH issue, but ...

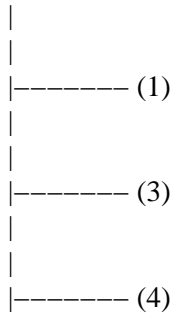
Any pointers/ideas/solution/etc are much appreciated!

I've a 4 machine setup. These machines define an internal/private network w/ internet access:



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10/100bT Ethernet Switch



/*

FWIW, these machines are:

(1) G4 PowerBook
OSX 10.3.3

(2) Mac 8500
Sonnet G3/333 upgrade
Sonnet TEMPO 66 ATA card (2 drives on Sonnet ... none on
internal bus)
2 Asante 696 10/100 Ethernet Cards (manually config'd to 100bT &
FullDuplex)
OSX 10.2.8 w/ XPF 3.0a17 & L2CacheConfig

(3) Mac 8500
Sonnet G3/333 upgrade
Sonnet TEMPO 66 ATA card (2 drives on Sonnet ... none on
internal bus)
Asante 690 10/100 Ethernet Card (manually config'd to 100bT &
FullDuplex)
OSX 10.2.8 w/ XPF 3.0a17 & L2CacheConfig

(4) Mac Beige G3
Sonnet G4/500 upgrade
Sonnet TEMPO 66 ATA card (2 drives on Sonnet ... ONE on internal
bus)
Asante 590 10/100 Ethernet Card (manually config'd to 100bT &
FullDuplex)
OSX 10.3.3 w/ XPF 3.0a17 & PowerLogix CPU Director 1.5.2

*/

All machines have OpenSSL 0.9.7d + OpenSSH 3.8.1p1 locally
compiled/installed ...

OpenSSH is configured to use only Protocol2, PublicKeyAuthentication
(1024 bit RSA keys), and TCP Wrappers.

SSHD runs as an 'on demand' service via xinetd, with TCP Wrappers
controlling/limiting access via the usual hosts.allow/hosts.deny

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configs.

With my authentication/access scheme, I can SSH FROM any machine TO any machine, as expected.

The "issue" arises in SSH'ing *TO* (4) from any/every other machine.

Specifically, once an SSH session is open/active, any task requiring a "lot" of data (example: "ls -al" of a large DIR) to be transferred via terminal session pauses (always) after a fraction of the expected data is transferred and (frequently) hangs the session.

Again, this ONLY happens in sessions TO machine (4) from OTHER machines.

Sessions opened:

- (a) between other machines
- (b) from (4) to other machines
- (c) from (4) to itself

... ALL operate at "full speed" with NO apparent pauses/hangs in the terminal sessions.

So far, in efforts to remediate, I've:

- (a) changed Ethernet MTU settings from 1500 to 576, both in pair combinations and 'en masse'
- (b) varied Client, Server and TCP timeouts in ssh_config & sshd_config
- (c) Turned session Compression "off"
- (c) turned off xinetd service of sshd, and reverted to standard daemon mode

NONE of these effort changed/improved the session behavior TO (4).

Any suggestions as to where to look next? I'm not even certain, yet, whether I'm missing something, or whether there actually is an issue here

Thanks,

Richard