'host-name' is blocked because of many connection errors; unblock with 'mysqladmin flush-hosts'

Author : admin

My home run machine MySQL server was suddenly down as I tried to check my blog and other sites today, the error I saw while trying to open, this blog as well as other hosted sites using the MySQL was:

Error establishing a database connection

The topology, where this error occured is simple, I have two hosts:

1. Apache version 2.0.64 compiled support externally PHP scripts interpretation via libphp - the host runs on (FreeBSD)

2. A Debian GNU / Linux squeeze running MySQL server version *5.1.61*

The Apache host is assigned a local IP address *192.168.0.1* and the SQL server is running on a host with IP *192.168.0.2*

To diagnose the error I've logged in to *192.168.0.2* and weirdly the **mysql-server** was appearing to run just fine:

```
debian:~# ps ax |grep -i mysql
31781 pts/0 S 0:00 /bin/sh /usr/bin/mysqld_safe
```

```
31940 pts/0 Sl 12:08 /usr/sbin/mysqld --basedir=/usr --datadir=/var/lib/mysql --user=mysql --pid-file=/var/run/mysqld/mysqld.pid --socket=/var/run/mysqld/mysqld.sock --port=3306
31941 pts/0 S 0:00 logger -t mysqld -p daemon.error
32292 pts/0 S+ 0:00 grep -i mysql
```

Moreover I could connect to the localhost SQL server with *mysql -u root -p* and it seemed to run fine. The error *Error establishing a database connection* meant that either something is messed up with the database or 192.168.0.2 Mysql port 3306 is not properly accessible.

My first guess was something is wrong due to some firewall rules, so I tried to connect from *192.168.0.1* to *192.168.0.2* with telnet:

```
freebsd# telnet 192.168.0.2 3306
Trying 192.168.0.2...
Connected to jericho.
Escape character is '^]'.
Host 'webserver' is blocked because of many connection errors; unblock with 'mysqladmin flush-hosts'
Connection closed by foreign host.
```

Right after the telnet was initiated as I show in the above output the connection was immediately closed with the error:

Host 'webserver' is blocked because of many connection errors; unblock with 'mysqladmin flush-hosts'Connection closed by foreign host.

In the error *'webserver'* is my Apache machine set hostname. The error clearly states the problems with the 'webserver' apache host unable to connect to the SQL database are due to 'many connection errors' and a fix i suggested with *mysqladmin flush-hosts*

To temporary solve the error and restore my normal connectivity between the Apache and the SQL servers I logged I had to issue on the SQL host:

mysqladmin -u root -p flush-hostsEnter password:

Thogh this temporar fix restored accessibility to the databases and hence the websites errors were resolved, this doesn't guarantee that in the future I wouldn't end up in the same situation and therefore I

looked for a permanent fix to the issues once and for all.

The permanent fix consists in changing the default value set for **max_connect_error** in **/etc/mysql/my.cnf**, which by default is not too high. Therefore to raise up the variable value, added in **my.cnf** in conf section *[mysqld]*:

```
debian:~# vim /etc/mysql/my.cnf
...
max_connect_errors=4294967295
```

and afterwards restarted MYSQL:

```
debian:~# /etc/init.d/mysql restart
Stopping MySQL database server: mysqld.
Starting MySQL database server: mysqld.
Checking for corrupt, not cleanly closed and upgrade needing tables..
```

To make sure the assigned *max_connect_errors=4294967295* is never reached due to Apache to SQL connection errors, I've also added as a cronjob.

```
debian:~# crontab -u root -e
00 03 * * * mysqladmin flush-hosts
```

In the cron I have omitted the *mysqladmin -u root -p* (user/pass) input options because for convenience I have already stored the mysql root password in **/root/.my.cnf**

Here is how */root/.my.cnf* looks like:

```
debian:~# cat /root/.my.cnf
[client]
user=root
password=a_secret_sql_password
```

Now hopefully, this would permanently solve SQL's *'failure to accept connections'* due to **too many connection errors** for future.