



CompTIA Network+® Lab Series Network Concepts

Lab 9: Network Troubleshooting

Objective 1.7: Summarize DNS concepts and components

Objective 1.8: Given a scenario, implement network troubleshooting methodology

Objective 2.3: Explain the purpose and properties of DHCP

Objective 4.3: Given a scenario, use appropriate software tools to troubleshoot connectivity

Document Version: 2015-09-18



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Development was funded by the Department of Labor (DOL) Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) Grant No. TC-22525-11-60-A-48; The National Information Security, Geospatial Technologies Consortium (NISGTC) is an entity of Collin College of Texas, Bellevue College of Washington, Bunker Hill Community College of Massachusetts, Del Mar College of Texas, Moraine Valley Community College of Utah.

This workforce solution was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. The solution was created by the grantee and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties or assurances of any kind, express or implied, with respect to such information, including any information on linked sites, and including, but not limited to accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability or ownership.

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Introduction

This lab is part of a series of lab exercises designed to supplement coursework and provide students with a hands-on training experience based on real world applications. This series of lab exercises is intended to support courseware for CompTIA Network+ errification.

Networks are important to business processes and when they are not fully operational it is costly and frustrating to the users. Network administrators need to understand not just how to keep the network functional, but also how to approach troubleshooting problems when a network is not fully operational. This lab will review troubleshooting and a methodology that will provide ideas on where to start in the problem-solving effort. This methodology will be used as a guide in troubleshooting two protocols widely used in networks and it is important to be able to diagnose issues with them. DNS and DHCP will be the two protocols focused on in this exercise.

This lab includes the following tasks:

- Using the Problem Solving Process Troubleshoot a Suspected DNS Issue using CLI utilities and Resolve the Issue
- 2. Configure an Operational DHCP Scope of Addresses
- 3. Observe the Effects of a Deactivated DHCP Scope and Resolve the Problem

Objective: Network Troubleshooting

Successful troubleshooting requires a logical and methodical process. The following are steps for troubleshooting and problem solving network problems as recommended by CompTIA. You should be familiar with these steps to demonstrate Network+ mastery:

- Identify the problem.
- Gather Information
- Consider Possible Causes
- Devise a Solution
- Implement the Solution
- Test the Solution
- Document the Solution

Key terms for this lab:

Domain Name Service (DNS) – the protocol used to resolve and map hostnames and domain names into IP addresses on the Internet. DNS uses UDP port 53 for initiating requests. Name servers, or DNS servers are servers that contain databases of associated names and IP addresses and provide this information to resolvers (hosts) on request.

Nslookup: a utility used to perform query testing of DNS servers and obtain detailed responses at the command prompt. This information can be useful for diagnosing and solving name resolution problems.

Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP) – protocol used to automatically assign network configuration parameters to devices on a network. Parameters include IP address, subnet mask, default gateway, server addresses such as DNS, and lease time. DHCP uses port number 67 to communicate from client to server and port 68 from server to client.

DHCP Scope – the consecutive range of possible IP addresses that the DHCP server can lease to clients on a network or subnet. Scopes typically define a single physical subnet on your network to which DHCP services are offered. Scopes are the primary way for the DHCP server to manage distribution and assignment of IP addresses and any related configuration parameters to DHCP clients on the network.

Command Line Interface (CLI) – a text-based method of accessing the shell of an operating system. Usually CLI provides a more powerful, direct way of executing programs and utilities.

Universal Resource Locator (URL) – the named address of a resource on the Internet.

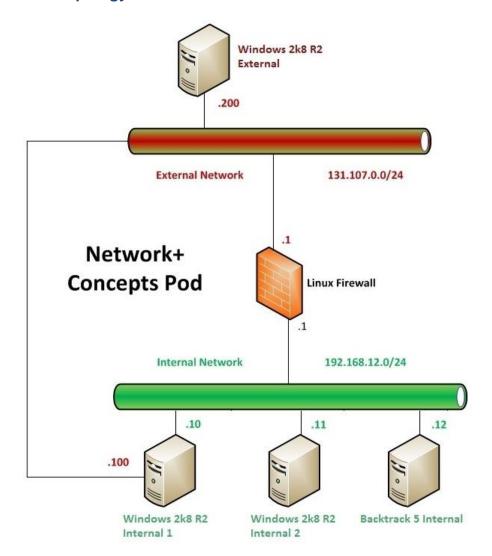
Fully Qualified Domain Name – the complete domain name for a specific computer, or host, on the Internet. The FQDN consists of two parts: the hostname and the domain name.

ipconfig – The ipconfig command is used to view or modify a computer's IP addresses, to release and then renew the IP address, and flush the DNS resolver cache.

Ping – used to verify basic TCP/IP connectivity to a network host.

APIPA (Automatic Private IP Addressing) – A Microsoft Windows feature used when there is a failure in DHCP servers, allowing DHCP clients to obtain IP addresses. APIPA allocates IP addresses in the private range 169.254.0.1 to 169.254.255.254 and are displayed in ipconfig /all as autoconfiguration IPv4 addresses. When the DHCP server is operational clients correctly update their addresses automatically.

Lab Topology



Lab Settings

The information in the table below will be needed in order to complete the lab. The task sections below provide details on the use of this information.

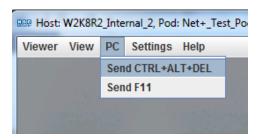
Required Virtual Machines and Applications

Log in to the following virtual machines before starting the tasks in this lab:

Windows 2k8 R2 Internal 1	192.168.12.10
Windows 2k8 R2 Internal 1 password	P@ssw0rd
Windows 2k8 R2 Internal 2	192.168.12.11
Windows 2k8 R2 Internal 2 Password	P@ssw0rd

Windows 2k8 R2 Login (applies to all Windows machines)

- 1. Click on the Windows 2k8 R2 icon on the topology that corresponds to the machine you wish to log into.
- 2. Use the PC menu in the NETLAB+ Remote PC Viewer to send a **Ctrl-Alt-Del** (version 2 viewer), or click the **Send Ctrl-Alt-Del** link in the bottom right corner of the viewer window (version 1 viewer).



3. In the password text box, type **P@ssw0rd** and press Enter to log in.



4. If the Initial Configuration Tasks and/or Server Manager windows appear, close them by clicking on the "X" in the top-right corner of the window.

1 Troubleshoot a Suspected DNS Issue Using CLI Utilities

Scenario: Users are complaining that the new company website at http://www.ips.com cannot be accessed. They were informed of the new website in a company memo. As a member of the IT support group you are tasked with troubleshooting and resolving the issue.

1.1 Using the Problem-Solving Process Troubleshoot a Suspected DNS Issue

Through your training, you know the first thing you need to do is isolate the problem. Based on your experience, this appears to be a DNS problem, but to be sure you will use a logical and methodical process of problem-solving to resolve the issue.

You begin gathering information by speaking with one of the users experiencing the access problem, asking the user questions and based on the information received you consider possible causes. Problems with network connectivity and DNS are two possibilities that you suspect as causes.

You remember that DNS is a protocol that is part of the TCP/IP suite of protocols. It is used to resolve the URL or website addresses that are readable to people into numerical IP addresses that are readable by computers. The DNS server keeps records of the addresses that are readable to people to IP address resolutions. The local computer will also build a cache of addresses that have been previously resolved by the DNS server. The user's computer accesses the correct DNS server by its configured TCP/IP settings. DNS is implemented in two software components; the DNS server and the DNS client. Your user's machine is the DNS client. Using utilities such as ipconfig /all, ping, and nslookup, you will troubleshoot to find a solution the problem. Once solved, you will implement the solution, document it, and explain the situation to the user.

You start the investigation by checking to see if there are any other network connectivity issues.

- 1. Use the instructions provided in the Lab Settings section to log onto the Windows 2k8 R2 Internal 1 machine, if you are not logged in already. If the Server Manager window appears, please close it.
- 2. Go to **Start > Search box** and type **cmd** and then press **Enter**.
- 3. Issue the **ping** command to the **loopback address 127.0.0.1** to verify the TCP socket on the local machine. It is successful.

4. Issue the ping command to the host IP address to test the IP configurations of the local host (the user's computer). Refer to the table in the Lab Settings section to find the IP address of the Windows 2k8 R2 Internal 1 machine (192.168.12.10). It is successful.

```
Microsoft Windows [Uersion 6.1.76001]
Copyright (c) 2009 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users\Administrator\ping 127.0.0.1

Pinging 127.0.0.1 with 32 bytes of data:
Reply from 127.0.0.1: bytes=32 time(1ms TIL=128
Reply from 127.168.12.10: bytes=32 time(1ms TIL=128
Reply from 127.168.1
```

The previous tests have helped to determine that the computer has its TCP/IP setting configured and the stack is functioning properly.

Next, the tests will determine that the TCP/IP setting on the host computer are correct in relation to the network it is configured for, particularly those settings that are used for DNS name resolution since that is one of the potential causes of the existing problem.

 At the command prompt, type ipconfig /all. This will display the full TCP/IP configuration for all NICs on the system, including DNS, DHCP, and WINS settings.

```
Administrator: C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe
                                                                                                                          C:\Users\Administrator>ipconfig /all
Windows IP Configuration
                                                              W2K8R2Internal1
     Primary Dns Suffix
       Hybrid
                                                              No
No
                                                              netplus.com
Ethernet adapter Local Area Connection:
                                                              netplus.com
Intel(R) PRO/1000 MT Network Connection
00-50-56-90-29-A0
     Connection-specific DNS Suffix
    Connection specific bid said Description
Description
Dhysical Address
DHCP Enabled
Autoconfiguration Enabled
Link-local IPv6 Address
IPv4 Address
                                                              res
fe80::5501:2c24:fb0a:daax11(Preferred)
192.168.12.10(Preferred)
255.255.255.0
192.168.12.1
234901590
     Subnet Mask .
     Default Gateway . .
DHCPv6 IAID . . . .
DHCPv6 Client DUID.
                                                                   01-00-01-18-D2-A7-35-00-50-56-9C-27-3B
    DNS Servers . . . . . NetBIOS over Topip.
                                                              192.168.12.10
Enabled
```

6. Locate the default gateway IP address from the ipconfig /all output. Ping the default gateway to verify the router that takes you outside your local LAN is accessible. It is successful. This will help you narrow down what could be causing the original problem of not being able to access the new website at http://www.ips.com by eliminating lack of network connectivity.

```
Administrator: C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe

C:\Users\Administrator>ping 192.168.12.1

Pinging 192.168.12.1 with 32 bytes of data:
Reply from 192.168.12.1: bytes=32 time<1ms TTL=64

Ping statistics for 192.168.12.1:
Packets: Sent = 4, Received = 4, Lost = 0 <0% loss>,
Approximate round trip times in milli-seconds:
Minimum = 0ms, Maximum = 0ms, Average = 0ms
```

You have eliminated loss of network connectivity within the LAN as the cause of the problem by proving connectivity to local hosts. Now it is time to test connectivity to the DNS server to be sure that the user's computer can access it.

7. Locate the DNS server IP address from the ipconfig /all output. At the command prompt, ping the DNS server to make sure it is accessible from the user's computer. It is successful. This proves that the DNS server is accessible, but that does not mean that DNS is functioning properly because you are still using an IP address in your testing.

```
Administrator: C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe

C:\Users\Administrator\ping 192.168.12.10

Pinging 192.168.12.10 with 32 bytes of data:

Reply from 192.168.12.10: bytes=32 time(1ms TTL=128

Ping statistics for 192.168.12.10:

Packets: Sent = 4, Received = 4, Lost = 0 (0% loss),

Approximate round trip times in milli-seconds:

Minimum = 0ms, Maximum = 0ms, Average = 0ms
```

8. At the command prompt, type **nslookup**?. Nslookup is a command-line utility for testing and troubleshooting DNS servers. Nslookup? shows available commands in the utility.

 Nslookup can be used to test DNS failures. At the command prompt, type nslookup followed by the IP address of the user's computer.

```
Administrator: Command Prompt

Microsoft Windows [Version 6.1.7600]

Copyright (c) 2009 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users\Administrator>nslookup 192.168.12.11

Server: w2k8r2internal1.netplus.com

Address: 192.168.12.10

Name: w2k8r2internal2.netplus.com

Address: 192.168.12.11
```

Nslookup is useful in this situation because it has allowed you to verify that name resolution is working. The output has returned the name and IP address of the DNS server that resolved the name. It also shows you the fully qualified domain name and the IP address of the host you specified in the command that is that of the user's computer.

10. You have now determined that network connectivity is functional and DNS is working properly. Now, type nslookup www.ips.com to learn if the DNS server is resolving the name to an IP address. Based on your findings, it can be concluded that the URL provided may be incorrect.

```
C:\Users\Administrator: C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe

C:\Users\Administrator>nslookup www.ips.com
Server: w2k8r2internal1.netplus.com
Address: 192.168.12.10

DNS request timed out.
    timeout was 2 seconds.

*** Request to w2k8r2internal1.netplus.com timed-out

C:\Users\Administrator>
```

11. By contacting the department that distributed the memo and checking the URL of the new website, you learn that the correct URL is http://www.isp.com. Type nslookup again with the correct URL to see that DNS is now resolving it.

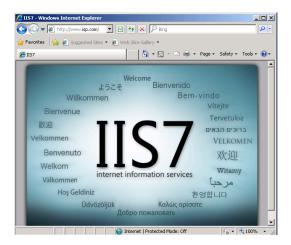
```
Administrator: C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe

C:\Users\Administrator>nslookup www.isp.com
Server: w2k8r2internal1.netplus.com
Address: 192.168.12.10

Non-authoritative answer:
Name: w2k8r2external.isp.com
Address: 131.107.0.200
Aliases: www.isp.com

C:\Users\Administrator>
```

12. Open a web browser and try to access the new website using the corrected URL, http://www.isp.com. The website opens in the browser.



1.2 Conclusion

There are many useful CLI utilities that can be used for troubleshooting and problem solving on the network. Even with all the tools available, it is still important to work through solving problems using a logical and methodical process. A good starting point for troubleshooting is to identify the problem and gather information about what is wrong and who is affected. This makes it easier to come up with possible causes and work toward solutions of the problem.

1.3 Review Questions

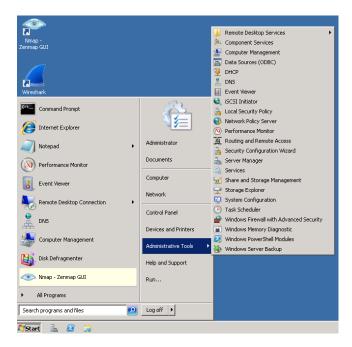
- 1. What does the nslookup command do?
- 2. What utility can be used to find out the IP address, subnet mask and default gateway configured on a computer?
- 3. What is the function of the DNS protocol?
- 4. If a client does not have the correct DNS server address specified in its TCP/IP properties, what will occur?

2 Configure an Operational DHCP Scope of Addresses

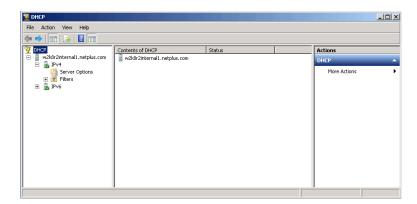
A DHCP server is used to automatically assign TCP/IP configuration parameters to devices on a network such as: IP address, subnet mask, default gateway, and server addresses such as DNS. The DHCP Scope is the consecutive range of IP addresses that the DHCP server can lease to clients on a network or subnet. In this task, you will configure DHCP on a server and test it to be sure the client is receiving the correct DHCP configurations.

2.1 Configure a DHCP Server Scope

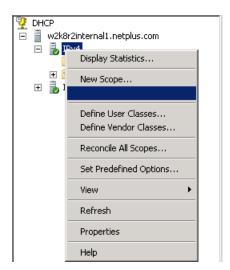
- 1. Use the instructions in the Lab Settings section to log into the Windows 2k8 R2 Internal 1 machine, if you are not logged in already.
- 2. Click Start > Administrative Tools -> DHCP



3. Click on the + next to the w2k8r2internal1.netplus.com machine to expand.



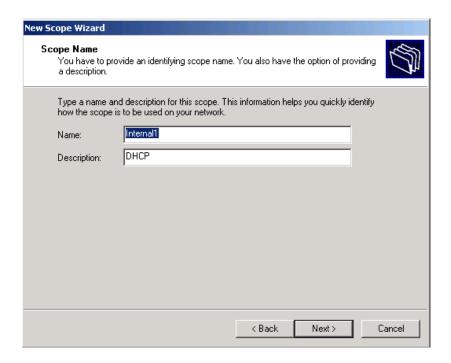
4. Right-click on IPv4 and select New Scope from the shortcut menu.



5. The Welcome to the New Scope Wizard screen appears. Click **Next**.



On the Scope Name Wizard screen, type in the name, Internal1 and a
description, DHCP. These are just variables decided by the network
administrator so a name or description would be selected according to the
company conventions. Click Next.



7. On the IP Address Range Wizard screen, type the Start and End IP address. Use the start address, **192.168.12.3**, and the end address, **192.168.12.30**. These addresses need to be usable IP addresses within the same network/subnet as the host **to** which they will be assigned. You may also need to configure a length or subnet mask. The length and subnet mask are used to indicate the number of bits being used to identify the network portion of the host IP address. In this case, you will accept the default settings because that is the correct subnet for this scenario. Click **Next**.

IP Address Range	
You define the scope address range by identifying a set of consecutive IP addres	ses.

_C(Configuration settings for DHCP Server							
E	Enter the range of addresses that the scope distributes.							
	Start IP address:	192 . 168 . 12 . 3						
	End IP address:	192 . 168 . 12 . 30						
Configuration settings that propagate to DHCP Client								
	Length:	24-						
	Subnet mask:	255 . 255 . 255 . 0						

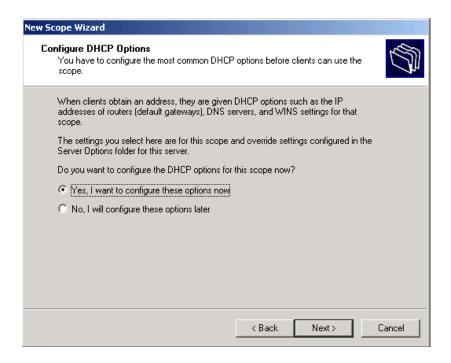
8. On the Add Exclusions and Delay Wizard screen, enter a valid start and end IP address. For this scope, the start IP address for excluding IP address from being dynamically assigned to hosts is **192.168.12.3** and the end address in the range is **192.168.12.14**. This range of addresses is selected to be left out of the scope because some of them are statically assigned to other devices on the network and since IP addresses need to be unique within a network excluding these from possibly being assigned again will prevent duplicate IP address problems on the network. Type the addresses into the wizard and be sure to click **Add** to save the settings. Leave the Subnet delay at the default setting. Click **Next**.

New Scope Wizard						
Add Exclusions and Delay Exclusions are addresses or a range of addresses that are not distributed by the server. A delay is the time duration by which the server will delay the transmission of DHCPOFFER message.						
Type the IP address range that you want to exclude. If you want to exclude a sing address, type an address in Start IP address only.						
Start IP address: End IP addres	ss: . Add					
Excluded address range:						
192.168.12.3 to 192.168.12.14	Remove					

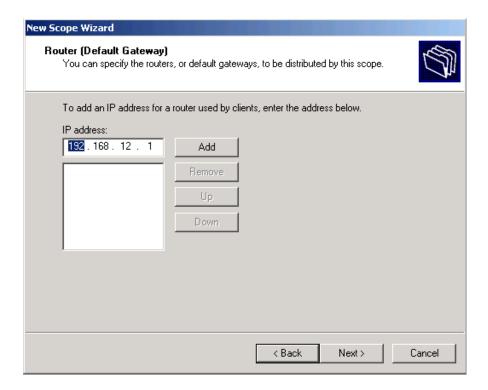
9. On the Lease Duration Wizard screen, accept defaults and click **Next**. DHCP allocates the IP address for specified periods of time known as a lease. The Lease duration specifies the time, in seconds, from address assignment until the client's lease on the address expires.

New Scope Wizard					
Lease Duration The lease duration specifies how long a client can use an IP address from this scope.	9				
Lease durations should typically be equal to the average time the computer is connected to the same physical network. For mobile networks that consist mainly of portable computers or dial-up clients, shorter lease durations can be useful. Likewise, for a stable network that consists mainly of desktop computers at fixed locations, longer lease durations are more appropriate. Set the duration for scope leases when distributed by this server. Limited to:					
Days: Hours: Minutes:					
< Back Next > Ca	ncel				

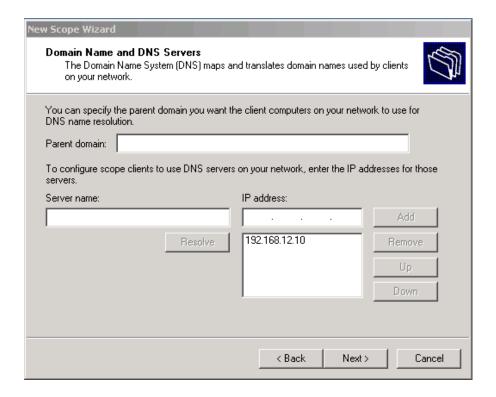
10. A host IP address, subnet mask, default gateway are the main options that need to be configured through DHCP. If a system is part of a domain or needs to connect to the Internet the domain name and DNS server options need to be configured. For Windows systems WINS can also be configured. On the Configure DHCP Options Wizard screen, click the Yes button and click Next.



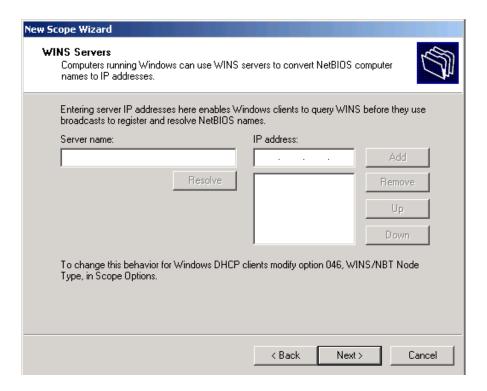
11. On the Router (Default Gateway) Wizard screen, type in **192.168.12.1**, click **Add** and then click **Next**.



12. There is no domain to configure for this network. Notice the DNS server IP address has already been added to the options to be configured on the DHCP clients. On the Domain Name and DNS Servers Wizard screen, click **Next**.



You will not be configuring a WINS setting on this scope. On the WINS Servers Wizard Screen, click Next.



14. On the Activate Scope Wizard screen, click the Yes button and click Next.



15. Click **Finish** to complete the New Scope Wizard.



- 16. Close the DHCP Dialog Box and all other open windows.
- 17. To test out the scope configuration, we will use the **Windows 2k8 R2 Internal 2** machine, enabling it as the DHCP client. Login to this machine following the steps outlined in the Lab Settings section, if you are not logged in already.
- 18. If the Server Manager window appears, please close it.
- 19. Open the Network and Sharing Center by right-clicking the network access icon on the bottom-right of the task bar and click Open Network and Sharing Center.



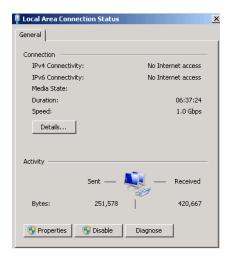
20. Click Change adapter settings in the left panel.



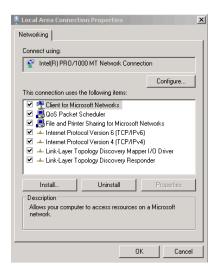
21. Double-click on the network card named Local Area Connection.



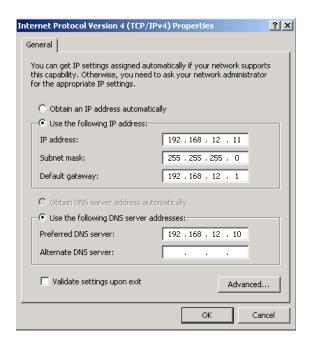
22. Click Properties.



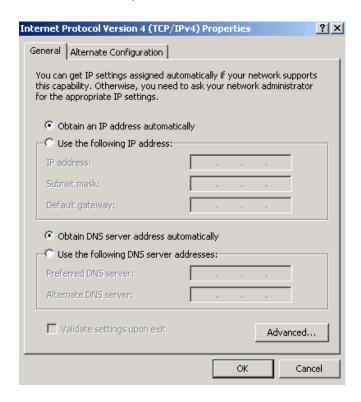
23. Click Internet Protocol Version 4 (TCP/IPv4) to highlight, then click Properties.



24. Notice the radio button next to **Use the following IP address:** is selected. This is how you indicate that static IP configuration settings are to be used; these are manually set by the network administrator.



25. In the Internet Protocol Version 4 (TCP/IPv4) Properties dialog box, set this machine to a DHCP client by clicking the buttons Obtain an IP address automatically and Obtain DNS server address automatically. Click OK > Close > Close. Close all open windows.



26. Test DHCP on the client (Windows 2k8 R2 Internal 2). **Open** the **command prompt** by clicking **Start**, type **cmd** in the search box and press **Enter**.



27. The Command prompt dialog window opens. Type **ipconfig/all** to verify that this machine is a DHCP client. Maximize the window to see all the information. You should see something similar to the following:

The Windows 2k8 R2 Internal 2 client obtained IP configuration information such as: IPv4 Address, Subnet mask, Default Gateway, Lease information, DHCP and DNS Server information dynamically and this is indicated by looking at the **DHCP Enabled** row and seeing **Yes** as the setting. If the client was configured to use static IP addressing No would replace the Yes in that row.

28. Release and renew the IP configuration by typing **ipconfig/release** then **ipconfig/renew**.

```
Administrator: C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe
                                                                                                           Media State . . . . . . . . . . : Media disconnected Connection-specific DNS Suffix . : netplus.com
Tunnel adapter Teredo Tunneling Pseudo-Interface:
    Media State . . . . . . . . . . . . . Media disconnected Connection-specific DNS Suffix . :
C:\Users\Administrator>ipconfig/renew
Windows IP Configuration
An error occurred while releasing interface Loopback Pseudo—Interface 1 : The sy
stem cannot find the file specified.
Ethernet adapter Local Area Connection:
    Connection-specific DNS Suffix : netplus.com
Link-local IPv6 Address : : fe80::bc91:781c:7397:6115%11
IPv4 Address : : 192.168.12.20
Subnet Mask : : 255.255.255.0
Default Gateway : : 192.168.12.1
Tunnel adapter isatap.netplus.com:
    Media State . . . . . . . . : Media disconnected Connection-specific DNS Suffix . : netplus.com
Tunnel adapter Teredo Tunneling Pseudo-Interface:
                                                   : Media disconnected
    C:\Users\Administrator>
```

29. Verify that you still have LAN network connectivity by pinging both the Default Gateway and DHCP server addresses.

2.2 Conclusion

Setting up a DHCP Server is a step-by-step process requiring planning in order to provide accurate IP configuration parameters to client devices. Settings such as the size of the DHCP pool, addresses of key devices to exclude, DNS server and Default Gateway parameters are paramount to ensure proper Scope configuration. Testing and verification commands such as ipconfig, ipconfig/all, ipconfig/release and ipconfig/renew are significant in ensuring DHCP works as planned.

2.3 Review Questions

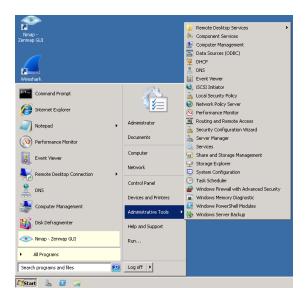
- 1. What IPv4 address was assigned to the Windows 2k8 R2 Internal 2 machine by the DHCP server?
- 2. Could this machine have leased a different IP address?
- 3. According the DHCP server configurations, what range of IP addresses could this machine been assigned by DHCP?
- 4. After configuring the host as a DHCP client, was it dynamically allocated DHCP and DNS server addresses correctly?

Observe the Effects of a Deactivated Scope and Resolve the Configuration

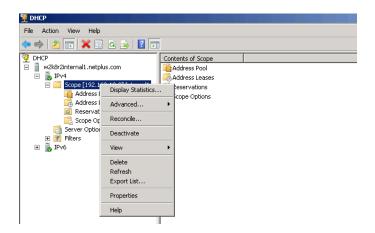
To complete this, lab you will now misconfigure the DHCP server scope and observe the effects of incorrect DHCP settings on a network.

3.1 Deactivate the DHCP Scope, Observe the Effects and Resolve the Problem

 On the DHCP server (Windows 2k8 R2 Internal 1) machine, click Start > Administrative Tools > DHCP.



Maximize and resize the windows to suit your viewing preference. Click the + next to the w2k8r2internal1.netplus.com and IPv4 to expand them. Highlight Scope [192.168.12.0], right-click and select Deactivate. When you are asked if you are sure you want to deactivate the scope click Yes.



3. Go back to the DHCP client machine (Windows 2k8 R2 Internal 2) and at the command prompt type **ipconfig release**. Then, type **ipconfig /all**. Notice that DHCP Enabled is still set to **Yes** but the TCP/IP configurations are APIPA addresses (autoconfiguration IPv4 address of 169.254.x.x) because the DHCP server is unavailable.

```
DNS Suffix Search List. . . . . : netplus.com
error occurred while releasing interface lEthernet adapter Local Area Connection:
                                              Connection-specific DNS Suffix
  et adapter Local Area Connection:
                                              Description . . .
Physical Address.
    ection-specific DNS Suffix
-local IPv6 Address . . .
.llt Gateway
                                                    Enabled.
                                              DHCP Enabled.
Autoconfiguration Enabled
Link-local IPv6 Address
                                              Autoconfiguration IPv4 Address
Subnet Mask . . .
 el adapter isatap.netplus.com:
 Default Gateway
DHCPv6 IAID . .
nel adapter Teredo Tunneling Pseudo-Interi
                                                       Client DUID.
                                                                                                fec0:0:0:f
                                                                                                fecM:M:M:f
                                                                                                fec0:0:0:f
                                             NetBIOS over Tcpip.
```

- 4. Now return to the DHCP server machine (Windows 2k8 R2 Internal 1).If necessary, click the + next to the w2k8r2internal1.netplus.com and IPv4 to expand them. Highlight Scope [192.168.12.0], right-click and select Activate.
- 5. On more time, return to the DHCP client machine (Windows 2k8 R2 Internal 2) and type ipconfig /renew to reset the TCP/IP configuration settings.
- 6. Ping the DHCP server machine (Windows 2k8 R2 Internal 1) to verify that the settings are correct and there is network connectivity.

3.2 Conclusion

The DHCP protocol allows a server to dynamically distribute IP addressing and configuration information to clients. Normally, the DHCP server provides the client with at least this basic information: IP Address, Subnet Mask, and Default Gateway. By using DHCP server computers to centrally manage IP addresses and other related configuration parameters, network administrators are relieved of the trouble of manually configuring TCP/IP settings on all network hosts.

3.3 Review Questions

- What is the function of the ipconfig/release and the ipconfig/renew commands?
- 2. What type of devices would be better served to have static IP configuration?