

RELOAD OR REBOOT "WHAT SHOULD YOU DO FIRST?"

A reload on a Cisco router is when you execute the reloading of the configuration by using the reload command. Rebooting a router is when you completely remove power from the router.

If it is sometimes necessary to perform either of the above actions on a router it is essential that you perform the following steps. These steps will ensure that you have the current router configuration in case of a catastrophic failure.

- 1.) Do a write memory, which will save the running configuration to memory. This can be accomplished by first telneting to the router and executing the command "wr m" while in enable mode. As shown in the following example:

```
ROUTER#wr m
Building configuration...
[OK]
ROUTER#
```

- 2.) Start a TFTP server on your PC. This is essential as the router uses TFTP as the method to transfer the configuration file across the network. You can find a shareware version of this from Cisco at the following URL:

<http://www.cisco.com/cgi-bin/tablebuild.pl/tftp>

- 3.) From the enable prompt type the command "wr net". This command begins the process of writing the router configuration file to a designated IP address across the network.

```
ROUTER#wr net
Remote host []? 36.34.40.76
Name of configuration file to write [Router-config]?
Write file Router-config on host 36.34.40.76? [confirm]
Building configuration...

Writing Router-config ....!!!!!!! [OK]
```

Selection Definitions:

Remote host []? *Enter the IP address of the PC running the TFTP server software*
Name of configuration file to write [router hostname-config] *The router will provide a default name of the configuration file based on the routers hostname-config. You can customize this if desired by typing in a different file name.*
Write file <file name> on host <destination IP address> [confirm] *The router is now asking you to confirm the writing of the named configuration file to the designated IP address. Press enter to accept and begin the process.*

The router then tells you it is building the configuration... and then begins the write network process. If you see "....." returned the process has failed however "!!!" means the process is working. The router will indicate when it is done by the [OK] message.

- 4.) You will now want to take a look at the TFTP Server window and see if was able to capture the configuration file. If the transfer was successful you will see the following:

```
New Client Request IP = 56.83.62.1 Mode = Binary Operation WRQ
File Name = C:\Temp\Router-config
Client Done IP = 56.83.62.1 Mode = Binary Operation WRQ
File Name = C:\Temp\Router-config
Transfer Status = Successful
```

As shown above the configuration file named Router-config was transferred in my c:\temp directory and it was successful.

- 5.) If you need to view the file you should open a windows explorer window and go to the directory where the file is. You will notice that it appears as an unknown file type. This is because it does not have an extension. Highlight the file and right click the mouse when the menu pops up select rename. Change the filename to <filename>.doc this causes MS Word to recognize and will allow you to open it when double clicked.

This will now enable to you ensure you have the configuration file of the router in question *before* you execute a reboot. It will also allow you quickly and easily recover if the router does not.