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MacTCP 1.1: Communicating with SGI Indigo UNIX Computer

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TOPIC -----

I'm having problems communicating with an SGI Indigo UNIX computer using a Macintosh with MacTCP 1.1

Here's the scenario:

I'm connected to an Ethernet network with two Indigo boxes. We've isolated this segment; only our three computers are on it.

- Indigo #1 - 192.100.2.2
- Indigo #2 - 192.100.2.4
- Mac IIfx - 192.100.2.43 (MacTCP, version 1.1)

The Indigos "ping" each other successfully.

I boot a computer with system 7.0.1, but I don't respond to an Indigo's attempt to "ping" me.

I use Etherpeek on the same Macintosh IIfx, and I see their "ping" request packets on the network (even the one addressed to me). Etherpeek gets information, and confirms that I have configured the proper MacTCP address.

I open MacTCP SPY, and I suddenly begin to respond to the "pings." I can then use VersaTerm Pro with the Telnet Comm Tool drivers to log on to the Indigo with no problems. By the way, I continue to respond to the "ping," even when I close MacTCP SPY.

Rebooting with System 6.0.7 on the hard drive, I still don't respond to a "ping," even when I use MacTCP SPY to "kick start."

In short, I need to enable the 6.0.7 Macintosh IIfx to communicate, preferably without a MacTCP Spy "kick start." If the solution is to upgrade to System 7, then I need to have this same capability on this platform as well.

DISCUSSION -----

The actions you describe are exactly the way MacTCP was designed to operate. The driver isn't loaded until the first TCP/IP application is launched. This is true for both 6.0.7 and 7.0, or we should say MacTCP 1.0 and 1.1.

You shouldn't have to kick-start MacTCP unless you want it to respond to ICMP messages before you run a MacTCP application. If this is the functionality you desire, just set MacTCP Spy as a startup application. This will work under both System 6.x and System 7.x.
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