

## 5.9.5 arp, netstat, and nbtstat Facts

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The following table lists several commands that you can use on a Windows system to gather information about network connections:

Tool	Option(s)
arp	<b>arp -a</b> shows the IP address-to-MAC address mapping table (the address cache).
netstat	<b>netstat</b> shows the active connections.
	<b>netstat -a</b> shows detailed information for active connections.
	<b>netstat -r</b> or <b>route print</b> shows the routing table of the local host.
	<b>netstat -s</b> shows TCP/IP statistics.
nbtstat	<b>nbtstat -c</b> shows the IP address-to-NetBIOS name mapping table (the name cache).

Local computers have a cache of recently used IP addresses and their corresponding MAC addresses. When a computer needs to contact another computer on its own subnet, it first checks its cache for an entry of the IP address. If the entry is found, the corresponding MAC address is used to communicate with the destination computer. The cache can cause problems if the MAC address for a computer has recently changed (e.g., if the network interface card has been replaced). To correct a problem, use the **netsh** command to clear the ARP cache.