NAME

nscd – name service cache daemon

SYNOPSIS

/usr/sbin/nscd [**–f** *configuration-file*] [**–g**] [**–e** *cachename*, **yes** | **no**] [**–i** *cachename*]

AVAILABILITY

SUNWcsu

DESCRIPTION

nscd is a process that provides a cache for the most common name service requests. It is started up during multi-user boot. The default *configuration-file* **/etc/nscd.conf** determines the behavior of the cache daemon. See **nscd.conf**(4).

nscd provides cacheing for the **passwd**(4), **group**(4) and **hosts**(4) databases through standard **libc** interfaces, such as **gethostbyname**(3N), **gethostbyaddr**(3N), and others. Each cache has a separate time-to-live for its data; modifying the local database (**/etc/hosts**, and so forth) causes that cache to become invalidated within ten seconds. Note that the shadow file is specifically not cached. **getspnam**(3C) calls remain uncached as a result.

nscd also acts as its own administration tool. If an instance of **nscd** is already running, commands are passed to the running version transparently.

In order to preserve NIS+ security, the startup script for **nscd** (**/etc/init.d/nscd**) checks the permissions on the **passwd**, **group** and **host** tables if NIS+ is being used. If those tables are not readable by unauthenticated users, then caching is disabled so that each process continues to authenticate itself as before.

nscd does not rescan the **/etc/nsswitch.conf** file; if this file is changed, the machine should be rebooted or **nscd** stopped and restarted, as shown in the EXAMPLES below.

OPTIONS

Several of the options described below require a *cachename* specification. Supported values are **passwd**, **group** and **hosts**.

-f *configuration-file*
: Causes **nscd** to read its configuration data from the specified file.

-g
: Prints current configuration and statistics to standard output. This is the only option executable by non-root users.

-e *cachename***, yes** | **no**
: Enables or disables the specified cache.

-i *cachename*
: Invalidate the specified cache.

EXAMPLES

Stopping and restarting the **nscd** daemon.

```
example# /etc/init.d/nscd stop
example# /etc/init.d/nscd start
```

FILES

/etc/nscd.conf determines behavior of cache daemon

SEE ALSO

gethostbyname(3N), **group**(4), **hosts**(4), **nscd.conf**(4), **nsswitch.conf**(4), **passwd**(4)

WARNINGS

The **nscd** interface is included in this release on an uncommitted basis only, and is subject to change or removal in a future minor release.