

## Re: My hostname not being registered via DHCP

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Date: Wed, 02 Feb 2005 23:42:46 -0500

UncleStoner wrote:

- > *Thanks for taking the time to reply.*
- >
- > *I should have provided more high-level detail in my original post. I'm*
- > *actually on a corporate LAN, which hosts mostly windows boxes and whose*
- > *various services (DHCP, DNS, etc) are presumably provided by Windows as*
- > *well.*
- >
- > *I'm one of the few people in this environment trying to get a Linux box*
- > *up. My Windows boxes all have hostnames that I assign them, and they*
- > *all use DHCP. Somehow, they are able to get their names resolvable on*
- > *the network. I assumed that they did this by sending their names to*
- > *the DHCP server when they requested an IP (and all the other stuff a*
- > *DHCP client requests from a DHCP server), and then the DHCP server did*
- > *some magic, in conjunction with the DNS server, to make those hostnames*
- > *resolvable.*

DHCP and DNS is not likely how the Windows machines are discovering each other; it's usually based on NETBIOS naming (though Windows does use DNS as well).

You should be able to do the same from your RH8 box with a little work:

– Run SAMBA on your RH8 box. Just running the SAMBA server should be enough to get it to broadcast your hostname so other Windows machines will see it. However, you may need to do some configuration depending on how your LAN is set up (check out the Samba docs or <http://www.samba.org> for info).

– Set up your own name resolution mechanism to check "wins". You can do this by editing the file `/etc/nsswitch.conf`. Look for a line like this:

```
hosts: files dns
```

and add the token "wins" to the end e.g.

```
hosts: files dns wins
```

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At least, that works on FC3 and slackware 10. I don't know about Redhat 8. In any case, what it should do is add a "wins" resolver to the resolver list for hostnames, so if the name resolver doesn't find a network hostname in the hosts file or from DNS it will try WINS next. You can check the man page for nsswitch.conf for more info.

Hope this helps!

Jim P.  
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