**Differences Between the HOSTS and LMHOSTS Files in Windows NT**

**Summary**

In Windows NT, the **HOSTS** file is for TCP/IP utilities, and the **LMHOSTS** file is for LAN Manager NET utilities. If you cannot PING another computer (using a friendly name), check the **HOSTS** file. If you cannot NET VIEW a server using only the TCP/IP protocol, check the LMHOSTS file.

**More Information**

The **HOSTS** file is used when you do something with the TCP/IP utilities, such as PING, FTP, and TELNET. You can find the HOSTS file in the winnt\system32\drivers\etc directory. The format of the file is the following:  
 IP Address Friendly Name  
 130.25.25.87 jsmith\_nt # Remarks are denoted with a #.

With an entry like this in the **HOSTS** file, you could PING jsmith instead of typing out the whole IP address (ping 130.25.25.87). This file is NOT dynamic, so you need to add entries manually.  
  
The **LMHOSTS** file is for LAN Manager name resolution with the TCP/IP protocol. The file is similar in format to the **HOSTS** file, but its function is to resolve IP addresses for a server that is not on the local subnet (the same wire). So, if you type the following

NET VIEW \\JSMITH\_NT

and JSMITH\_NT is on a different subnet, you will receive a "**Server not Found**" error message. If you are on a different subnet, edit your **LMHOSTS** file (in the same directory as the **HOSTS** file) to read as follows:  
 IP Address Friendly Name  
 130.25.25.87 jsmith\_nt  
 So when you type "NET VIEW \\JSMITH\_NT" (without the quotation marks), the LMHOSTS file tells Windows NT to replace the "\\jsmith\_nt" with the IP address to resolve where the server is.  
  
For additional information on the LMHOSTS file in Windows NT, query on the following words in the Microsoft Knowledge Base:

lmhosts and windows and nt