

# Re: LMHOSTS FILE

**Source:** <http://www.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/securityfocus/security-basics/2001-07/0135.html>

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**From:** Googi Singha ([googi@mindspring.com](mailto:googi@mindspring.com))

**Date:** 07/23/01

Message-ID: <00e001c11397\$431c6b90\$f4aa7bcf@ssingha>  
From: "Googi Singha" <[googi@mindspring.com](mailto:googi@mindspring.com)>  
To: "Michael Blauvelt" <[mblauvelt@primeinc.com](mailto:mblauvelt@primeinc.com)>, <[security-basics@securityfocus.com](mailto:security-basics@securityfocus.com)>  
Subject: Re: LMHOSTS FILE  
Date: Mon, 23 Jul 2001 12:48:12 -0400

I'm generally not a large fan of LMHOSTS –

LMHOSTS is used to resolve IP addresses from NetBios names which in itself is a vulnerable protocol. It can also cause network congestion in "larger" or routed networks because the requests poll every machine and start higher up the TCP/IP stack. LMHOSTS can be hard to maintain if you switch your servers around a lot too.

Personal recommendation –

Disable LMHOST and setup a WINS server instead – depending on the size of your network you can schedule updates by "push" or "pull" methods.

We use only 2 WINS servers for about a 6000 user network – just to give you some idea of low overhead of this topology. Setup the WINS on the same box running your local DHCP.

Hope this helps.

googi...

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

From: "Michael Blauvelt" <[mblauvelt@primeinc.com](mailto:mblauvelt@primeinc.com)>

To: <[security-basics@securityfocus.com](mailto:security-basics@securityfocus.com)>

Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2001 5:38 PM

Subject: LMHOSTS FILE

> *Are there any security issues surrounding the LMHOSTS file in WinNT? I am*

> *trying to decide whether it should be disabled or not.*

> *Thanks,*

>

> *Michael Blauvelt*

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> <http://www.primeinc.com>

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> *This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential*

SecurityFocus BASICS: Re: LMHOSTS FILE

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- ***Previous message:*** Gavin Millard: "Re: Port scanning"
- ***In reply to:*** Michael Blauvelt: "LMHOSTS FILE"
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