

Please help! Pretty please? (DNS trouble, I think)

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Hi,

I'm so damn frustrated by how utterly clueless I am about what could be the reason of this behaviour that I can't even begin to imagine how it is physically possible that it happens.

Here's what's happening:

I log on to the server (it's a "dedicated server" that we're renting from a web hoster — it has "direct" connection to the net, with a static IP address), and type the command:

```
$ telnet localhost 5555
```

For about ten seconds I have no reply. Then, I get the expected:

```
Trying 127.0.0.1...
telnet: connect to address 127.0.0.1: Connection refused
```

(there's nothing listening on that port, and there is no iptables rules affecting that port either)

If I type:

```
$ telnet 127.0.0.1 5555
```

Then I get the expected response in zero time.

The file /etc/hosts contains the following: (I changed the actual IP addresses and names, but other than that this is verbatim what the /etc/hosts file contains)

```
--- FILE CONTENTS BEGIN ---
```

```
# Do not remove the following line, or various programs
```

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```
# that require network functionality will fail.  
127.0.0.1 localhost.localdomain localhost  
1.2.3.4 www.domain.com  
1.2.3.5 secure.domain.com  
1.2.3.6 mail.domain.com  
--- FILE CONTENTS END ---
```

The file /etc/host.conf contains a single line:

```
order hosts,bind
```

Can you think of something that could explain this behaviour?? I'm tempted to think that it's our hoster's DNS servers fault (I tried telnetting port 53 of their DNS servers, and it did take some time to reply); but the thing is that I can not understand or justify how could that affect the behaviour of a connection to localhost. I mean, that even if their DNS were slow, or misconfigured, or even completely down, I still don't see how that would produce a delay in establishing a connection to *localhost*.

Could someone please enlighten me?

Thanks,

Carlos

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