

Problem

How do I work disconnected from the network, for example with a notebook?

Solution

If a Linux PC (RH 6.2) is configured to use a DNS, but is temporarily disconnected from the network, it does not behave properly. In this situation, none of the configured DNS is available (assuming there is no a local DNS) and:

- rsh seems not to work any more (i.e. the command 'rsh lap003469vm ls' hangs)
- CORBA seems not to work (i.e. 'Activate Activator' hanged on CORBA::ORB_init())

Actually, they do not hang forever, but just for about 15 minutes, then they go on and work fine. The solution (or better the workaround) is to edit **/etc/nsswitch.conf** and, when disconnected from the network, remove from the line:

```
hosts: files dns
```

the 'dns' option, so that it looks:

```
hosts: files
```

The line '**hosts: files dns**' should mean that when (reverse-)resolving names, the resolver should look first in **/etc/hosts** then in the DNS. Nevertheless, in our case it seems to look anyway first in the DNS'es. If you remove the '**dns**' option, it looks only in **/etc/hosts** and it works immediately, but you have to remember to change again the **/etc/nsswitch.conf** file if you want to use the DNS again.

-- [DavidFugate](#) - 28 Jun 2005

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