

Network File System (NFS) provides transparent access to files from anywhere on the network. An NFS server makes a directory available to other hosts on the network by "exporting" the directory. An NFS client provides access to the NFS server's directory by "mounting" the directory. To users on the NFS client, the directory looks like part of the local file system.

Availability

NFS supports 2 versions v2 (NFSv2) and v3 (NFSv3) on 11iv1 and 11v2 and it is delivered as part of the OE. For additional product information, please visit the following web page:

<http://h20293.www2.hp.com/portal/swdepot/displayProductInfo.do?productNumber=B8681BA:B1031-90045>

Features and Benefits

- NFS consists of the following set of daemons:
 - nfsd is an NFS server-side daemon, responsible for handling the majority of all NFS server requests, except mount requests and locking requests.
 - biod is a client side daemon (asynchronous block I/O daemon), whose purpose is to increase the performance of remote file access.
 - mountd is a daemon, which processes the file system mount requests.
 - Network Lock Manager (NLM) protocol which manages the file locking is implemented via the rpc.lockd daemon.
 - Network Status Monitor (NSM) protocol was created to work in conjunction with NLM and manage the task of recovering file locks after a system failure. HP-UX implements the NSM protocol via the rpc.statd daemon.
 - AutoFS works with NFS to automatically mount and unmount file systems as needed.
 - CacheFS is a client side caching mechanism that stores data retrieved from NFS servers to the local file system of the client to reduce the redundant network traffic.
 - Both NFSv2 and NFSv3 are supported over TCP and UDP
 - Major differences between NFSv2 and NFSv3:
 - NFSv2 clients can access files as large as 2GB. NFSv3 clients can access files as large as 2TB.
 - NFSv3 supports safe asynchronous writing.
 - NFSv3 supports better file attribute retrieval and caching as compared to NFSv2.
 - A new procedure READDIRPLUS is supported in NFSv3. In case of NFSv2, the list of files and the attributes of the files in a directory are handled as two different requests (REaddir and LOOKUP request). In case of NFSv3, it is handled by READDIRPLUS as a single request, which is a combination of REaddir and LOOKUP procedures.
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