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ORA-12154: TNS:could not resolve the connect identifier specified Error and Solution

Posted by [Vivek Gite](#) <vivek@nixcraft.com>

Q. My [Oracle XE installation was working](#) ^[2] fine, but today I'm getting an error - which read as follows under Ubuntu Linux :

ORA-12154: TNS:could not resolve the connect identifier specified

How do I fix this problem without reinstalling Oracle?

A. Try following solutions:



Make sure DNS / host name resolution working fine

```
$ host oracle-server-ip
$ host oracle-server-hostname
```

Make sure /etc/resolv.conf and /etc/hosts and /etc/host.conf configured properly.

Make sure tnsnames.ora is configured properly:

Type the following command to login as oracle / dba user:

```
$ su - oracle
$ cd /usr/lib/oracle/xe/app/oracle/product/10.2.0/server/network/admin/
$ vi tnsnames.ora
```

Make sure hostname / IP is correctly defined and resolving perfectly:

```
# tnsnames.ora Network Configuration File:

XE =
  (DESCRIPTION =
    (ADDRESS = (PROTOCOL = TCP) (HOST = vivek-desktop) (PORT = 1521))
    (CONNECT_DATA =
      (SERVER = DEDICATED)
      (SERVICE_NAME = XE)
    )
  )

EXTPROC_CONNECTION_DATA =
  (DESCRIPTION =
    (ADDRESS_LIST =
      (ADDRESS = (PROTOCOL = IPC) (KEY = EXTPROC_FOR_XE))
    )
    (CONNECT_DATA =
      (SID = PLSExtProc)
      (PRESENTATION = RO)
    )
  )
```

Make sure the host, port and service name specified are correct in listener.ora and above file:

```
$ cd /usr/lib/oracle/xe/app/oracle/product/10.2.0/server/network/admin/
$ vi listener.ora
```

My sample working file:

```
# listener.ora Network Configuration File:

SID_LIST_LISTENER =
  (SID_LIST =
    (SID_DESC =
      (SID_NAME = PLSExtProc)
      (ORACLE_HOME = /usr/lib/oracle/xe/app/oracle/product/10.2.0/server)
      (PROGRAM = extproc)
    )
  )

LISTENER =
  (DESCRIPTION_LIST =
    (DESCRIPTION =
      (ADDRESS = (PROTOCOL = IPC) (KEY = EXTPROC_FOR_XE))
      (ADDRESS = (PROTOCOL = TCP) (HOST = vivek-desktop) (PORT = 1521))
    )
  )

DEFAULT_SERVICE_LISTENER = (XE)
```

Make sure firewall is not blocking TCP ports:

```
$ sudo iptables -L -n
```

If everything else failed try to trace problem by running strace:

```
$ su - oracle
$ strace -o /tmp/debug.sqlplus sqlplus user/password
```

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[1] Image: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/faq/category/troubleshooting/>

[2] Oracle XE installation was working: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/howto-install-linux-oracle-database-xe-server/>