

Network Troubleshooting Tools







"Our new application is slow for me and Jasmine can't access it.

It HAS to be the network.

I've checked everything on our end"



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ping - Overview



- most basic TCP/IP utility for network troubleshooting
- uses the ICMP protocol to send a "ping" to a device
- target device must have ICMP enabled
- can confirm if a host is running
- cannot conclusively determine if a host is down



ping - Basic Syntax



Linux / MacOS / Windows

ping hostname or IP address



ping - Understanding the Output



```
DNS lookup if target is a
                                                                                                    hostname
usr > ping ec2-100-26-99-73.compute-1.amazonaws.com
PING ec2-100-26-99-73.compute-1.amazonaws.com (172.31.81.253) 56(84) bytes of data.
64 bytes from ip-172-31-81-253.ec2.internal (172.31.81.253): icmp seq=1 ttl=255 time=0.579 ms
                                                                                                     Size of packet
64 bytes from ip-172-31-81-253.ec2.internal (172.31.81.253): icmp seq=2 ttl=255 time=0.358 ms
64 bytes from ip-172-31-81-253.ec2.internal (172.31.81.253): icmp seq=3 ttl=255 time=0.372 ms
                                                                                                     Hops from destination to
64 bytes from ip-172-31-81-253.ec2.internal (172.31.81.253): icmp seq=4 ttl=255 time=0.486 ms-
                                                                                                     source. Not too helpful since
64 bytes from ip-172-31-81-253.ec2.internal (172.31.81.253): icmp seq=5 ttl=255 time=0.415 ms
                                                                                                     starting TTL is not always
64 bytes from ip-172-31-81-253.ec2.internal (172.31.81.253): icmp seq=6 ttl=255 time=2.35 ms
                                                                                                     known.
64 bytes from ip-172-31-81-253.ec2.internal (172.31.81.253): icmp seg=7 ttl=255 time=2.77 ms
--- ec2-100-26-99-73.compute-1.amazonaws.com ping statistics ---
                                                                                                       Round trip return time
7 packets transmitted, 7 received, 0% packet loss, time 6105ms
                                                                                                       (RTT) for single packet
rtt min/avg/max/mdev = 0.358/1.048/2.773/0.967 ms
                                                                                                       Summary statistics.
                                                                                                           Packet loss
                                                                                                           Min/max/avg RTT
```





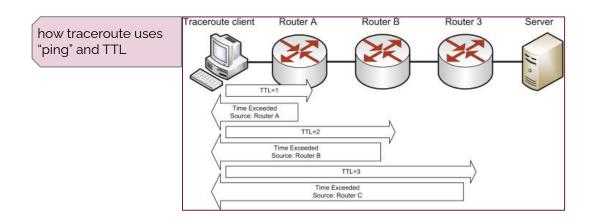
traceroute (tracert)



traceroute (tracert) - Overview



- uses ICMP ping command by manipulating the Time To Live (TTL) value
- identifies each router between a source and destination device
- provides an *indication* of latency
- provides clues to identify bottlenecks in the path





traceroute (tracert) - Basic Syntax



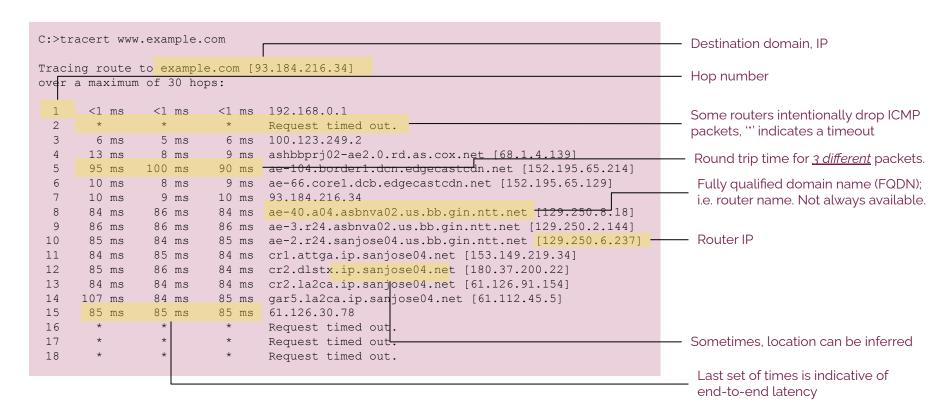
Linux / MacOS(*)	traceroute -I [DNS name] or [IP Address]
Windows	tracert [DNS name] or [IP Address]

(*) without the -I option in Linux, traceroute may not always use the same route.



traceroute - Understanding the Output







traceroute - Inferences



"Request timed out" message near the beginning

|--|

 Common & typically a device that doesn't respond to traceroute requests.

"Request timed out" at the end

16	*	*	*	Request timed out.
17	*	*	*	Request timed out.
18	*	*	*	Request timed out.

- May or may not be a concern
- Firewall may be blocking ICMP (application may still work)
- Could be issue with return path
- Legitimate issue connecting to the system
- This where you want to start troubleshooting

Latency for a later hop is less than for an earlier hop

4	13 ms	8 ms	9 ms	ashbbprj02-ae2.0.rd.as.cox.net [68.1.4.139]
5	95 ms	100 ms	90 ms	ae-104.border1.dcn.edgecastcdn.net [152.195.65.214]
6	10 ms	8 ms	9 ms	ae-66.core1.dcb.edgecastcdn.net [152.195.65.129]

- Some routers de-prioritize traceroute packets
- Results in higher latency
- Best to consider the final hop as an indicator of end-to-end latency



Sidebar: FQDN

- FQDN = <u>fully qualified domain name</u>
- Example
 - Hostname: myserver
 - FQDN: myserver.mydomain.com
- Devices need to distinguish between hosts on different networks; e.g.:
 - FQDN: myserver.mydomain.com Hostname: myserver
 - FQDN: myserver.anotherplace.com also Hostname: myserver
- Especially important with hybrid network in AWS





mtr (pathping)



mtr (pathping) - Overview



- mtr "My Traceroute"
- combines functionality from both ping and traceroute
- automatic refresh with configurable output
- Windows (pathping) not as dynamic



mtr (pathping) - Basic Syntax

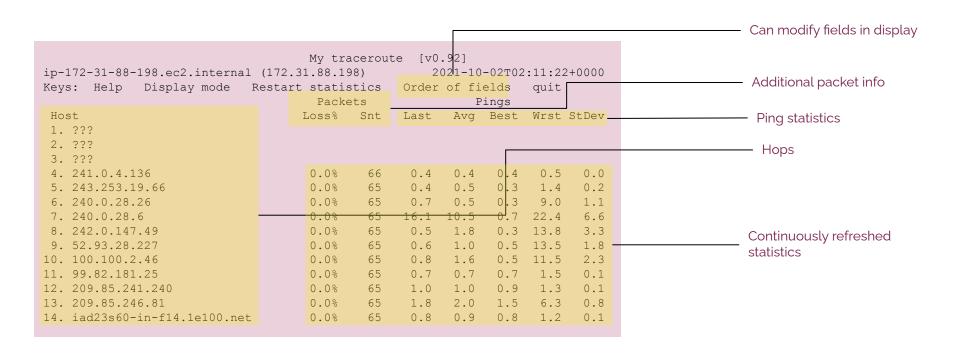


Linux / MacOS	mtr [DNS name] or [IP Address]
Windows	pathping [DNS name] or [IP Address]



mtr (pathping) - Understanding the Output









ifconfig (ipconfig)



ifconfig (ipconfig) - Overview

- "Interface Configuration" or "IP Configuration"
- Provides fundamental information about network interfaces, including:
 - IP, Subnet Mask, Default Gateway
 - MAC Address
 - IP Lease Information
 - Other network configuration parameters
- Also able to set configuration parameters for network interface
 - e.g. ipconfig /renew, ipconfig /release
 - o e.g. ifconfig eth1 up, ifconfig eth1 down



ifconfig (ipconfig) - Basic Syntax



Linux / MacOS	ifconfig, also ifconfig -a
Windows	ipconfig, also ipconfig /a

the "-a" and "/a" options shows information about all network interfaces





arp - Overview

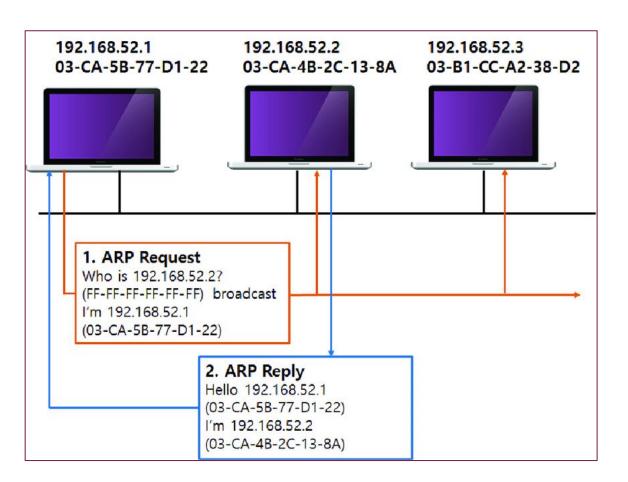


- arp "Address Resolution Protocol"
- used to translate IP addresses to MAC addresses using broadcasts
- Used when a device needs to send a packet:
 - First check is in its own ARP cache (or MAC address lookup table)
 - If not found, device will send out an ARP broadcast
- ARP cache clears entries until a timeout has expired
- The arp command is used to query and modify the ARP cache
 - Can be useful to identify errors in IP-to-MAC mapping or identifying duplicate IP addresses



ARP Broadcast

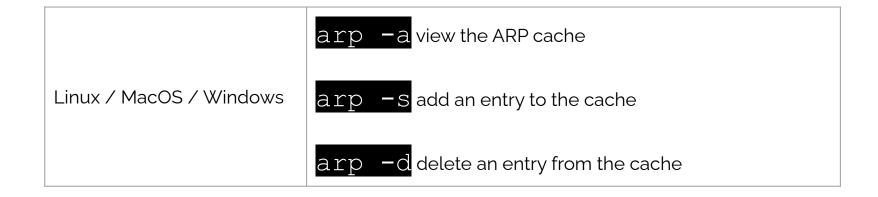






arp - Basic Syntax

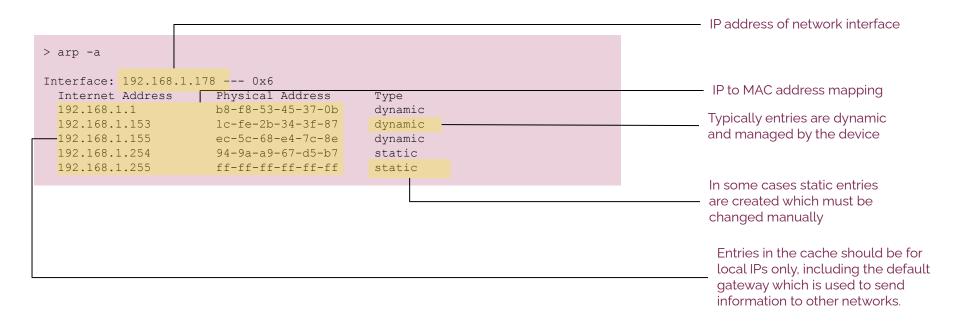






arp -a - Understanding the Output









Using nslookup



nslookup - Overview



- used to perform DNS queries and receive:
 - IP addresses
 - other specific **DNS Records** (NS, MX, etc...)
- default behavior is to return IP address for a given domain
- does a lookup using the default DNS server
- useful to ensure your DNS is properly configured



nslookup - Basic Syntax



Linux / MacOS / Windows

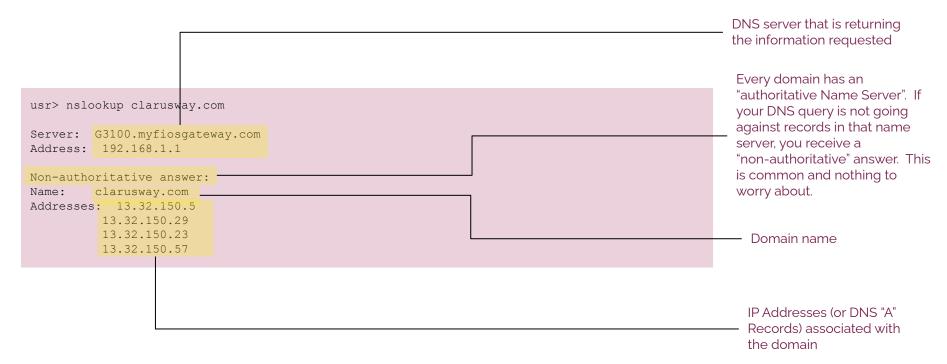
nslookup <domain name>

in Unix-based systems, the dig command is favored over nslookup and achieves the same results.



nslookup - Understanding the Output









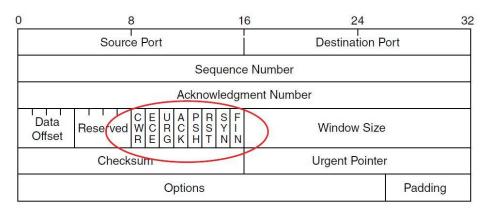
nmap - a port scanning tool



nmap - Overview



- nmap is a popular port scanning tool (i.e. not a command)
- By scanning certain flags in packets, security analysts (and hackers) can make certain assumptions
- These flags are used to control the TCP connection process and so are present only in TCP packets









- Security analysts and hackers alike can perform scans with these flags set in the scan packets to get responses that allow them to determine the following information:
 - If a port is open on a device
 - If the port is blocked by a firewall before its gets to the device
- nmap can also be used:
 - To determine the live hosts on a network
 - To create a logical "map" of the network





7 Using route



route - Overview



- used to view and manipulate the network route table
- helpful to debug outbound traffic issues



route - Basic Syntax



	route print	prints the current route table
Linux / Windows	route -p add [opt]	add a route
(MacOS: netstat -rn)	route -p change [opt]	changes a route
	route -p delete [opt]	delete a route

be careful changing routes, it's complex and you must understand what you're doing



Sidebar - Special IPs

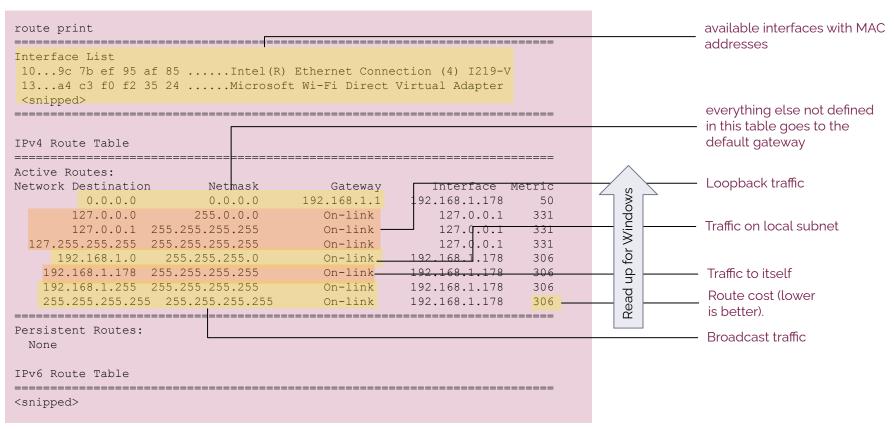


- 0.0.0.0/0
 - "Everything else"
 - Traffic directed to the default gateway
 - Often means Internet traffic
- x.x.x.x/32 (or x.x.x.x 255.255.255.255)
 - o Single IP x.x.x.x i.e. device



route - Understanding the Output









Using netstat



netstat - Overview



- lists TCP/IP connections on a device both inbound and outbound
- alternatively, shows packet statistics both sent and received
- helpful for:
 - identifying connections to/from a device
 - indicating transmission errors



netstat - Basic Syntax

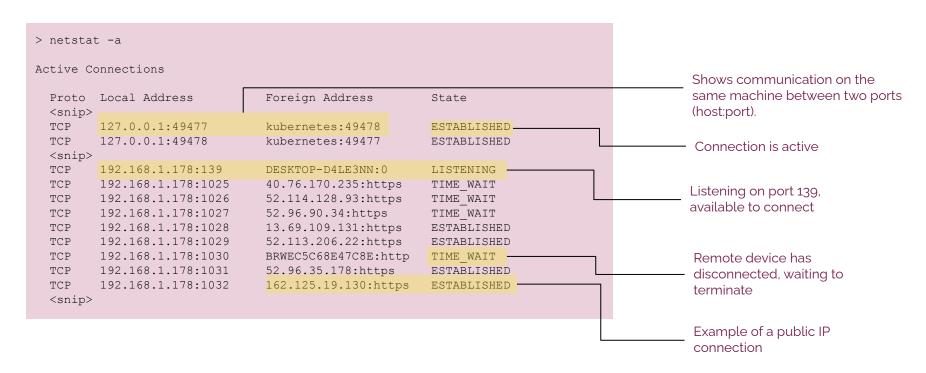


	netstat -a	Shows connections
Linux / MacOS / Windows	netstat -e	displays overall packet statistics
Willdows	netstat -s [-p <protocol>]</protocol>	displays protocol-level statistics



netstat -a - Understanding the Output









Using tcpdump



tcpdump - Overview



- used to read packets captured live from a network or previously saved to a file
- available on Linux/MacOS
- **WinDump** is a utility available for Windows
- output is extensive, must filter for specific conditions of interest
- helpful to troubleshoot and check traffic from a specific IP or on a particular interface



tcpdump - Basic Syntax



	tcpdump	view all traffic	
Linux / MacOS	tcpdump -i <interface></interface>	display traffic on interface	
	tcpdump host <ip></ip>	display traffic to/from host	





10 Using telnet



telnet - Overview



- utility that allows you to make connections to remote devices
- can telnet to any TCP port to see if it's responding
- useful to check if ports on remote machines are listening e.g. SMTP and HTTPS - a "quick & easy" test
- warning: it is insecure since it sends all data in clear text
- often, not installed by default on most devices



telnet - Basic Syntax



Linux/MacOS/Windows telnet <host> <port>





12 Using curl



curl - Overview



- transfer data to or from a server, using any of the supported protocols
- very helpful when no UI is available (e.g. no web browser on Linux)
 - can check if remote web server is responding
 - or if a device is able to connect to a remote web server
- besides http & https, supports many protocols



curl - Basic Syntax



Linux/MacOS/Windows curl [options] URL





Linux Network Configuration Files





- "/etc/sysconfig/network" file is a global configuration file. It allows us to define whether:
 - we want networking (NETWORKING=yes|no)
 - what the hostname should be (HOSTNAME=)
 - which gateway to use (GATEWAY=)
- "/etc/hosts" configuration file resolves hostnames that cannot be resolved any other way. It can also be used to resolve hostnames on small networks with no DNS server.
- "/etc/resolv.conf" file is used for configuring the DNS resolver library. It contains information parameters used by the DNS resolver.







Host-Based Firewalls

iptables (Linux)
Windows Firewall (Windows)



Firewalls - A Brief Overview

- one of a firewall's (FW) functions is packet filtering
- early on, this was based on **port-protocol rules** only
 - o e.g. allow: TCP:80, TCP:443
- FWs can be appliances (hardware) or software
- firewall placement varies
 - typically a FW is placed at the network perimeter
 - o sometimes, additional FWs are placed **inside a private network**
 - o some FWs run directly on a device
- two common categories
 - network FW
 - host-based FW



Host-Based Firewalls



- by definition, **software-only**
- concerned only with traffic in-and-out of the host
- common host-based FWs
 - o **iptables** (Linux)
 - Windows Defender (Windows) sometimes just called Windows Firewall



Secure, but an Operational Headache



- FWs provide a much needed layer of security to an IT environment
- given concerns about security, there are sometimes **layers of FWs** that traffic needs to cross
 - o e.g. perimeter FW \rightarrow internal FW 1 \rightarrow internal FW 2 \rightarrow host-based FW
- downsides are:
 - performance degradation
 - operational challenges to debug access and performance issues
- understanding where FWs are and **how rules are constructed** is important



A last note on FWs: AWS Security Groups



- AWS security groups (SGs) protect EC2 instances much like host-based FWs
- many traditional security and IT practitioners continue to insist on additional host-based FWs
 - this creates yet another layer of FWs for traffic to traverse



iptables - Overview



- uses 3 "chains" to decide which rules to apply:
 - Input (inbound)
 - Forward (transient)
 - Output (outbound)
- uses 3 actions to decide what to do with the traffic:
 - accept
 - drop (no error returned)
 - reject
- various "front-ends" are available, such as Shorewall



iptables - Example Syntax



	iptables -A INPUT -s 192.168.10.1 -j DROP blocks a connection from the device at 192.168.10.1
Linux / MacOS	iptables -A INPUT -s 172.16.0.0/16 -j DROP blocks all connections from all devices in the 172.16.0.0/16 network
	iptables -A INPUT -p tcpdport ssh -s 10.110.61.5 -j DROP blocks SSH connections from 10.110.61.5
	iptables -A INPUT -p tcpdport ssh -j DROP blocks SSH connections from any IP address





Summary of Network Debugging Tools and Commands







Tool/Command	What it Does	How it Helps	Notes
ping	Sends an ICMP "are you there?" request	Can determine definitively if a host is running	Cannot say for certain a host is down if it fails
traceroute/tracert	Sends ICMP requests to all routers on the path from source to destination	Identifies the number of hops from end-to-end and indicates latency	
mtr/pathping	Combines ping and tracert with continuous refresh	Identifies if a host is up and any potential latency issues	
ifconfig/ipconfig	Enables you to view or modify properties of network interfaces	Helps ensure interfaces are properly configured	
arp	Allows you to view or edit the ARP cache (IP-MAC address lookup)	Troubleshoot any outbound packet drops	Be wary of making changes to the ARP cache
nslookup	Provides DNS information about a particular domain	Debug to make sure source-to-destination connections are going where expected	







Tool/Command	What it Does	How it Helps	Notes
nmap	A tool that allows you to discover open ports and map a network topology	Provides a birds-eye view of a network to identify which devices have which ports open	This is a 3rd party tool and may or may not be approved by an organization to use
route	View and edit the network route table	Troubleshoot any issues for any inbound or outbound packet loss	Be wary of changing a route table
telnet	Connect to a remote host on any port	Ensure remote ports are listening and a path exists from source to target	Telnet is insecure and not installed by default usually
curl	Receive or send information to a remote host using a range of protocols	Ensures that the remote application is connected and able to respond	Particularly useful when no UI is available, especially for http & https
Linux network configuration files	View and modify host aliases and resolver addresses	Look here to determine if the host is misconfigured with the wrong DNS server or aliases	
iptables/Windows Firewall	View and edit host-based firewall rules	Determine if any rules are blocking traffic you are expecting	There are layers of FWs in any network that cause operational headaches







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nmap	A tool that allows you to discover open ports and map a network topology	Provides a birds-eye view of a network to identify which devices have which ports open	This is a 3rd party tool and may or may not be approved by an organization to use
route	View and edit the network route table	Troubleshoot any issues for any inbound or outbound packet loss	Be wary of changing a route table
netstat	View TCP connections and packet statistics by protocol	Validate existing connections and identify issues with packet errors	
tcpdump	View live network traffic	Trace traffic from a particular host and/or ensure it is arriving	
telnet	Connect to a remote host on any port	Ensure remote ports are listening and a path exists from source to target	Telnet is insecure and not installed by default usually
curl	Receive or send information to a remote host using a range of protocols	Ensures that the remote application is connected and able to respond	Particularly useful when no UI is available, especially for http & https







Tool/Command	What it Does	How it Helps	Notes
Linux network configuration files	View and modify host aliases and resolver addresses	Look here to determine if the host is misconfigured with the wrong DNS server or aliases	
iptables/Windows Firewall	View and edit host-based firewall rules	Determine if any rules are blocking traffic you are expecting	There are layers of FWs in any network that cause operational headaches





16 Accessing remote hosts



Using ssh



- Secure Shell (SSH) provides the same options as Telnet, plus a lot more and transfers the data in encrypted form
- To use SSH, your servers, routers, and other devices need to be enabled with SSH
- Syntax:

ssh user-name@host(IP or Domain Name)





- File Transfer Protocol (FTP) is used for the transfer of files
- To start the ftp utility, enter ftp at a command prompt/terminal

```
C:\Users\clarusway>ftp
ftp> ?
Commands may be abbreviated. Commands are:
                delete
                                 literal
                                                  prompt
                                                                   send
                debuq
                                 ls
                                                  put
                                                                   status
                dir
                                 mdelete
append
                                                  pwd
                                                                   trace
ascii
                disconnect
                                 mdir
                                                  quit
                                                                   type
bell
                get
                                 mget
                                                  quote
                                                                   user
binary
                qlob
                                 mkdir
                                                                   verbose
                                                  recv
bye
                hash
                                 mls
                                                  remotehelp
cd
                help
                                 mput
                                                  rename
close
                lcd
                                 open
                                                  rmdir
```





• To connect a FTP server type open [server name]

```
C:\Users\clarusway> ftp

ftp> open ftp.claruswaytrainer.com

Connected to ftp.claruswaytrainer.com.
220----------- Welcome to Pure-FTPd [TLS] --------
220-You are user number 1 of 100 allowed.
220-Local time is now 11:45. Server port: 21.
220-IPv6 connections are also welcome on this server.
220 You will be disconnected after 15 minutes of inactivity.
User (ftp.claruswaytrainer.com:(none)): enter
230 Anonymous user logged in
ftp>
```

 After successfully connecting to the FTP server you need to log in with your username and password





 Before downloading a file from a FTP server you need to set the file type as ASCII or binary:

```
ftp>ascii
Type set to A

ftp>binary
Type set to I
```

After setting up the file type use use get command to download the file:

```
ftp>get test.exe
200 PORT command successful.
150 Opening BINARY mode data connection for 'test.exe'
(567018 bytes).
```

When the file has downloaded, following message is displayed:





- To upload a file to a FTP server you have to have rights
- Before uploading file from a FTP server you need to set the file type as
 ASCII or binary
- After setting up the file type use use put command to upload the file:

```
ftp> put [local file] [destination file]
ftp> put test.txt myfile.txt
```

When the file has uploaded, following message is displayed:

```
200 PORT command successful.
150 Opening BINARY mode data connection for myfile.txt
226 Transfer complete.
743622 bytes sent in 0.55 seconds (1352.04 Kbytes/sec)
```



Using scp



 scp (Secure Copy) a command-line tool which is used to transfer files and directories across the systems securely over the network through ssh connection

Syntax:

```
scp <options> <files or directories> user@target-host:/<folder>
scp <options> user@target host:/files <folder-local-system>
```



17 Test Your Knowledge







I use ping against a remote device and there is no response.

Which of the following is definitely true?

- A. The remote server is down
- B. ICMP is not enabled on the remote device
- C. A firewall along the way is blocking ICMP traffic
- D. There is nothing for certain based on this ping result





I use traceroute and get the output below. Approximately what is the latency from source to target?

```
Tracing route to example.com [93.184.216.34]
over a maximum of 30 hops:
                        <1 ms 192.168.0.1
      <1 ms
               <1 ms
                              Request timed out.
       6 ms
             5 ms 6 ms 100.123.249.2
      13 ms 8 ms
                         9 ms ashbbprj02-ae2.0.rd.as.cox.net [68.1.4.139]
                        90 ms ae-104.border1.dcn.edgecastcdn.net [152.195.65.214]
      95 ms
             100 ms
                         9 ms ae-66.corel.dcb.edgecastcdn.net [152.195.65.129]
      10 ms
                8 ms
      10 ms
                              93.184.216.34
                9 ms
                        10 ms
```

- A. Approximately 125ms (the sum of the 3rd column)
- B. Approximately 10ms (one value in the 7th row)
- C. Approximately 22ms (the average of all the columns)
- D. Approximately 391ms (the sum of all the columns)





I use traceroute and get the output below. My manager tells me that there is an issue with the network at the 5th hop. Is she correct?

```
Tracing route to example.com [93.184.216.34]
over a maximum of 30 hops:
                       <1 ms 192.168.0.1
                              Request timed out.
       6 ms 5 ms 6 ms 100.123.249.2
      13 ms 8 ms
                        9 ms ashbbprj02-ae2.0.rd.as.cox.net [68.1.4.139]
                       90 ms ae-104.border1.dcn.edgecastcdn.net [152.195.65.214]
      95 ms
             100 ms
                        9 ms ae-66.corel.dcb.edgecastcdn.net [152.195.65.129]
      10 ms
                8 ms
                       10 ms 93.184.216.34
      10 ms
                9 ms
```

- A. No, chances are that router is de-prioritizing ICMP packets
- B. No, chances are that router is dropping ICMP packets
- C. No, my computer probably glitched when it sent that request
- D. Yes, she's right





I use traceroute and get the output below. An application engineer looks at it and tells me traffic is being blocked at hop #2. Is it correct?

```
Tracing route to example.com [93.184.216.34]
over a maximum of 30 hops:
                        <1 ms 192.168.0.1
               <1 ms
                              Request timed out.
       6 ms
             5 ms
                        6 ms 100.123.249.2
      13 ms 8 ms
                        9 ms ashbbprj02-ae2.0.rd.as.cox.net [68.1.4.139]
                        90 ms ae-104.border1.dcn.edgecastcdn.net [152.195.65.214]
      95 ms
             100 ms
                        9 ms ae-66.corel.dcb.edgecastcdn.net [152.195.65.129]
      10 ms
                8 ms
                              93.184.216.34
      10 ms
                9 ms
                        10 ms
```

- A. Yes, the request definitely timed out
- B. Yes, since every attempted ping resulted in a *
- C. No, that router is most likely dropping ICMP requests
- D. No, the previous result is <1ms and it's too fast for hop #2 to respond





You're on a Linux server within a secure company network which is not connected to the Internet. How do you find out what your IP is?

- A. Use ipconfig
- B. Use if config
- C. Use my browser to go to whatismyip.com
- D. Check the resolver file at /etc/resolv.conf





You're on a Linux server with no GUI. You want to check if a specific website responds properly from that server. What will you do?

- A. curl the URL
- B. nslookup the domain
- C. log in to my Windows laptop, which is on the same network anyhow, and use my browser
- D. check the hosts file at /etc/hosts





Some asks you to check the local firewall rules on the Linux server that is having issues. What do you do?



- A. call the security engineer, as a Cloud Architect I don't have to worry about firewall rules
- B. log into the network firewall and download the rules to view on the server
- C. check Defender, which is the host-based firewall
- D. check iptables







Which of the following does not represent a single server?

- A. 130.10.5.1
- B. 192.168.255.255
- C. 192.168.2.10
- D. 192.168.2.10/32







You want to test your network bandwidth. What will you use?

- A. ping
- B. mtr
- C. netstat
- D. none of these







Traffic is not egressing from a single server to the default gateway? What might you do?

- A. use arp to check the ARP cache and make sure the MAC address of the default gateway is correct
- B. use iptables and make sure there is no outbound rule blocking traffic
- C. use the "route print" command to verify the routes are properly setup
- D. all of these
- E. none of these





THANKS! >

Any questions?

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