



TCP's Reaction To Soft Errors

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Overview

- ♦ There are a number of scenarios that can lead to long delays between connection establishment attempts.
- ♦ Changing TCP's reaction to soft errors (for connections in non-synchronized states) can help to avoid these delays.



Current deployment

Proposed fix has been implemented by, at least:

- ♦ Linux (for more than eight years)
- ♦ NetBSD
- ♦ Symbian

More conservative approaches:

- ♦ FreeBSD
- ♦ Microsoft Windows



Results from mailing-list discussion

No clear path forward to **standardize** the change.

Possible approaches include:

- ♦ Support the change, and provide a system-wide toggle. No consensus on the default behaviour.
- ♦ Socket option. No consensus on the default behaviour, either.

However, there seems to be consensus to document the mod in a neutral way



Possible paths forward

- ♦ Document the behaviour (noting that it violates RFC 1122) and the tradeoffs in a reasonably neutral way; Informational RFC.
- ♦ Propose the change, with socket option defaulting to off; Experimental/PS RFC.



Next steps

- ★ Take as WG document to publish as an Informational RFC?