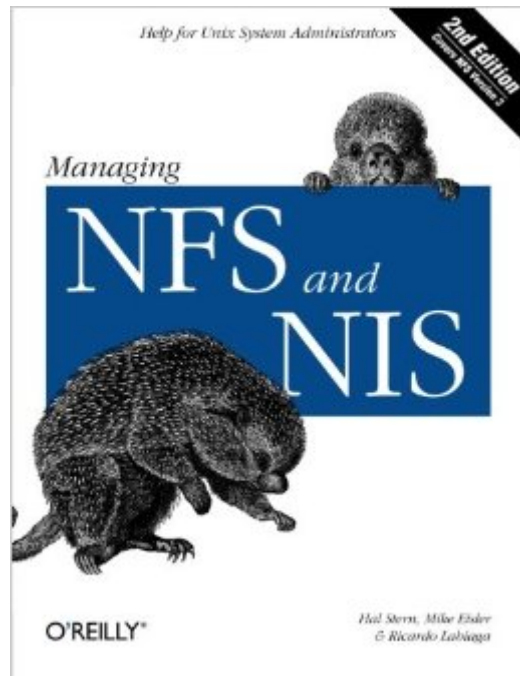


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Managing NFS And NIS



Synopsis

A modern computer system that's not part of a network is even more of an anomaly today than it was when we published the first edition of this book in 1991. But however widespread networks have become, managing a network and getting it to perform well can still be a problem. Managing NFS and NIS, in a new edition based on Solaris 8, is a guide to two tools that are absolutely essential to distributed computing environments: the Network Filesystem (NFS) and the Network Information System (formerly called the "yellow pages" or YP). The Network Filesystem, developed by Sun Microsystems, is fundamental to most Unix networks. It lets systems ranging from PCs and Unix workstations to large mainframes access each other's files transparently, and is the standard method for sharing files between different computer systems. As popular as NFS is, it's a "black box" for most users and administrators. Updated for NFS Version 3, Managing NFS and NIS offers detailed access to what's inside, including:

- How to plan, set up, and debug an NFS network
- Using the NFS automounter
- Diskless workstations
- PC/NFS
- A new transport protocol for NFS (TCP/IP)
- New security options (IPSec and Kerberos V5)
- Diagnostic tools and utilities
- NFS client and server tuning

NFS isn't really complete without its companion, NIS, a distributed database service for managing the most important administrative files, such as the passwd file and the hosts file. NIS centralizes administration of commonly replicated files, allowing a single change to the database rather than requiring changes on every system on the network. If you are managing a network of Unix systems, or are thinking of setting up a Unix network, you can't afford to overlook this book.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Hello, My name is Mike Eisler, and I am one of the co-authors of Managing NFS and NIS, Second Edition. I'm writing this note to offer additional information to potential readers. At the time I submitted this note, most of the customer reviews for this book referred to the first edition. One of the reviews states that the book is focused on NFS version 2 over UDP and the old style automounter. Actually, you'll find the second edition of our book is more modern. New topics in the second edition include NFS version 3, NFS over TCP, modern auto-fs-based automounters, Kerberos V5 authentication for NFS, NFS AccessControl Lists (ACLs), and client side fail over. Another difference is that the first edition of this book used SunOS 4.x as a reference for examples. The second edition uses Solaris 8. The second edition provides information you won't find in NFS product documentation, such as using tools like `ethtool` to debug NFS problems. This book will give you the benefit of insights from people who probably wrote some of the code for your clients and servers. You may find (and I hope) that it will save you the trouble reporting a problem to your vendor's customer support line. Thank you for considering our book.

I was formerly the UNIX Systems Administrator of a large company where we had several variants of the UNIX operating system employed. We had a very robust NIS and NFS environment with hundreds of NFS mount points and a dozen or more NIS maps. The text and examples of this book enabled me to better maintain and update our environment. The practical guidelines for NIS map and application building provided concise information that was easily implemented. In the area of NFS administration, the book provided valuable performance and tuning information, as well as diagnostic information to determine where problems could lie. Additionally, I enjoyed the sections on Networking Fundamentals and NFS Design and operation. These were a nice refresher for knowledge previously attained. While no one book can give all the answers to real world problems, this one at least shows practical application whereby a professional can apply the fundamentals to solve their own problems. Overall, as a UNIX systems administrator, I found this book to be a "MUST HAVE" item for the professionals' bookshelf.

Does not leave out essential information. Gives useful examples where needed. Though not a beginner to Unix, I was not very familiar with NIS and NFS. I was very pleased to find a Unix book that gave me all I wanted to know in an understandable format. This is not always the case with the O'Reilly books.

Anyone who has ever administered a network of at least 3-4 servers (if not more) will find

individually updating accounts, software and such to be a burden. I found myself in this situation not too long ago, and then I picked up this book, and found the answers I was looking for. Most Unix admins have heard of NFS and NIS but might not have considered using them together. This book gives a very thorough discussion each topic, how to set it up, how to deal with advanced issues, and how to troubleshoot. Admins will really develop an appreciation for how useful these tools can be, especially when used together. Though LDAP is gaining prominence, a network utilizing NIS, NFS, and automounter is still a very nice network to administer. Even just learning NFS/automounter is time well spent because it is a service not likely to go away. I really felt this book was worth the time and money because it really helps the intermediate to advanced admin better gain control of the network (instead of the network controlling him :). Definitely give this book a try. Enjoy!

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