NAME

nisfiles – NIS+ database files and directory structure

SYNOPSIS

/var/nis

DESCRIPTION

The Network Information Service Plus (NIS+) uses a memory based, replicated database. This database uses a set of files in the **/var/nis** directory for checkpointing to stable storage and for maintaining a transaction log. Additionally, the NIS+ server and client use files in this directory to store binding and state information.

The NIS+ service implements an authentication and authorization system that is built upon Secure RPC. In this implementation, the service uses a table named **cred.org_dir.**_domain-name_ to store the public and private keys of principals that are authorized to access the NIS+ namespace. It stores group access information in the sub-domain **groups_dir.**_domain-name_ as _group_ objects. These two tables appear as files in the **/var/nis/data** directory on the NIS+ server.

Unlike the previous versions of the network information service in NIS+, the information in the tables is initially loaded into the service from the ASCII files on the server and then updated using NIS+ utilities (**nistbladm** −**D**). Some sites may wish to periodically regenerate the ASCII files for archival purposes. To do this, a script should be added in the **crontab**(1) of the server that lists these tables and creates the ASCII file from the result.

Note: Except for the **NIS_COLDSTART** and **NIS_SHARED_DIRCACHE** file, no other files should be manipulated by commands such as **cp**(1), **mv**(1) or **rm**(1). The transaction log file keeps logs of all changes made, and hence the files cannot be manipulated independently.

The files described below are stored in the **/var/nis** directory:

NIS_COLDSTART
: This file contains NIS+ directory objects that are to be preloaded into the NIS+ cache at startup time. This file is usually created at NIS+ installation time. See **nisinit**(1M) or **nisclient**(1M).

NIS_SHARED_DIRCACHE
: This file contains the current cache of NIS+ bindings being maintained by the cache manager. The contents can be viewed with **nisshowcache**(1M).

trans.log
: This file contains a transaction log that is maintained by the NIS+ service. It can be viewed using the **nislog**(1M) command. This file contains holes. Its apparent size may be a lot higher than its actual size. There is only one transaction log per server.

data.dict
: This file is a dictionary that is used by the NIS+ database to locate its files. It is created by the default NIS+ database package.

data.dict.log
: This is the log file for the database dictionary. When the server is checkpointed (**nisping -C**), this file will be deleted.

data
: This directory contains databases that the server uses.

data/root.object
On root servers, this file contains a directory object that describes the root of the name space.

data/parent.object
On root servers, this file contains a directory object that describes the parent namespace. This file is created by the **nisinit**(1M) command.

data/*table_name*
For each table in the directory there will be a file with the same name that stores the information about that table. If there are subdirectories within this directory, the database for the table is stored in the file *table_name***.***subdirectory*.

data/*table_name.log*
This file contains the database log for the table *table_name*. The log file maintains the state of individual transactions to each database. When a database has been checkpointed (that is, all changes have been made to the data/*table_name* stable storage), this log file will be deleted.

Currently, NIS+ does not automatically do checkpointing. The system administrator may want to do **nisping –C** (see **nisping**(1M)) operations periodically (such as, once a day) to checkpoint the log file. This can be done either through a **cron**(1M) job, or manually.

data/root_dir
On root servers, this file stores the database associated with the root directory. It is similar to other table databases. The corresponding log file is called **root_dir.log**.

data/cred.org_dir
This table contains the credentials of principals in this NIS+ domain.

data/groups_dir
This table contains the group authorization objects needed by NIS+ to authorize group access.

data/serving_list
This file contains a list of all NIS+ directories that are being served by the NIS+ server on this server. When this server is added or deleted from any NIS+ directory object, this file is updated by the server.

SEE ALSO

cp(1), **crontab**(1), **mv**(1), **rm**(1), **nis+**(1), **niscat**(1), **nismatch**(1), **nistbladm**(1), **nisclient**(1M), **nisinit**(1M), **nislog**(1M), **nisping**(1M), **nis_db**(3N), **nis_objects**(3N)