

ISP Latency Test Script



Abstract:

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This document contains a very simple PowerShell script designed to test and record residential ISP latency so that the amassed data can be given to the ISP as evidence of problems.

Intended Audience:

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This document is intended to be used by Windows users who have basic familiarity with PowerShell.

Document Revision and History:

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version	date	description
1.0	2021.05.23.1305	document creation

Freeware License and Disclaimer:

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About the Author:

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Daniel L. Benway

Active Directory and Information Security Architect / Engineer

BSc CS, MCSE (NT4, 2000), MCTS (SCCM 2012), CISSP, Security+, Network+, CCNA (2.0), CLP (AD R4)



<http://www.Linkedin.com/in/DanielLBenway>



<http://www.DanielLBenway.net>



@Daniel_L_Benway

Special Thanks:

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- Special thanks to my neighbor Linda who helps me badger our ISP when our service is, shall we say, sub-optimal.

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PowerShell Script:

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```
#####
# PING_HR_G_Cf.ps1
# PING home router, Google, Cloudflare
#####
# Version and Change Log:
# 2020.09.09.1207 - functional version
# 2021.04.10.1948 - put try/catch around all test-connections
#                 - increased home router delay alert threshold to 50ms
#                 - increased default script runtime to 28d
# 2021.04.11.1325 - changed filename from 'proof' to 'ISPProof'
#                 - decreased home router delay alert threshold to 3ms
#                 - added a header line to output files
#                 - changed the format of the output lines
#                 - changed the severity from iconic to numeric
#                 - changed the severity to include 4 levels
#                 - added null handling for all test-connections
# 2021.04.13.0936 - added $errorActionPreference around all test-connections
# 2021.04.16.1101 - cleaned up comments
#                 - moved sleep, and iteration variables to top of script
# 2021.04.16.1203 - added /maxIterations to screen output
#                 - changed audio tones to be longer to accommodate older speakers
# 2021.04.30.1830 - added a user variable for Home Router IP
#                 - added a user variable to toggle sound on/off
#                 - added a user variable for seconds between tests
#                 - added a user variable for maximum days to run
#                 - added logic to check if script is running under Administrator context
#                 - added logic to check for PSh version
#                 - added a severity indicator to the output file lines
#                 - added a days counter to the screen output
# 2021.05.09.1606 - changed the date and time format to use slashes and colons instead of just dots (so Excel is happier)
# 2021.05.20.1601 - changed Cloudfare to Cloudflare
#                 - changed icon to be numeric/symbolic
#                 - changed outfile file header to indicate G or Cf in column headers
#####
# This script PINGs Google and Cloudflare with very small amounts of data on a set interval for a chosen duration, so you can amass failure info to give to your ISP.
# The output files are put in c:\temp:
#   the 'full' file contains all results
#   the 'ISPProof' file contains only proof of failure (to give to your ISP)
# If this script cannot PING your home router with no latency, it won't bother PINGing the remote addresses, and it won't put the failure into the 'ISPProof' file.
# This script will chirp if there is trouble with your home router, and will sound a long tone if there are connectivity problems or latency beyond your home router,
# both while saving all results to the 'full' file.
# Prereqs:
#   your home router is 192.168.1.1 (if not, edit this script)
#   you're running this script in VS Code, using PSh 7 or higher (CLI PSh 7 or higher should work too)
#####
# Case martrix:
# -----
# Home
# Router    Continue?  Google    Cloudflare  Severity
# -----
# fail      n           fail      fail        1
# fail      n           fail      fast        1
# fail      n           fail      slow        1
# fail      n           fast      fail        1
# fail      n           fast      fast        1
# fail      n           fast      slow        1
# fail      n           slow      fail        1
# fail      n           slow      fast        1
# fail      n           slow      slow        1
# -----
# fast      y           fail      fail        4
# fast      y           fail      fast        2
# fast      y           fail      slow        3
# fast      y           fast      fail        2
```

```

# fast      y      fast      fast      0
# fast      y      fast      slow      2
# fast      y      slow      fail      3
# fast      y      slow      fast      2
# fast      y      slow      slow      3
# -----
# slow      n      fail      fail      1
# slow      n      fail      fast      1
# slow      n      fail      slow      1
# slow      n      fast      fail      1
# slow      n      fast      fast      1
# slow      n      fast      slow      1
# slow      n      slow      fail      1
# slow      n      slow      fast      1
# slow      n      slow      slow      1
#####

#####
# Setup
#####
Clear-Host
Set-StrictMode -Version "latest"
$ErrorActionPreference = "inquire"
# -----
If ([Security.Principal.WindowsPrincipal][Security.Principal.WindowsIdentity]::GetCurrent()).IsInRole([Security.Principal.WindowsBuiltInRole] "Administrator")
{Write-Host "INFO: You ARE running this PSH session as an Administrator." -ForegroundColor yellow}
Else {Write-Host "INFO: You are NOT running this PSH session as an Administrator." -ForegroundColor yellow}
# -----
# continue only if PSH 7 or higher
If ($PSVersionTable.PSVersion.Major -lt 7)
{
    Write-Host "This script requires PSH 7 or higher." -ForegroundColor Red
    Write-Host ""
    Exit
} # End If
# -----
# continue only if user approves
Write-Host -noNewLine "===== Continue? (Y/N) " -ForegroundColor Yellow
$userResponse = Read-Host
If ($userResponse -ne "Y")
{
    Write-Host "===== Script exited." -ForegroundColor Yellow
    Write-Host ""
    Exit
}
# ::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::
# user-customized variables
$homeRouterIP = "192.168.1.1"
$soundEnabled = $true
$secondsBetweenTests = 15
$maxDaysToRun = 14
# ::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::
Set-Variable secondsPerDay -option constant -value 86400
$maxIterations = ([Math]::Round(($maxDaysToRun * ($secondsPerDay / $secondsBetweenTests)),1)
# -----
# setup output files and paths
If ((Test-Path "C:\Temp") -eq $false) {MkDir "C:\Temp" | Out-Null}
$outFilePath = "C:\temp\PINGData\"
If ((Test-Path $outFilePath) -eq $false) {MkDir $outFilePath | Out-Null}
$now = Get-Date -format "yyyy.MM.dd.HH:mm:ss"
$nowYear = $now.subString(0,4)
$nowMonth = $now.subString(5,2)
$nowDay = $now.subString(8,2)
$nowHour = $now.subString(11,2)
$nowMinutes = $now.subString(13,2)
$nowSeconds = $now.subString(16,2)
$nowLine = $nowYear + "/" + $nowMonth + "/" + $nowDay + " " + $nowHour + ":" + $nowMinutes + ":" + $nowSeconds
$fullOutFilePathAndName = $outFilePath + $now + "_fullPINGData.TSV"

```

```

$ISPProofOutFilePathAndName = $outFilePath + $now + "_ISPProofPINGData.TSV"
#####

#####
# Functions
#####
function fun_alert1
{
[System.Console]::Beep(150,500) # frequency,duration
}
#####
function fun_alert2
{
[System.Console]::Beep(150,500) # frequency,duration
[System.Console]::Beep(150,500) # frequency,duration
}
#####
function fun_alert3
{
[System.Console]::Beep(150,500) # frequency,duration
[System.Console]::Beep(150,500) # frequency,duration
[System.Console]::Beep(150,500) # frequency,duration
}
#####
function fun_alert4
{
[System.Console]::Beep(150,1500) # frequency,duration
}
#####

#####
# Main Script Block
#####
$statusLine = "Date and Time" + [char]09 + "Severity" + [char]09 + "Icon" + [char]09 + [char]09 + "Home Router" + [char]09 + "HR Latency" + [char]09 + "HR Status" + [char]09 + [char]09 + "Google" + [char]09 + "G Latency" + [char]09 + "G Status" + [char]09 + [char]09 + "Cloudflare" + [char]09 + "Cf Latency" + [char]09 + "Cf Status" + [char]09 + [char]09 + "Summary"
# DateTime Severity Icon HR: Latency Status G: Latency Status Cf: Latency Status Summary
$statusLine | Out-File -FilePath $fullOutFilePathAndName -Encoding ASCII -Append
$statusLine | Out-File -FilePath $ISPProofOutFilePathAndName -Encoding ASCII -Append
$iterationCounter = 0
Do {
    $iterationCounter ++
    $statusLine = "no status"
    $PINGHomeRouter = $null
    $PINGHomeRouterException = $null
    $PINGGoogle = $null
    $PINGGoogleException = $null
    $PINGCloudflare = $null
    $PINGCloudflareException = $null
    $now = Get-Date -format "yyyy.MM.dd.HH:mm:ss"
    $nowYear = $now.subString(0,4)
    $nowMonth = $now.subString(5,2)
    $nowDay = $now.subString(8,2)
    $nowHour = $now.subString(11,2)
    $nowMinutes = $now.subString(13,2)
    $nowSeconds = $now.subString(16,2)
    $nowLine = $nowYear + "/" + $nowMonth + "/" + $nowDay + " " + $nowHour + ":" + $nowMinutes + ":" + $nowSeconds
    #-----
    $ErrorActionPreference = "continue"
    Try { $PINGHomeRouter = test-connection $homeRouterIP -count 1 -bufferSize 1 }
    Catch { $PINGHomeRouterException = $_ } # immediately capture the contents of the PowerShell pipe for whatever caused the 'Catch'
    $ErrorActionPreference = "inquire"
    #-----
    If ($PINGHomeRouter -eq $null)
    ##### (HR null) #####
    #####
    {

```



```

#####
##### (HR pass AND HR fast) AND (G fail AND Cf pass) AND (Cf slow) #####
#####
{
  # DateTime Severity Icon HR: Latency Status G: Latency Status Cf: Latency Status Summary
  $statusLine = $nowLine + [char]09 + "3" + [char]09 + "333 " + [char]09 + [char]09 + "HR:" + [char]09 + $PINGHomeRouter.latency + [char]09 + $PINGHomeRouter.Status +
[char]09 + [char]09 + "G:" + [char]09 + $PINGGoogle.latency + [char]09 + $PINGGoogle.Status + [char]09 + [char]09 + "Cf:" + [char]09 + $PINGCloudflare.latency + [char]09 +
$PINGCloudflare.Status + [char]09 + [char]09 + "partial connectivity, with latency"
  $statusLine | Out-File -FilePath $fullOutFilePathAndName -Encoding ASCII -Append
  $statusLine | Out-File -FilePath $ISPPProofOutFilePathAndName -Encoding ASCII -Append
  If ($soundEnabled) {fun_alert3}
}
Else
#####
##### (HR pass AND HR fast) AND (G fail AND Cf pass) AND (Cf fast) #####
#####
{
  # DateTime Severity Icon HR: Latency Status G: Latency Status Cf: Latency Status Summary
  $statusLine = $nowLine + [char]09 + "2" + [char]09 + "22 " + [char]09 + [char]09 + "HR:" + [char]09 + $PINGHomeRouter.latency + [char]09 + $PINGHomeRouter.Status +
[char]09 + [char]09 + "G:" + [char]09 + $PINGGoogle.latency + [char]09 + $PINGGoogle.Status + [char]09 + [char]09 + "Cf:" + [char]09 + $PINGCloudflare.latency + [char]09 +
$PINGCloudflare.Status + [char]09 + [char]09 + "partial connectivity, with no latency"
  $statusLine | Out-File -FilePath $fullOutFilePathAndName -Encoding ASCII -Append
  $statusLine | Out-File -FilePath $ISPPProofOutFilePathAndName -Encoding ASCII -Append
  If ($soundEnabled) {fun_alert2}
}
}
ElseIf (($PINGGoogle.status -eq "Success") -And ($PINGCloudflare.status -ne "Success"))
#####
##### (HR pass AND HR fast) AND (G pass AND Cf fail) #####
#####
{
  If ($PINGGoogle.latency -gt 50)
#####
##### (HR pass AND HR fast) AND (G pass AND Cf fail) AND (G slow) #####
#####
{
  # DateTime Severity Icon HR: Latency Status G: Latency Status Cf: Latency Status Summary
  $statusLine = $nowLine + [char]09 + "3" + [char]09 + "333 " + [char]09 + [char]09 + "HR:" + [char]09 + $PINGHomeRouter.latency + [char]09 + $PINGHomeRouter.Status +
[char]09 + [char]09 + "G:" + [char]09 + $PINGGoogle.latency + [char]09 + $PINGGoogle.Status + [char]09 + [char]09 + "Cf:" + [char]09 + $PINGCloudflare.latency + [char]09 +
$PINGCloudflare.Status + [char]09 + [char]09 + "partial connectivity, with latency"
  $statusLine | Out-File -FilePath $fullOutFilePathAndName -Encoding ASCII -Append
  $statusLine | Out-File -FilePath $ISPPProofOutFilePathAndName -Encoding ASCII -Append
  If ($soundEnabled) {fun_alert3}
}
}
Else
#####
##### (HR pass AND HR fast) AND (G pass AND Cf fail) AND (G fast) #####
#####
{
  # DateTime Severity Icon HR: Latency Status G: Latency Status Cf: Latency Status Summary
  $statusLine = $nowLine + [char]09 + "2" + [char]09 + "22 " + [char]09 + [char]09 + "HR:" + [char]09 + $PINGHomeRouter.latency + [char]09 + $PINGHomeRouter.Status +
[char]09 + [char]09 + "G:" + [char]09 + $PINGGoogle.latency + [char]09 + $PINGGoogle.Status + [char]09 + [char]09 + "Cf:" + [char]09 + $PINGCloudflare.latency + [char]09 +
$PINGCloudflare.Status + [char]09 + [char]09 + "partial connectivity, with no latency"
  $statusLine | Out-File -FilePath $fullOutFilePathAndName -Encoding ASCII -Append
  $statusLine | Out-File -FilePath $ISPPProofOutFilePathAndName -Encoding ASCII -Append
  If ($soundEnabled) {fun_alert2}
}
}
}
}
$progressInDays = ([Math]::Round(($iterationCounter * $secondsBetweenTests) / $secondsPerDay),1)
Write-Host $nowLine ", Interval:" $secondsBetweenTests "seconds , Iteration:" $iterationCounter "/" $maxIterations ", Days:" $progressInDays "/" $maxDaysToRun
Start-Sleep -s $secondsBetweenTests
} While ($iterationCounter -lt $maxIterations)
#####

```

Importing the Output TSV into Excel to Graph the Results:

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You can simply import the output TSV file into Excel, then select columns A and B, and insert a scatter chart:

