

# | a ticket to ride!

*who's on your network?*

*a white paper from LANZen - secure information solutions* |

<http://www.lanzen.co.uk>



## **If your network implements automatic (dynamic) DHCP addressing, your entire company may be at risk.**

Most people - and not just those who are new to IT - implement automatic IP addressing (DHCP or dynamic addressing as its usually called) for the ease of management and portability it affords. Nothing wrong with that, particularly in today's mobile marketplace. The problem is, it also makes it easy for anyone to gain access to your network and the information on it, too!

***In real life, would you offer every visitor a key to your home?***

Of course not - but you know, that's just what your DHCP server does usually. No checks, just ask and you get an address. Simple as that. Yet with that address, I can wander around your network as if I was designed to be there.

***How does this happen?***

DHCP servers are a part of our daily IT life. When we log on to our office network, a DHCP server gives us an address. When we log to the Internet at home, your broadband router will give you an address - and that will receive one from your ISP. Pick a wireless hot-spot at the airport and again, the same thing.

Most DHCP servers have no security at all. Some may require a specific machine ID, known as the MAC address. But that's easily spoofed in seconds. It seems amazing that this obvious security loophole is left open by so many people.

***How can this be fixed?***

By taking control of your network by using a DHCP/DNS appliance. Your network performs a number of tasks that we assume because they work out of the box that they're fully optimised from the word go. This just isn't the case. Many wireless users now know that they can't simply plug in an access point and expect it to be secure - and so it is with DHCP and DNS servers. Over the page, you'll see how appliances can solve network security problems.

## From a complex network to a few easy-managed elements

Managing an IT infrastructure is complicated enough without having to set up complex network elements - particularly when they're an additional service running on your servers within an Active Directory regime.

So don't worry - LANZen is not in the business of making things more difficult. There is a way of breaking down a complex infrastructure into simply-managed elements using specific "black-boxes" called appliances that look after individual tasks.



Consider a real-life situation - forget about IT for a moment and think about your kitchen. That could be viewed as your home's production and processing environment. It does a lot, it stores, processes, cleans and disposes of your family's food and laundry. Yet you don't see that as being complex. The reason being, its broken down into separate appliances. These are items like your microwave, dishwasher, washing machine, cooker, coffee machine, iron, even your kettle. Each performing one function, doing it perfectly without any reliance or compromise imposed on another.

Breaking the process into simple tasks reduces both complexity and management overhead, along with reduced overall cost. You know if one element fails, only one service is affected, replacing that element will be simple and quick. Appliances in an IT context are no different.

So by increasing the strength of the security around your network, you've actually reduced the complexity, management overhead and therefore the running costs of it. Now isn't that a compelling thought?

LANZen can help you select 10/100Mb to Gigabit DNS/DHCP/TFTP appliances that will fit easily and quickly into your network and Internet environment - no matter what size your business - from a small company of only a few people to an full-size enterprise. From single units to high-availability load-balanced clusters.

## LANZen implements IT network security for the real world.



LANZen takes a common sense, people-focussed approach to IT design and security. Everybody's suffered too long the overly complicated solutions provided by companies concentrating on outmoded ideas and their own profit margins rather than what's best for you as a customer.

Let's keep things simple - everything's made up of elements. Thinking about each one will ensure the overall design works to its best potential.

For all the spin given to IT, it's concepts are often just like real life. And just as in life, the simplest ideas are the best.

Talk to LANZen and build a secure information solution for your business.

Call **01260 290 592** or mail [info@lanzen.co.uk](mailto:info@lanzen.co.uk) today.

*Visit the LANZen web site regularly for other news and information*

<http://www.lanzen.co.uk>