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Subject: Re: IDL on the Net (ION)

Posted by [Randy Shaughnessy](#) on Tue, 14 Dec 2004 21:37:00 GMT

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<p.sommer@comcast.net> wrote in message

news:1102908938.797563.229670@c13g2000cwb.googlegroups.com.. .

>

> Randy Shaughnessy wrote:

>> Hi Folks,

>>

>> Not sure if this directly applies to this group?

>>

>> Has anyone had firewall problems reported from external users, when

> using

>> ION Java on their public web site?

>>

>>

>> Thanks,

>> Randy Shaughnessy

>

>

> Hi Randy,

>

> Is this a new problem, or have you just noticed the behavior? Is your

> ION Java Server behind, or outside a firewall? In short, ION Java

> communicates on a port that by default, is not typically open to

> internet clients sitting behind a firewall. However, if you start the

> ION Java Tunnel Broker server-side (assuming ION Server is outside

> firewall), ION Java should be able to tunnel through the client's

> firewall on port 80 -- typical web services port. The most efficient

> protocol is to open a port in the firewall that ION Java can use

> directly and avoid the Tunnel Broker. This is often done on intranets

> where the network admin folks can exercise a greater level of control

> over both server and client.

> If I missed the mark, let me know.

>

> Thanks,

> -Paul

>

Hi Paul,

Thanks for responding.

I believed as you, that Tunnel Broker would work through port 80. In fact, it just uses a different port (9085) and http code through that port. I set up a test computer to simulate the problem seen by others. I blocked out bound connections to port 7085 and 9085 on the server running ION and Tunnel Broker. I also logged what was occurring and found that the client still

tries to reach port 7085 and/or 9085. One of the people having trouble with the site was also able to open up port 7085 on their firewall and everything worked.

There seems to be a lot of confusion at RSI with this. They do not even have the means to simulate the problem. I find it hard to believe that this problem has not been reported before. The reason we never saw it before is that our firewall doesn't block this port, so all the tests we ran were fine. Ours does not seem to be the standard. Most corporate firewalls block non-standard ports including both 9085 and 7085. It is not very practical or security conscious to expect these locations to open up these ports.

A simple test to tell whether or not your site is blocking these ports is to go to the RSI site and test the examples pages. Of course, they do not have Tunnel Broker running on their site, but either way it won't work if you have, what I would consider, a reasonable firewall security set up.

I am working with a techie, but they do not seem to know their own product very well at all. One e-mail said they will pass it on to the developers as a feature request. I responded that this is a necessity and they are not dealing with the real world if they think everyone should have those ports open by default. I am still waiting.

Here is the link to the examples. I would be curious to know if others are getting the "Unable to establish connection with ION Java server" message.

<http://ion.researchsystems.com/IONJava/examples/basic.html>

Thanks,

Randy

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