NetScanTools® Pro
Monthly Newsletter

www.netscantools.com

July 2020

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News...

From the Editor...

Our county is in 'phase 2' of the reopening plan. This just means more business are open. It seems that Covid-19 is getting worse in our county (in the state of Washington) so I doubt we will see any changes to general business reopening.

In July I got significantly sidetracked by changes that needed to be made to the SSL Certificate Scanner. They are nearly complete, so there will be a new release in early August followed by the obligatory release of NetScanTools Pro.

I still plan on diving into an update of the Managed Switch Port Mapping Tool very soon – I was able to add a test to determine if the switch is layer 2 or layer 3. Suggestions? Email me.

Thank you and please keep safe.

-Kirk

New SSL Certificate Scanner release coming soon

The changes to the SSL Certificate Scanner tool are many. Three things stand out:

1. Tests to find out which SSL/TLS client options are active and supported on the host operating system. If a protocol is available but not active, you can temporarily turn it on for testing.
2. Better error reporting especially during the connection process.
3. The ability to record test results in the database for separate SSL ports on the same target. Some targets are running other SSL web servers on ports besides 443, so now when you review the data it will show the results for each port tested.

Look for the new version in early August.

https://netscantools.com/ssl-certificate-scanner-standalone.html

NetScanTools Pro 11.91.1 released June 15, 2020

This release updated the SSL Certificate Scanner tool to match the standalone release 2.70. A minor release but if you use that tool, it is highly recommended.

SQLite and the databases were also updated. For a full list of the changes in the SSL Scanner see the next article.

To obtain this new NetScanTools Pro version you must have an active maintenance plan. Click on Help menu/Check for New Version, then locate a link in the embedded web page. Click on it to open your default browser, enter your access credentials to download the new full installer. Exit NetScanTools Pro and run the installer to update the software to 11.91.

SSL Certificate Scanner 2.70 Released June 3, 2020

A new version of the Standalone SSL Certificate Scanner has been released. The one included with NetScanTools Pro was updated with the release of v11.91.1.

Several user-generate suggestions were implemented in this version. The most visible is the addition of the IPv4 address column. If you have entered a hostname, the server IPv4 address that was connected to is shown and now recorded in the database. We are also recording the port number in the certificate database.

There are also changes that help you see and clear the certificate database. There are two new right click export options. One to export any cert data already in the database for the list of targets currently shown and another to export all cert data contained in the database. The exports are in tabbed delimited text format suitable for quick import into Excel or similar. You may ask why not CSV? – commas often appear in the fields we retrieve from the certificates so that is not an option.

The 'clearing' right click options let you clear the cert data for the current list of targets or clear all the cert data in the database.

The final change was to the dates from and to for the certificate validity. It will now be reported in UTC (GMT) and that will be shown in the database export and in the grid. The date and time we last retrieved information from the web server will continue to be shown in your local time.

That brings us to a final important topic: Web servers. *This software is designed to communicate ONLY with web servers.* It cannot communicate with mail servers or active directory servers. You will not get any response if you try to enter those non-web servers.
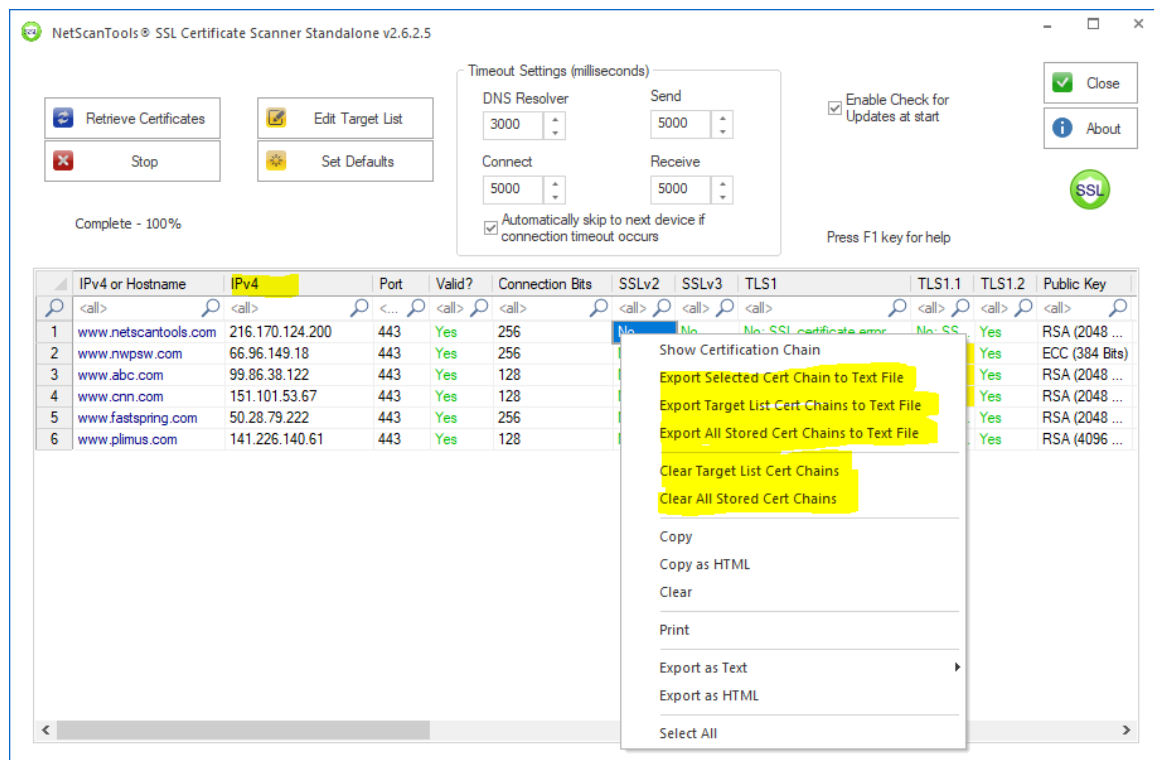
Changes in this release:

-Added IPv4 address column. If a website hostname is entered, the actual IP address that was contacted will show up in the new column.

-Added new right click export options. One option exports the certificate data for the list of targets currently shown. The other option exports every certificate chain contained in the database. Each parent certificate including the root are shown. The export is tabbed delimited for easy import into spreadsheets.

-Added new right click options to clear the database. One option clears (deletes) the certificate data for the list of targets currently shown. The other option clears every certificate chain contained in the database.

-Certificate 'valid from' and 'valid to' dates/times are now shown in UTC instead of your local time.

-Fixed a memory leak.

-Updated SQLite to version 3.32.1

To update your software, please visit the NetScanTools.com website and locate the standalone version under Products.

NetScanTools Pro Maintenance Plan Sale

We have implemented sale pricing on the Maintenance Plan for Covid. Please visit the maintenance renewal web page for the current sale pricing by clicking on Help menu/Maintenance Plan Renewal.

NetScanTools.com email not getting through

This issue has become more apparently lately. Especially with the NST Pro product registration email.

We find that people fill out the product registration multiple times in a short time duration. Multiple registrations are not necessary. The email has been sent to you and it is not getting there due to your email filtering software. We frequently need to call a customer or email them from other domains to tell them the registration email has been sent already. Our email is often found in the spam filters and sometimes needs to be 'released' from the email server filters.

What we have done. As of the end of July, each of our domain's SPF (TXT) records have been updated and checked to improve the chances our emails get delivered.

What you can do. Please whitelist the domain netscantools.com and if you bought the Managed Switch Port Mapping Tool, whitelist the domain switchportmapper.com. If you are expecting an email from us, please check your spam filter folders.

Contact Information

If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to email.

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