

HLAN outage planned Nov. 3 for major network upgrade

Have you ever wondered how your PC workstation connects to other computers on the Hanford Local Area Network? When you type a Web address such as **www.microsoft.com** in a browser address window, your PC just connects to the correct computer many miles or perhaps half a world away.

It truly isn't magic. Every computer connected to the Internet, or even to the HLAN, has a unique TCP/IP address assigned to it. A server running Domain Name Service, or DNS, maintains a cross reference of common names like **www.microsoft.com** with their associated TCP/IP addresses. When you enter the name in your browser, you are connected behind the scenes to the correct computer through its TCP/IP address.

This may seem like it's only computer trivia, and you may wonder why it deserves mention in the *Hanford Reach*. Well, Lockheed Martin Services is about to upgrade both the HLAN hardware and software running DNS services.

An HLAN outage has been scheduled from 7 a.m. until midnight on Nov. 3. It will affect every computer at Hanford that is network connected. For most of us, the effect will be nearly invisible. However, for those who work on Saturday, Nov. 3, or who use computers that are turned on all the time (for data acquisition or process control), this will have a *big* effect.

Toward the end of October, you will be receiving several e-mail messages reminding you to turn off your PC when you leave work on Nov. 1 (or Nov. 2 for those of you who work the "off" Friday). If you don't do this, your PC won't connect to the HLAN on Monday morning. A simple reboot, however, will fix you up.

If you have any questions or concerns, e-mail them to ^HLAN Upgrades. ♦