

# iptables and masquerading – slow to initiate connection

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Howdy, all!

I am using iptables on a dual-NIC Mandrake 10 box as a home network masquerading firewall and DNS server.

In general, everything works (internet name resolution and web browsing) except that initial response times are very slow – browsing to sites from the linux box always fail immediately on the first attempt and I need to click on the reload button, and pages are slow to respond from my Windows XP workstation behind the firewall.

If I ping a host on the internet from either the firewall or from my workstation behind the firewall, name resolution is very fast but the first two ping replies are always lost:

```
>ping mail.yahoo.com
```

```
Pinging login.yahoo.akadns.net [216.109.127.60] with 32 bytes of data:
```

```
Request timed out.
```

```
Request timed out.
```

```
Reply from 216.109.127.60: bytes=32 time=55ms TTL=241
```

```
Reply from 216.109.127.60: bytes=32 time=44ms TTL=241
```

```
Ping statistics for 216.109.127.60:
```

```
  Packets: Sent = 4, Received = 2, Lost = 2 (50% loss),
```

```
Approximate round trip times in milli-seconds:
```

```
  Minimum = 44ms, Maximum = 55ms, Average = 49ms
```

Any ideas? This is driving me crazy!

Thanks,

Rob