
Subject: Re: Bridge & it's MAC address question

Posted by [Lennert Buytenhek](#) on Fri, 15 Dec 2006 13:19:08 GMT

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On Mon, Oct 30, 2006 at 07:28:37AM -0800, Stephen Hemminger wrote:

> > Could somebody explain, why bridge uses minimal MAC of the attached devices?
> > It makes this address instable, variable during bridge life-cycle, which is
> > not good for DHCP. For example, I want to attach multiple virtual devices to
> > one physical. Then, I need to make sure that after each virtual device
> > addition, bridge addr is not changed and still addr of the physical device.
> > Why not to use MAC of the first attached device?
>
> The bridge physical address is the minimum of all the attached devices.
> This is done because the STP standard requires it. You can reset it
> to be the same as any of the attached devices. This will not cause a
> problem unless using STP.

You can in fact use any MAC address. The STP standard recommends using the minimum address, as that is deterministic, and so it doesn't depend on the order in which you enslave subdevices.
