

Re: wireless + wired + dhcp +... : improper default route

Source: <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/Debian/2003-12/5905.html>

From: Jerome BENOIT (jgmbenoit_at_wanadoo.fr)

Date: 12/30/03

Date: Tue, 30 Dec 2003 15:29:57 +0200
To: Matt Foster <mattfoster@clara.co.uk>

Thanks for your reply.

Matt Foster wrote:

> *Quoting Jerome BENOIT (jgmbenoit@wanadoo.fr):*
>
>> *Thanks for your reply: following the below advice*
>> *I wrote an adequate script that I put in the directory*
>> */etc/network/if-post-down.d*
>> *to set a default route when it is missing:*
>>
>> *route add default gw <default ip>*
>>
>> *According to the man page we can specify the Iface,*
>> *instead to let the kernel to chose for us,*
>> *by adding something as `dev eth0':*
>> *I have tried it, but each time*
>> *the default route seems to be blocked after a while*
>> *(except when I set the kernel favorite Iface).*
>>
>> *My basic idea was to write after some basic checks:*
>>
>> *route del default*
>> *route add default gw <default ip> dev <fastest connected iface>*
>>
>> *but as I said I got into troubles:*
>>
>> *I guess I missed something:*
>> *any idea ?*
>>
>> *Thanks in advance,*
>> *Jerome*
>
>
> *This may just be me being dense,*

I was asking for a hint.

Please note that I am not (yet) familiar with network stuff.

> *but why the 'if–post–down.d' directory, as*
> *opposed to the 'if–up.d' directory? Surely it would be more logical to*
> *change the routing tables when a new interface comes up?*

in my /etc/network/interface I wrote

```
iface eth0 inet dhcp
```

```
iface wlan0 inet dhcp  
    wireless_<option> <value>
```

so the routing table is managed by the dhcp manchine. This work fine when only one iface is involved, but troubles emerge when the two ifaces are involved. For the post–down why, please see below.

>
> *What kind of troubles ddi you have with the route exactly?*
>

Up to now I encoutered two cases:

1]

my wireless iface (wlan0) and my wired iface (eth0) are plugged (my automation scheme used ifplugd): I can do basic stuff. Now if the iface that hold the default route is unplugged, then the default route is removed by ifdown (called by ifplugd). In other words I have no more default route, hence my post–down action to set up the default route (when the other card is still present):

```
route add default gw <default ip>
```

This just mimics what /etc/dhcp3/dhclient–script does. And it works.

2]

My second point is that the choice of the default route iface is done by the kernel since the above command contains no `dev' option. So as my wired connection is far faster than my wireless connection, I want the eth0 iface as my default interface when possible: to do so, I try the following:

```
route del default  
route add default gw <default ip> dev eth0
```

and to check the routing table:

```
ping ping.symantec.com
```

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If the default iface was eth0 before the `del' action,
the pinging is ok;
but if the default was `wlan0',
the pinging is ok for a short time,
and then it is lost.

Note that for my wlan0 iface, I have to used the fresh ndiswrapper
driver, so may be the trouble come from there.

Thanks,
Jerome

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