

Re: Why is adding a new Ubuntu PC to an existing LAN such a pain?

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- *From:* Brian Fahrlander <brian@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sun, 21 Jan 2007 20:48:04 -0600
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Garry Knight wrote:

Which leads me to something I've never understood. I tell my router to do this so that I can put the name and IP of each machine in /etc/hosts. Otherwise, how can you access another machine by name? My machines know their hostname and so does the router. My machines also know their own domainname but the router doesn't as there's nowhere to configure it in the router setup. So, if I don't put the machine names and IPs in /etc/hosts, when I try to ping one of my machines by name, some machine out on the Internet gets pinged instead.

How do other people set up DHCP yet still manage to ping machines on the LAN by name? Am I overlooking something?

There's a tactic I used to help in this exact situation. Consider the ".local" domain. Hand it to the machine doing DNS for the entire site, and make aliases for "www", "dns", "time", and other handy ones. Ya do this, because you're not at "mydomain.com" – that's on the outside. Using "mydomain.local" solves some problems.

DHCP becomes easier. You don't have to use IP addresses, and you can set <MAC ADDRESS> to "ws01" and be done with it.

Firewalling is easier. With a proper name, you can reverse-check a machine's IP address.

NFS is easier; with a proper name, you can use a wildcard ending in .local.

It's just a really simple addition that makes things easier. I have no idea why people don't do it...though it's just the same thing you'd do for the _outside_...

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...and maybe it'll help.

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