

Scintilla and Postgenomic.com on Linux 2.6.17+

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Abstract

That's why blogging works! I reported last Friday on using my Wii for reading Scintilla and Postgenomic.com.

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That's why blogging works! I reported last Friday on [using my Wii for reading Scintilla](#) and [Postgenomic.com](#). Alf replied:

It is the Linux kernel, yes: TCP window scaling was switched on by default in kernels since about a year ago (and in Vista too, I think), and one of our routers or firewalls doesn't like it. We're trying to get them upgraded, but it takes a while...

Ah, the trick word: TCP windows scaling. A quick google turned up a [workaround in John's Tidbits blog](#):

There are 2 quick fixes. First you can simply turn off windows scaling all together by doing

```
echo 0 > /proc/sys/net/ipv4/tcp_window_scaling
```

but that limits your window to 64k. Or you can limit the size of your TCP buffers back to pre 2.6.17 kernel values which means a wscale value of about 2 is used which is acceptable to most broken routers.

```
echo "4096 16384 131072" > /proc/sys/net/ipv4/tcp_wmem echo "4096 87380 174760" > /proc/
sys/net/ipv4/tcp_rmem
```

The original values would have had 4MB in the last column above which is what was allowing these massive windows.

In a thread somewhere which I can't find anymore Dave Miller had a great quote along the lines of

"I refuse to workaround it, window scaling has been part of the protocol since 1999, deal with it."

That worked for me. I think Dave Miller is right, but can't resist reading Scintilla and Postgenomic.com on my desktop too ;)