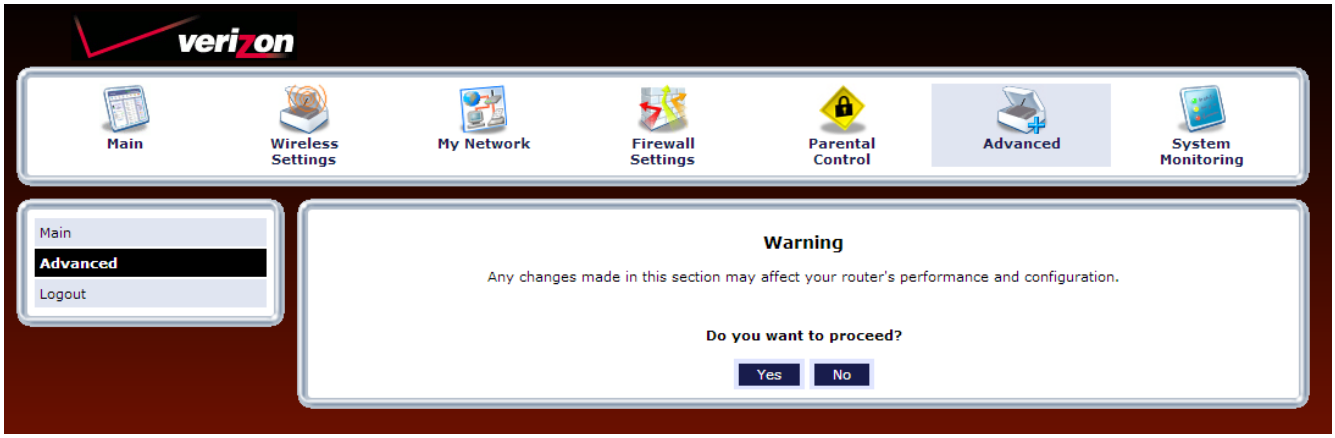
Configuring Verizon FiOS router for NAT loopback

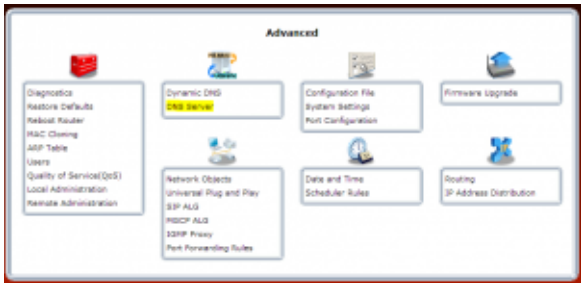
I run my own server at home, and host my site on it. The WHS software provides a subdomain on the homeserver.com domain. Browsing this domain from within my network has always caused problems – essentially, my browser ends up showing me my router's configuration page.

Why is this happening? Because DNS lookup of my domain returns my public IP, which takes me to my router. If I were *outside* of my network looking in, my router would happily forward port 80 requests to the private IP address of my server. But without proper configuration, port forwarding only works for packets coming *into* my network. Packets originating inside my network don't get processed by port forwarding rules, thus leaving me at my router's configuration page.

The workaround for this problem is an easy one – I simply edit my computer's hosts file (Windows 7 hides this file at C:\Windows\System32\drivers\etc\hosts) and add an entry for my homeserver.com subdomain with the private IP address of my server. While a bit hack-ish, this was a perfectly suitable solution for me – up until now.

Poking around my router's interface, I searched for DNS settings. I found what I needed under the Advanced section.





After confirming that I wanted to proceed, I clicked the DNS Server section,

and added an entry for jkshay.com pointing to my router's private IP address.

I saved my changes, ensured that my computer was receiving its DNS settings from the router, *removed my hosts file entry*, and voila! – I could now browse to jkshay.com from *within* my network successfully!

A quick check of my mail on my smartphone confirmed that I had successfully configured NAT loopback on my FiOS router.