NAME

fns_initial_context – overview of the FNS Initial Context

DESCRIPTION

Every FNS name is interpreted relative to some context, and every FNS naming operation is performed on a context object. The FNS programming interface (XFN) provides a function that allows the client to obtain an *Initial Context* object. The Initial Context provides the initial pathway to other FNS contexts. FNS defines a set of bindings that the client can expect to find in this context,

FNS assumes that for every process:

1. There is a user associated with the process when **fn_ctx_handle_from_initial()** is invoked. This association is based on the effective uid of the process. In the following discussion this user is denoted by *U.* The association of user to process may change during the life of a process but does not affect the context handle originally returned by **fn_ctx_handle_from_initial()**.
2. The process is running on a host when **fn_ctx_handle_from_initial()** is invoked. In the following discussion this host is denoted by *H.*

The following atomic names can appear in the Initial Context: **...**, **thishost**, **thisorgunit**, **thisens**, **myself**, **myorgunit**, **myens**, **orgunit**, **site**, **user** and **host**. Except for **...**, these names with an added underscore ('_') prefix are also in the Initial Context and have the same binding as their counterpart (e.g. **thishost** and **_thishost** have the same binding). In addition, **org** has the same binding as **orgunit**, and **thisuser** has the same binding as **myself**. The bindings for these names are summarized in the following table.

Some of these names may not necessarily appear in all Initial Contexts. For example, a process owned by the super-user of a machine does not have any of the user-related bindings. Or, an installation that has not set up a site namespace will not have the site-related bindings.

...	global context for resolving DNS or X.500 names. Synonym: **/...**
thishost	*H*'s host context. Synonym: **_thishost**
thisens	the enterprise root of *H*. Synonym: **_thisens**
thisorgunit	*H*'s distinguished organizational unit context. In Solaris, this is *H*'s NIS+ home domain. Synonym: **_thisorgunit**
myself	*U*'s user context. Synonyms: **_myself**, **thisuser**
myens	the enterprise root of *U*. Synonym: **_myens**
myorgunit	*U*'s distinguished organizational unit context. In Solaris, this is *U*'s NIS+ home domain. Synonym: **_myorgunit**
user	the context in which users in the same organizational unit as *H* are named. Synonym: **_user**
host	the context in which hosts in the same organizational unit as *H* are named. Synonym: **_host**
org	the root context of the organizational unit namespace in *H*'s enterprise. In Solaris, this corresponds to the NIS+ root domain. Synonyms:

orgunit, **_orgunit**

site the root context of the site namespace in *H*'s enterprise, if the site namespace has been configured. Synonym: **_site**

EXAMPLES

The types of objects that may be named relative to the enterprise root are user, host, service, organizational unit, file and site. Here are some examples of names that begin with the enterprise root.

thisens/orgunit/multimedia.servers.engineering
names an organizational unit **multimedia.servers.engineering** in *H*'s enterprise.

thisens/site/northwing.floor3.admin
names the north wing site, on the third floor of the administrations building in *H*'s enterprise.

myens/user/hdiffie
names the user **hdiffie** in *U*'s enterprise.

myens/service/teletax
names the **teletax** service of *U*'s enterprise.

The types of objects that may be named relative to an organizational unit name are: user, host, service, file and site. Here are some examples of names that begin with organizational unit names (either explicitly via org, or implicitly via thisorgunit or myorgunit), and name objects relative to organizational unit names when resolved in the Initial Context.

org/accounts_payable.finance/site/videoconference.northwing
names a conference room **videoconference** located in the north wing of the site associated with the organizational unit **accounts_payable.finance.**

org/finance/user/mjones
names a user **mjones** in the organizational unit **finance**.

org/finance/host/inmail
names a machine **inmail** belonging to the organizational unit **finance**.

org/accounts_payable.finance/fs/pub/blue-and-whites/FY92-124
names a file **pub/blue-and-whites/FY92-124** belonging to the organizational unit **accounts_payable.finance**.

org/accounts_payable.finance/service/calendar
names the **calendar** service of the organizational unit **accounts_payable.finance**. This might manage the meeting schedules of the organizational unit.

thisorgunit/user/cmead
names the user **cmead** in *H*'s organizational unit.

myorgunit/fs/pub/project_plans/widget.ps
names the file **pub/project_plans/widget.ps** exported by *U*'s organizational unit's file system.

The types of objects that may be named relative to a site name are users, hosts, services and files. Here are some examples of names that begin with site names via site, and name objects relative to sites when resolved in the Initial Context.

site/b5.mtv/service/printer/speedy
names a printer **speedy** in the **b5.mtv** site.

site/admin/fs/usr/dist
names a file directory **usr/dist** available in the site **admin**.

The types of objects that may be named relative to a user name are services and files. Here are some examples of names that begin with user names (explicitly via user or implicitly via thisuser), and name objects relative to users when resolved in the Initial Context.

user/jsmith/service/calendar
names the **calendar** service of the user **jsmith**.

user/jsmith/fs/bin/games/riddles
names the file **bin/games/riddles** of the user **jsmith**.

thisuser/service/printer
names the **printer** service of *U*.

The types of objects that may be named relative to a host name are services and files. Here are some examples of names that begin with host names (explicitly via host or implicitly via thishost), and name objects relative to hosts when resolved in the Initial Context.

host/mailhop/service/mailbox
names the **mailbox** service associated with the machine **mailhop**.

host/mailhop/fs/pub/saf/archives.91
names the directory **pub/saf/archives.91** found under the root directory of the machine **mailhop**.

thishost/service/printer
names the **printer** service of *H*.

SEE ALSO

nis+(1), **geteuid**(2), **fn_ctx_handle_from_initial**(3N), **xfn**(3N), **fns**(5), **fns_policies**(5)