

REDES E SERVIÇOS

INTRODUCTION TO GNS3

Objectives

- Study and test of the functionalities of the GNS3 emulator/simulator

GNS3 Basic Configurations

Choose your operating system (Windows or Linux), download/install GNS3 and related software (Wireshark, VirtualBox) and start GNS3 (with administrator/root permissions).

1. Install the Router IOS images (one per model) and define the a base configuration file with the following contents, that will prevent the router console timeout:

```
line con 0
exec-timeout 0 0
```

For each IOS image chose this base configuration file. Add one router of each model to your project and start them.

2. Go to (Edit-Preferences) and: (i) verify all storing and programs paths, (ii) test the Dynamips emulator and (iii) at the GUI Settings choose the option “Always use manual mode when adding links”.

GNS projects

3. Create a new Blank Project (File Menu – CTRL+N) and give it a name.

Note: On old GNS3 version choose the option “Save IOS tartup configurations”.

Note2: The option “Save nvrams...” is required to save the VLAN configurations.

4. Add two routers to your project and create a link between them. Save your project. Open the “topology.net” file (located in your project folder) with a text editor and analyze the network topology created by GNS3.

5. Start a router, open the console of the Router, wait for the command prompt, and search/define the IdlePC value until the load of the PC processor becomes lower (choose the values marked with *). If no value reduces the processor load, search new IdlePC values.

Note: the IdlePC value is applied to all equipments of the same model/firmware. The search/definition of the IdlePC must be made only once per model/firmware.

Note 2: if new slot cards are added to a router, the IdlePC may have to be redefined.

Note 3: When the console does no open, change the console port and restart GNS3.

Router configurations

6. Preform some configurations in Router(s) (e.g., IP address/mask, activation of interfaces).

Save the configurations in the router(s):

```
Router# write
```

And save the project. Analyze the configuration file(s) created in your project folder.

Interconnection with the host machine

7 (Windows). Verify if the machine has a **Microsoft Loopback adapter**, if not create one (run Hdwwiz.exe, and choose advanced mode). Add a *Cloud* into your project. Right-click the *Cloud* and choose *Configure*. Click on cloud’s name under *Clouds*, choose the **NIO Ethernet** tab and choose your card (loopback).

7 (Linux). Verify if the machine has a **tap interface** if not create one with the command *tuntctl* (part of the *uml-utilities* package). Add a *Cloud* into your project. Right-click the *Cloud* and choose *Configure*. To connect to the host machine, click on cloud’s name under *Clouds*, choose the **NIO TAP** tab and add a tap interface (usually tap0 or tap1).

8. Configure your host interface (IP address and mask) and connect the cloud to one router (with the Ethernet interface configured). Try to ping the router from the host machine, and vice-versa.

Interconnection with the real network

9. To connect to other networked machines, click on cloud's name under *Clouds*, choose the **NIO Ethernet** tab and choose one of yours real Ethernet interfaces. Windows user should use the "Generic Ethernet" box and Linux users the "Linux Ethernet" box.

10. Connect your host PC to your neighbors PC (using a switch), and from your emulated Router ping your neighbors emulated Router, and vice-versa.

Note: You need to negotiate the IP network addresses with your neighbors.

Interconnection with virtual machines

11. Choose a VM software:

Using VirtualBox:

Verify if VirtualBox is installed and configured, if not do it so. Choose a VirtualBox appliance from <http://www.gns3.net/appliances/> (for example [Microcore Linux](#)), add a cloud associated with the VirtualBox interface and test it in your GNS3 project. You can also associate the VM and GNS3 Cloud to a TAP interface (this makes things independent from the virtual networks manager from VirtualBox).

Note: Newer versions of GNS3 (>8.1) have a tighter integration with VirtualBox.

Note 2: You can use any of your VMs.

Note 3: You can create new virtual networks in VirtualBox (each will have an interface at the host machine). Different VMs can be in different virtual networks, and connected to the GNS3 network at different points.

Note 4: In Microcore Linux change to Portuguese keyboard with

```
loadkmap < /usr/share/kmap/qwerty/pt-latin1.kmap
```

Capturing traffic

12. Start a capture on any link, open the capture (if necessary, start wireshark from the captures window), generate some traffic in that link. Older GNS3 versions require the reload of the capture file (*reload capture file* button on toolbar).