

The cat came and stayed..

# The cat came and stayed..

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- *From:* WALI <[hkhasgiwale@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:hkhasgiwale@xxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Wed, 28 Mar 2007 22:30:58 +0400
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By the time you have finished reading this, I am sure you would have come across the most fascinating networking issue haunted by our friendly ghost Casper.

With reference to my earlier thread, (Re: When cat comes chasing...), this time the cat came and stayed. Having exploited most of my resources , I finally decided to involve our ISP hoping that this would be the end of it...but it wasn't supposed to be that way.

So, to cut a long story short, ISP had provided us with EoATM 100 mbps link between two locations, say A and B.

But, since the line was given, we felt that we were not only having intermittent problems that required switch reset but also felt that we were not getting the right speed and the data transfer rates(FTP copy and other stuff) was really not befitting a 100Mbps link.

In order to make sure, this time the ISP guy brought some equipment to our premises and confirmed that speed at Layer 2 is indeed 100.

There are two cisco routers across Sites A and B and two media changers at each end converting Fiber to UTP. Media converters are also set at 100Mbps.

Now a strange thing is that when we configure the two routers (Site A and B) in 'bridging' mode and start data transfer across, the speed becomes incrementally fast ( which should be taken as normal at all times). There is also another 100Mbps link provided by the same ISP to us between Buildings A and C, which works just fine, as it should be.

The moment we enable our routers at Site A and B in Routing mode, We get to suffer delays and all data transfers slow down, without bringing any core/edge switches into the picture.

Various things have been done to reach some conclusion:

1. Ip Router configurations has been reset and put to bare minimum needed with ipcef enabled, all QoS commands disabled.
2. Configurations has been checked with all combinations of Speed Auto/100 FullDuplex/Auto with best results coming out of FD/100 but still far below satisfactory.
3. Equipment which serves between Site A and C has been temporarily put between Site A and B, with same non-satisfactory results.
4. Earthing issues/Electrical disruption in the Room where routers are located has been looked into. Routers on both sides have been changed to rule out hardware issues. We also did a test on the line by bringing our

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routers into another room ruling out some electrical disturbance of any sort.

Seems like, at Layer 2, despite being showing us full 100mbps, Layer 3 and above transfers are unable to provide the required service. Opening applications across the two buildings is very slow as most of our servers reside at Site A with user base at Site B.

Currently this ISP engineer has provided us with a patched pure fibre link between Sites A and B without any intervening ISP equipment in between and we have connected our two core switches in both buildings directly to the UTP interface of Media converter but that's not the permanent solution. ISP Engineer is also trying hard to find this ghost problem. He says that he has found no problems on his side and the only thing that comes in the middle is a MPLS enabled router. But even he is a bit baffled.

What else can we look at?

Thanks for taking time to read this whole ghost story. If you have read this all, I am sure you won't stop thinking ;)

At 12:57 AM 3/24/2007 +0100, Antonin Kral wrote:

Hi Wali,

\* WALI <hkhasgiwale@xxxxxxxx> [2007-03-24 00:50] wrote:  
> Crazy Solution: I take out any patch cable and re-inserts it, the problem  
> gets resolved. I reset any switch, the problem gets resolved. I disconnect  
> any uplink cable between the four switches or do a ARP reset thru command  
> line, the problem gets resolved for couple of hours or even days.

This sounds like problems with spanning tree in the network. Do you run STP? Take a look at the topology changes reported by stp. Or one more thing – this could happen because of over-filling CAM (switching) tables of particular switch. Check if you are not running out of memory somewhere.

Cheers,

Antonin

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