

Re: is NFS secure ?

## Re: is NFS secure ?

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*Source:* <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/RedHat/2006-08/msg00322.html>

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- *From:* "Wayne Pinette" <Wpinette@xxxxxx>
  - *Date:* Thu, 31 Aug 2006 09:36:56 -0700
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Agreed in most points. Basically NFS's power and weakness is it trusts the IP network it is on, and that is all. It works great for a secured Data center network where all machines are hidden behind a firewall and can somewhat trust each other and there is no public access. Not so good at all for public mounting. It's too bad too, because if someone ever came up with an NFS that required a simple certificate verification handshake upon connection, (so the nfs daemons didnt trust the network, they trusted the certficiate) then it would be much better and safer to use in public area.

Just my 2 cents worth.

Wayner

P.S.

root\_squash means that root on the local machien does NOT have root access to the nfs drives. Unfortunately nothing stops you from faking the userid of other users on your linux distribution on your laptop, then filesharing into their files once your laptop is on the network.

vzlatkin@xxxxxxxxxxx 08/31/06 9:26 am >>>

Certainly a vague question. I think of it from the perspective of how

hard is it for me to see someone else's nfs data. The answer is: very easy.

Take a common scenario where many users mount their home directory via

nfs, and you use root\_squash. To gain access to a user's data all you

need is root on a machine that can mount any home directory. Then just

su - [username] and you'll have access. Some magic required, but that

is pretty insecure.

I've never tried nfs over ssh, but I know you can restrict the

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different  
nfs components to use a specific port instead of portmap. Therefore, it  
should be possible to do nfs over ssh.

-Vlady

Miner, Jonathan W (CSC) (US SSA) wrote:

Hi -

Asking if something is "secure" is a pretty vague question... Whether  
your system is secure or not depends on how you are using it, and what  
level of security you need. I can't speak for NFSv4 yet.

See the manual page for /etc/exports to learn how to restrict who can  
mount your filesystems, read-write or read-only, and whether the  
clients' root account has privs or not.

You could even use iptables (or another firewall) to restrict  
clients.

NFS does not encrypt traffic, but it might be possible to run NFS  
over an VPN or SSH-tunnel.

-----Original Message-----

From: redhat-list-bounces@xxxxxxxxxxx on behalf of Shekhar

Dhotre

Sent: Thu 08/31/2006 08:58 AM

To: General Red Hat Linux discussion list

Cc:

Subject: RE: is NFS secure ?

So, NFS versions before NFSv4 were not secure right ?

-----Original Message-----

From: redhat-list-bounces@xxxxxxxxxxx

[mailto:redhat-list-bounces@xxxxxxxxxxx] On Behalf Of Anze Vidmar

Sent: Thursday, August 31, 2006 8:53 AM

To: General Red Hat Linux discussion list

Re: is NFS secure ?

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Subject: Re: is NFS secure ?

On Thu, 2006-08-31 at 08:48 -0400, Shekhar Dhotre wrote:

OK , Is NFS secure ?

NFSv4 is.

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