Distributed Systems

Distributed File Systems

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Distributed File Systems Case Studies

NFS · AFS · CODA · DFS · SMB · CIFS Dfs · WebDAV · GFS · Gmail-FS? · xFS

NFS Network File System Sun Microsystems

c. 1985

- Any machine can be a client or server
- Must support diskless workstations
- Heterogeneous systems must be supported
 - Different HW, OS, underlying file system
- Access transparency
 - Remote files accessed as local files through normal file system calls (via VFS in UNIX)
- Recovery from failure
 - Stateless, UDP, client retries
- High Performance
 - use caching and read-ahead

No migration transparency

If resource moves to another server, client must remount resource.

No support for UNIX file access semantics Stateless design: file locking is a problem.

All UNIX file system controls may not be available.

Devices

must support diskless workstations where *every* file is remote.

Remote devices refer back to local devices.

Transport Protocol Initially NFS ran over UDP using Sun RPC

Why UDP?

- Slightly faster than TCP
- No connection to maintain (or lose)
- NFS is designed for Ethernet LAN environment relatively reliable
- Error detection but no correction.

NFS retries requests

NFS Protocols

Mounting protocol

Request access to exported directory tree

Directory & File access protocol

Access files and directories (read, write, mkdir, readdir, ...)

Mounting Protocol

- Send pathname to server
- Request permission to access contents

<u>client</u>: parses pathname contacts server for file handle

- Server returns file handle
 - File device #, inode #, instance #

<u>client</u>: create in-code vnode at mount point. (points to inode for local files) points to **rnode** for remote files - stores state on client

Mounting Protocol

static mounting

- <u>mount</u> request contacts server

Server: edit /etc/exports

Client: mount fluffy:/users/paul /home/paul

Directory and file access protocol

- First, perform a *lookup* RPC
 - returns file handle and attributes
- <u>Not like open</u>
 - No information is stored on server
- handle passed as a parameter for other file access functions
 - e.g. read(handle, offset, count)

Directory and file access protocol

NFS has 16 functions

- (version 2; six more added in version 3)

null Iookup	link symlink readlink mkdir rmdir	getattr setattr
create		statfs
remove rename		
read write	readdir	

NFS Performance

- Usually slower than local
- Improve by caching at client
 - Goal: reduce number of remote operations
 - Cache results of read, readlink, getattr, lookup, readdir
 - Cache file data at client (buffer cache)
 - Cache file attribute information at client
 - Cache pathname bindings for faster lookups
- Server side
 - Caching is "automatic" via buffer cache
 - All NFS writes are *write-through* to disk to avoid unexpected data loss if server dies

Inconsistencies may arise

Try to resolve by validation

- Save timestamp of file
- When file opened or server contacted for new block
 - Compare last modification time
 - If remote is more recent, invalidate cached data

Validation

- Always invalidate data after some time
 - After 3 seconds for open files (data blocks)
 - After 30 seconds for directories
- If data block is modified, it is:
 - Marked *dirty*
 - Scheduled to be written
 - Flushed on file close

Improving read performance

- Transfer data in large chunks
 - 8K bytes default
- Read-ahead
 - Optimize for sequential file access
 - Send requests to read disk blocks before they are requested by the application

Problems with NFS

- File consistency
- Assumes clocks are synchronized
- Open with append cannot be guaranteed to work
- Locking cannot work
 - Separate lock manager added (stateful)
- No reference counting of open files
 - You can delete a file you (or others) have open!
- Global UID space assumed

Problems with NFS

- No reference counting of open files
 - You can delete a file you (or others) have open!
- Common practice
 - Create temp file, delete it, continue access
 - Sun's hack:
 - If same process with open file tries to delete it
 - Move to temp name
 - Delete on close

Problems with NFS

- File permissions may change
 - Invalidating access to file
- No encryption
 - Requests via unencrypted RPC
 - Authentication methods available
 - Diffie-Hellman, Kerberos, Unix-style
 - Rely on user-level software to encrypt

Improving NFS: version 2

- User-level lock manager
 - Monitored locks
 - status monitor: monitors clients with locks
 - Informs lock manager if host inaccessible
 - If server crashes: status monitor reinstates locks on recovery
 - If client crashes: all locks from client are freed
- NV RAM support
 - Improves write performance
 - Normally NFS must write to disk on server before responding to client *write* requests
 - Relax this rule through the use of non-volatile RAM

Improving NFS: version 2

- Adjust RPC retries dynamically
 - Reduce network congestion from excess RPC retransmissions under load
 - Based on performance
- Client-side disk caching
 - cacheFS
 - Extend buffer cache to disk for NFS
 - Cache in memory first
 - Cache on disk in 64KB chunks

The automounter

Problem with mounts

- If a client has many remote resources mounted, boot-time can be excessive
- Each machine has to maintain its own name space
 - Painful to administer on a large scale

Automounter

- Allows administrators to create a global name space
- Support *on-demand* mounting

Automounter

- Alternative to static mounting
- Mount and unmount in response to client demand
 - Set of directories are associated with a local directory
 - None are mounted initially
 - When local directory is referenced
 - OS sends a message to each server
 - First reply wins
 - Attempt to unmount every 5 minutes

Automounter maps

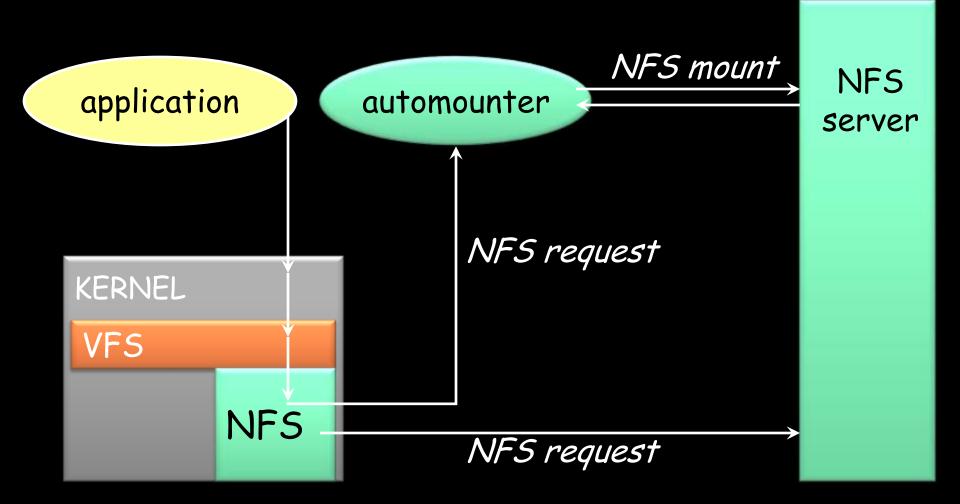
Example: automount /usr/src srcmap srcmap contains:

cmd	-ro	doc:/usr/src/cmd
kernel	-ro	<pre>frodo:/release/src \</pre>
		bilbo:/library/source/kernel
lib	-rw	<pre>sneezy:/usr/local/lib</pre>

Access /usr/src/cmd: request goes to doc

Access /usr/src/kernel: ping frodo and bilbo, mount first response

The automounter



More improvements... NFS v3

- Updated version of NFS protocol
- Support 64-bit file sizes
- TCP support and large-block transfers
 - UDP caused more problems on WANs (errors)
 - All traffic can be multiplexed on one connection
 Minimizes connection setup
 - No fixed limit on amount of data that can be transferred between client and server
- Negotiate for optimal transfer size
- Server checks access for entire path from client

More improvements... NFS v3

- New commit operation
 - Check with server after a *write* operation to see if data is committed
 - If *commit* fails, client must **resend** data
 - Reduce number of *write* requests to server
 - Speeds up write requests
 - Don't require server to write to disk immediately
- Return file attributes with each request
 - Saves extra RPCs

AFS Andrew File System Carnegie-Mellon University

c. 1986(v2), 1989(v3)

AFS

- Developed at CMU
- Commercial spin-off
 - Transarc
- IBM acquired Transarc

Currently open source under IBM Public License Also:

OpenAFS, Arla, and Linux version

Support information sharing on a *large* scale

e.g., 10,000+ systems

AFS Assumptions

- Most files are small
- Reads are more common than writes
- Most files are accessed by one user at a time
- Files are referenced in bursts (locality)
 - Once referenced, a file is likely to be referenced again

AFS Design Decisions

Whole file serving

- Send the entire file on open

Whole file caching

- Client caches entire file on local disk
- Client writes the file back to server on *close*
 - if modified
 - Keeps cached copy for future accesses

AFS Design

- Each client has an AFS disk cache
 - Part of disk devoted to AFS (e.g. 100 MB)
 - Client manages cache in LRU manner
- Clients communicate with set of trusted servers
- Each server presents <u>one</u> <u>identical</u> name space to clients
 - All clients access it in the same way
 - Location transparent

AFS Server: cells

- Servers are grouped into administrative entities called cells
- <u>Cell</u>: collection of
 - Servers
 - Administrators
 - Users
 - Clients
- Each cell is autonomous but cells may cooperate and present users with one uniform name space

AFS Server: volumes

Disk partition contains

file and directories

grouped into volumes

Volume

- Administrative unit of organization
 - e.g. user's home directory, local source, etc.
- Each volume is a directory tree (one root)
- Assigned a name and ID number
- A server will often have 100s of volumes

Namespace management

Clients get information via cell directory server (Volume Location Server) that hosts the Volume Location Database (VLDB)

Goal: everyone sees the same namespace

/afs/cellname/path

/afs/mit.edu/home/paul/src/try.c

Accessing an AFS file

- 1. Traverse AFS mount point E.g., /afs/cs.rutgers.edu
- 2. AFS client contacts Volume Location DB on Volume Location server to look up the volume
- 3. VLDB returns volume ID and list of machines (>1 for replicas on read-only file systems)
- 4. Request root directory from any machine in the list
- 5. Root directory contains files, subdirectories, and mount points
- 6. Continue parsing the file name until another mount point (from step 5) is encountered. Go to step 2 to resolve it.

Internally on the server

- Communication is via RPC over UDP
- Access control lists used for protection
 - Directory granularity
 - UNIX permissions ignored (except execute)

Authentication and access

Kerberos authentication:

- Trusted third party issues tickets
- Mutual authentication

Before a user can access files

- Authenticate to AFS with *klog* command
 - "Kerberos login" centralized authentication
- Get a token (ticket) from Kerberos
- Present it with each file access

Unauthorized users have id of system: any user

AFS cache coherence

On open:

- Server sends entire file to client

and provides a <u>callback promise</u>:

- It will notify the client when any other process modifies the file

AFS cache coherence

If a client modified a file:

- Contents are written to server on *close*

When a server gets an update:

- it notifies all clients that have been issued the callback promise
- Clients invalidate cached files

AFS cache coherence

If a client was down, on startup:

 Contact server with timestamps of all cached files to decide whether to invalidate

If a process has a file open, it continues accessing it even if it has been invalidated

- Upon close, contents will be propagated to server

AFS: Session Semantics

AFS: replication and caching

- Read-only volumes may be replicated on multiple servers
- Whole file caching not feasible for huge files
 - AFS caches in 64KB chunks (by default)
 - Entire directories are cached
- Advisory locking supported
 - Query server to see if there is a lock

AFS summary

Whole file caching

- offers dramatically reduced load on servers

Callback promise

 keeps clients from having to check with server to invalidate cache

AFS summary

AFS benefits

- AFS scales well
- Uniform name space
- Read-only replication
- Security model supports mutual authentication, data encryption

AFS drawbacks

- Session semantics
- Directory based permissions
- Uniform name space

Sample Deployment (2008)

- Intel engineering (2007)
 - 95% NFS, 5% AFS
 - Approx 20 AFS cells managed by 10 regional organizations
 - AFS used for:
 - CAD, applications, global data sharing, secure data
 - NFS used for:
 - Everything else
- Morgan Stanley (2004)
 - 25000+ hosts in 50+ sites on 6 continents
 - AFS is primary distributed filesystem for all UNIX hosts
 - 24x7 system usage; near zero downtime
 - Bandwidth from LANs to 64 Kbps inter-continental WANs

CODA COnstant Data Availability Carnegie-Mellon University

c. 1990-1992

CODA Goals

Descendant of AFS CMU, 1990-1992

Goals

Provide better support for replication than AFS - support shared read/write files

Support mobility of PCs

Mobility

- Provide constant data availability in disconnected environments
- Via hoarding (user-directed caching)
 - Log updates on client
 - Reintegrate on connection to network (server)
- Goal: Improve fault tolerance

Modifications to AFS

- Support replicated file volumes
- Extend mechanism to support disconnected operation
- A <u>volume</u> can be replicated on a group of servers
 - Volume Storage Group (VSG)

Volume Storage Group

- Volume ID used in the File ID is
 - Replicated volume ID
- One-time lookup
 - Replicated volume ID \rightarrow list of servers and <code>local</code> volume IDs
 - Cache results for efficiency
- Read files from *any* server
- Write to all available servers

Disconnection of volume servers

AVSG: Available Volume Storage Group

- Subset of VSG

What if some volume servers are down? On first download, contact everyone you can and get a version timestamp of the file

Disconnected servers

If the client detects that some servers have old versions

- Some server resumed operation
- Client initiates a resolution process
 - Updates servers: notifies server of stale data
 - Resolution handled entirely by servers
 - Administrative intervention may be required (if conflicts)

AVSG = Ø

- If no servers are available
 - Client goes to disconnected operation mode
- If file is not in cache
 - Nothing can be done... fail
- Do not report failure of update to server
 - Log update locally in Client Modification Log (CML)
 - User does not notice

Reintegration

Upon reconnection

- Commence reintegration

Bring server up to date with CML log playback - Optimized to send latest changes

Try to resolve conflicts automatically

- Not always possible

Support for disconnection

Keep important files up to date

- Ask server to send updates if necessary

Hoard database

- Automatically constructed by monitoring the user's activity
- And user-directed prefetch

CODA summary

- Session semantics as with AFS
- Replication of read/write volumes
 - Client-driven reintegration
- Disconnected operation
 - Client modification log
 - Hoard database for needed files
 - User-directed prefetch
 - Log replay on reintegration

DFS Distributed File System Open Group

DFS

- Part of Open Group's Distributed Computing Environment
- Descendant of AFS AFS version 3.x
- Development stopped c. 2005

Assume (like AFS):

- Most file accesses are sequential
- Most file lifetimes are short
- Majority of accesses are whole file transfers
- Most accesses are to small files

DFS Goals

Use whole file caching (like original AFS)

But...

session semantics are hard to live with

Create a strong consistency model

DFS Tokens

Cache consistency maintained by tokens

Token:

- Guarantee from server that a client can perform certain operations on a cached file

DFS Tokens

• Open tokens

- Allow token holder to open a file.
- Token specifies access (read, write, execute, exclusivewrite)
- Data tokens
 - Applies to a byte range
 - read token can use cached data
 - write token write access, cached writes
- Status tokens
 - *read*: can cache file attributes
 - *write*: can cache modified attributes
- Lock token
 - Holder can lock a byte range of a file

Living with tokens

- Server grants and revokes tokens
 - Multiple *read* tokens OK
 - Multiple read and a write token or multiple write tokens not OK if byte ranges overlap
 - Revoke all other *read* and *write* tokens
 - Block new request and send revocation to other token holders

DFS design

- Token granting mechanism
 - Allows for long term caching <u>and</u> strong consistency
- Caching sizes: 8K 256K bytes
- Read-ahead (like NFS)
 - Don't have to wait for entire file
- File protection via ACLs
- Communication via authenticated RPCs

DFS Summary

Essentially AFS v2 with server-based token granting

- Server keeps track of who is reading and who is writing files
- Server must be contacted on each open and close operation to request token

SMB Server Message Blocks Microsoft

c. 1987

SMB Goals

- File sharing protocol for Windows 95/98/NT/200x/ME/XP/Vista
- Protocol for sharing:

Files, devices, communication abstractions (named pipes), mailboxes

- Servers: make file system and other resources available to clients
- Clients: access shared file systems, printers, etc. from servers

Design Priority:

locking and consistency over client caching

SMB Design

- Request-response protocol
 - Send and receive *message blocks*
 - name from old DOS system call structure
 - Send request to server (machine with resource)
 - Server sends response
- Connection-oriented protocol
 - Persistent connection "session"
- Each message contains:
 - Fixed-size header
 - Command string (based on message) or reply string

Message Block

- Header: [fixed size]
 - Protocol ID
 - Command code (O..FF)
 - Error class, error code
 - Tree ID unique ID for resource in use by client (handle)
 - Caller process ID
 - User ID
 - Multiplex ID (to route requests in a process)
- Command: [variable size]
 - Param count, params, #bytes data, data

SMB Commands

• Files

- Get disk attr
- create/delete directories
- search for file(s)
- create/delete/rename file
- lock/unlock file area
- open/commit/close file
- get/set file attributes

SMB Commands

Print-related

- Open/close spool file
- write to spool
- Query print queue

User-related

- Discover home system for user
- Send message to user
- Broadcast to all users
- Receive messages

Establish connection

- Establish connection
- Negotiate protocol
 - *negprot* SMB
 - Responds with version number of protocol

- Establish connection
- Negotiate protocol
- Authenticate/set session parameters
 - Send *sessetupX* SMB with username, password
 - Receive NACK or UID of logged-on user
 - UID must be submitted in future requests

- Establish connection
- Negotiate protocol *negprot*
- Authenticate sessetupX
- Make a connection to a resource
 - Send tcon (tree connect) SMB with name of shared resource
 - Server responds with a **tree ID** (TID) that the client will use in future requests for the resource

- Establish connection
- Negotiate protocol *negprot*
- Authenticate sessetupX
- Make a connection to a resource tcon
- Send open/read/write/close/... SMBs

Locating Services

- Clients can be configured to know about servers
- Each server broadcasts info about its presence
 - Clients listen for broadcast
 - Build list of servers
- Fine on a LAN environment
 - Does not scale to WANs
 - Microsoft introduced *browse servers* and the *Windows Internet Name Service* (WINS)
 - or ... explicit pathname to server

Security

- Share level
 - Protection per "share" (resource)
 - Each share can have password
 - Client needs password to access all files in share
 - Only security model in early versions
 - Default in Windows 95/98
- User level
 - protection applied to individual files in each share based on access rights
 - Client must log in to server and be authenticated
 - Client gets a UID which must be presented for future accesses

CIFS Common Internet File System Microsoft, Compag, ...

c. 1995?

SMB evolves

SMB was reverse-engineered - samba under Linux

Microsoft released protocol to X/Open in 1992

Microsoft, Compaq, SCO, others joined to develop an enhanced public version of the SMB protocol:

> Common Internet File System (CIFS)

Original Goals

- Heterogeneous HW/OS to request file services over network
- Based on SMB protocol
- Support
 - Shared files
 - Byte-range locking
 - Coherent caching
 - Change notification
 - Replicated storage
 - Unicode file names

Original Goals

- Applications can register to be notified when file or directory contents are modified
- Replicated virtual volumes
 - For load sharing
 - Appear as one volume server to client
 - Components can be moved to different servers without name change
 - Use *referrals*
 - Similar to AFS

Original Goals

- Batch multiple requests to minimize roundtrip latencies
 - Support wide-area networks
- Transport independent
 - But need reliable connection-oriented message stream transport
- DFS support (compatibility)

Caching and Server Communication

- Increase effective performance with
 - Caching
 - Safe if multiple clients reading, nobody writing
 - read-ahead
 - Safe if multiple clients reading, nobody writing
 - write-behind
 - Safe if only one client is accessing file
- Minimize times client informs server of changes

Oplocks

Server grants opportunistic locks (oplocks) to client

- Oplock tells client how/if it may cache data
- Similar to DFS tokens (but more limited)
- Client must request an oplock
 - oplock may be
 - Granted
 - Revoked
 - Changed by server

Level 1 oplock (exclusive access)

- Client can open file for exclusive access
- Arbitrary caching
- Cache lock information
- Read-ahead
- Write-behind

If another client opens the file, the server has former client **break its oplock**:

- Client must send server any lock and write data and acknowledge that it does not have the lock
- Purge any read-aheads

Level 2 oplock (one writer)

- Level 1 oplock is replaced with a Level 2 lock if another process tries to read the file
- Request this if expect others to read
- Multiple clients may have the same file open as long as none are writing
- Cache reads, file attributes
 - Send other requests to server

Level 2 oplock revoked if another client opens the file for writing

Batch oplock (remote open even if local closed)

- Client can keep file open on server even if a local process that was using it has closed the file
 - Exclusive R/W open lock + data lock + metadata lock
- Client requests batch oplock if it expects programs may behave in a way that generates a lot of traffic (e.g. accessing the same files over and over)
 - Designed for Windows batch files
- Batch oplock revoked if another client opens the file

Filter oplock (allow preemption)

- Open file for read or write
- Allow clients with filter oplock to be suspended while another process preempted file access.
 - E.g., indexing service can run and open files without causing programs to get an error when they need to open the file
 - Indexing service is notified that another process wants to access the file.
 - It can abort its work on the file and close it or finish its indexing and then close the file.

No oplock

- All requests must be sent to the server
- can work from cache <u>only</u> if byte range was locked by client

Naming

- Multiple naming formats supported:
 - N:\junk.doc
 - \\myserver\users\paul\junk.doc
 - file://grumpy.pk.org/users/paul/junk.doc

Microsoft Dfs

- "Distributed File System"
 - Provides a logical view of files & directories
- Each computer hosts volumes

\\servername\dfsname

Each Dfs tree has one root volume and one level of leaf volumes.

- A volume can consist of multiple shares
 - Alternate path: load balancing (read-only)
 - Similar to Sun's automounter
- Dfs = SMB + naming/ability to mount server shares on other server shares

Redirection

- A share can be replicated (read-only) or moved through Microsoft's Dfs
- Client opens old location:
 - Receives STATUS_DFS_PATH_NOT_COVERED
 - Client requests referral: TRANS2_DFS_GET_REFERRAL
 - Server replies with new server

CIFS Summary

- A "standard" SMB
- Oplocks mechanism supported in base OS: Windows NT, 2000, XP
- Oplocks offer flexible control for distributed consistency
- Dfs offers namespace management

NFS version 4 Network File System Sun Microsystems

NFS version 4 enhancements

- Stateful server
- Compound RPC
 - Group operations together
 - Receive set of responses
 - Reduce round-trip latency
- Stateful open/close operations
 - Ensures atomicity of share reservations for windows file sharing (CIFS)
 - Supports exclusive creates
 - Client can cache aggressively

NFS version 4 enhancements

- create, link, open, remove, rename
 - Inform client if the directory changed during the operation
- Strong security
 - Extensible authentication architecture
- File system replication and migration
 - To be defined
- No concurrent write sharing or distributed cache coherence

NFS version 4 enhancements

- Server can delegate specific actions on a file to enable more aggressive client caching
 - Similar to CIFS oplocks
- Callbacks
 - Notify client when file/directory contents change

Other (less conventional) Distributed File Systems

Google File System: Application-Specific

- Component failures are the norm
 - Thousands of storage machines
 - Some are not functional at any given time
- Built from inexpensive commodity components
- Datasets:
 - Billions of objects consuming many terabytes

Google File System usage needs

- Stores modest number of large files
 - Files are huge by traditional standards
 - Multi-gigabyte common
 - Don't optimize for small files
- Workload:
 - Large streaming reads
 - Small random reads
 - Most files are modified by appending
 - Access is mostly read-only, sequential
- Support concurrent appends
- High sustained bandwidth more important than latency
- Optimize FS API for application
 - E.g., atomic append operation

Google file system

- GFS cluster
 - Multiple chunkservers
 - Data storage: fixed-size chunks
 - Chunks replicated on several systems (3 replicas)
 - One master
 - File system metadata
 - Mapping of files to chunks
- Clients ask master to look up file
 - Get (and cache) chunkserver/chunk ID for file offset
- Master replication
 - Periodic logs and replicas

WebDAV

- Not a file system just a protocol
- Web-based Distributed Authoring [and Versioning] RFC 2518
- Extension to HTTP to make the Web writable
- New HTTP Methods
 - PROPFIND: retrieve properties from a resource, including a collection (directory) structure
 - PROPPATCH: change/delete multiple properties on a resource
 - MKCOL: create a collection (directory)
 - COPY: copy a resource from one URI to another
 - MOVE: move a resource from one URI to another
 - LOCK: lock a resource (shared or exclusive)
 - UNLOCK: remove a lock

Who uses WebDAV?

- File systems:
 - davfs2: Linux file system driver to mount a DAV server as a file system
 - Coda kernel driver and neon for WebDAV communication
 - Native filesystem support in OS X (since 10.0)
 - Microsoft web folders (since Windows 98)
- Apache HTTP server
- Apple iCal & iDisk
- Jakarta Slide & Tomcat
- KDE Desktop
- Microsoft Exchange & IIS
- SAP NetWeaver
- Many others...
- Check out webdav.org

An ad hoc file system using Gmail

- Gmail file system (Richard Jones, 2004)
- User-level
 - Python application
 - FUSE userland file system interface
- Supports
 - Read, write, open, close, stat, symlink, link, unlink, truncate, rename, directories
- Each message represents a file
 - Subject headers contain:
 - File system name, filename, pathname, symbolic link info, owner ID, group ID, size, etc.
 - File data stored in attachments
 - Files can span multiple attachments

Client-server file systems

- Central servers
 - Point of congestion, single point of failure
- Alleviate somewhat with replication and client caching
 - E.g., Coda
 - Limited replication can lead to congestion
 - Separate set of machines to administer
- But ... user systems have LOTS of disk space
 (500 GB disks commodity items @ \$45)

Serverless file systems?

- Use workstations cooperating as peers to provide file system service
- Any machine can share/cache/control any block of data
- Prototype serverless file system
 - xFS from Berkeley demonstrated to be scalable
- Others:
 - See Fraunhofer FS (www.fhgfs.com)

