

## Re: problems with BT broadband connection

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  - *Date:* Tue, 20 Jun 2006 21:00:06 +0100
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David Horne, \_the\_ chancellor of the duchy of besses o' th' barn and prestwich tesco 24h offy wrote:

I've noticed increasing, if occasional problems, when using broadband. Pages which I use regularly (e.g. bbc news website) will often be hard to load, 'looking up' for a several moments. I find that when I get a message of 'not found' I can almost immediately connect just by reloading. Similarly, ads that use ad servers are really frustrating at times. I'm using Mac OS X 10.4.6, a belkin wireless point attached to a zoom adsl modem. As the hardware didn't seem to present a problem, I'm wondering if this is a recent problem in BT's service, or maybe even something in my settings. For example, I never seem to have problems with nntp or pop mail access, unless those servers have outages themselves, such as occasionally happens with fastmail.

Anything I should check, or tweak, in my settings?

TIA

Probably a DNS problem of some kind.

Given what you've said, speculation could point to DNS (UDP) packets being lost over a dodgy wireless connection. Since there's no flow control (unlike TCP, eg. nntp/pop), your PC would end up waiting a while before re-sending the packet, which could cause the delays you're describing.

Diagnostics – try doing a flood test from your PC to your wireless router (that is, ping it relentlessly for a minute or so – in linux, for router 192.168.0.1, I'd use the command 'ping -i 0.1 192.168.0.1' – YMMV of course. Under windows, the /f switch might have a similar effect to -i, but check the documentation), and see how many packets you drop.

If it is the problem, then you've got two solutions that immediately spring to mind – first, improve the connection to your wireless router; second, install a caching-only DNS server on your home PC, and set your PC's LAN interface to use 127.0.0.1 as your primary DNS server.

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Of course, it could also be a variety of other things...

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....Nick

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