

Using `ni_connections`

It's sometimes useful to be able to determine the active NetInfo connections on a machine. Although this information is available, it's difficult to get and sometimes hard to understand.

The shell script **`ni_connections`** examines the existing network connections and determines whether each one is a connection to a **`netinfod`**. If it is, the script determines the tag of the database being served for the connection. The output reports the extant connections. Here's some sample output:

```
nescorna [~]-204% ni_connections  
connected to network on cadet via tcp port 696
```

```
connected to network on cadet via tcp port 696
connected to network on cadet via tcp port 696
connected to network on cadet via tcp port 696
connected to network on cadet via tcp port 696
connected to Rhino on exec via tcp port 697
connected to Rhino on exec via tcp port 697
connected to Rhino on exec via tcp port 697
connected to network on exec via tcp port 678
```

The output shows six connections to **netinfod network** (five on **cadet**, one on **exec**), and three connections to **netinfod Rhino** (all on **exec**).

The command has two options, as described in the following help message:

```
nescorna [~]-205% ni_connections -help
```

```
Usage: ni_connections [-l] [-n] [host]
```

```
Use ni_connections -help for details
```

```
Arguments:
```

```
-l      Show connections to the local domain
```

```
-n      Use and show numeric addresses, instead of names
```

```
host    Name of host whose connections should be checked
```

```
Defaults: localhost
```

```
Examples: ni_connections
```

```
ni_connections -l rhino
```

Use **-n** either to save time (translating names into addresses takes some time),

to find out what host is involved if a host name is being truncated, and to connect to a **netinfod** somewhere outside your domain.

ni_connections uses **netstat** to obtain information about the active connections on a machine. If you use the optional *host* argument, **ni_connections** uses **snmpnetstat** to obtain the connection information from the remote machine, using the default SNMP community.

To install **ni_connections**, copy the file to an appropriate place on your system. We recommend using some place like **/usr/local/bin**; ideally, it should be in a directory in your UNIX search path.

Note: This software is unsupported by NeXT Computer, Inc.