
Subject: Re: Strange IDL Help probelm 6.3
Posted by [Nigel Wade](#) on Thu, 08 Feb 2007 10:49:59 GMT
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JJ wrote:

>
>> Maybe I try stopping and starting the various nfs services and see if
>> that helps at all.
>
> Hey! Praise the all mighty deity of your choice!
>
> Must have just been NFS in a funky state.
>
> I stopped and restarted the NFS servers and clients and now everything
> works again. Yay! :-)
>
> Thanks Nigel.
>
> -JJ

Good, glad you got it sorted.

NFS and file locking is a mire of obscure problems and nastiness. It relies on a lock manager running on the NFS server, and this lock manager being able to be contacted via RPC calls. If the lock manager falls over then all the lock state is lost and blocking requests for locks will block forever. Firewalls add a whole new level of murkiness to the problem.

To be fair to NFS, it was never designed to handle file locking. NFS is a stateless network file system, designed before file locking was introduced to UNIX in any meaningful way, and file locking is inherently stateful. File locking isn't really a part of NFS, more recently file locking is handled by the NLM protocol and the nlockmgr RPC service. This should operate in tandem with NFS but it is stateful and can fail for various reasons, where NFS, being stateless, manages to continue in the way it was intended.

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