Subject: fstat update
Posted by ashmall on Mon, 25 Jan 1999 08:00:00 GMT
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Dear All,
Has anyone had a problem like this?
We have a widget prog that periodically checks a file for new data, it does this by monitoring the file size as returned by fstat. This usually works fine but we have found on some (network) drives fstat always returns the same value, namely the file size it first saw, even though the file is growing.
The only fix we've found is to constantly close and re-open the file which is a rather inelegant, if not inefficient, solution.
It doesn't appear to be a buffering problem since we can see the file size changing (across the network) using the command line or a file manager.
Any suggestions?
(We're using IDL 5.1.1 under NT4)

Many thanks,

Justin

Subject: Re: fstat update
Posted by Vapuser on Tue, 26 Jan 1999 08:00:00 GMT
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ashmall@my-dejanews.com (Justin Ashmall) writes:

> Dear All,
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> problem since we can see the file size changing (across the network)
> using the command line or a file manager.

> Any suggestions?
> (We're using IDL 5.1.1 under NT4)
>
> Many thanks,
>
> Justin

I've seen this problem in a UNIX environment when running an IDL routine on one machine that was querying the size of a file which resided on a disk that was NFS mounted from another machine. I am unfamiliar with NT, so I don't know if 'network disk' is a fair analog of NFS. In this case it was a feature of the operating system/NFS, the file size didn't change as frequently on the NFS client, therefore fstat reported EOF correctly as far as it could see. The work around was to run the program on the machine which hosted (i.e. for which the disk was local) the disk containing the file in question.

Hope this helps in some small way.

whd

Subject: Re: fstat update
Posted by ashmall on Fri, 29 Jan 1999 08:00:00 GMT
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Thanks for the response; since we can't have the program creating the data on the same machine as the IDL machine I think we might try having the "data program" write the data file onto the IDL machine's hard drive, via the network.
I think, however, that the problem isn't soley one of NFS (or equiv) update frequency since fstat reported the same file size every fews second for the whole 8 hour run!

Thanks again,

Justin

In article <88iuduugyk.fsf@catspaw.jpl.nasa.gov>,
Vapuser<vapuser@catspaw.jpl.nasa.gov> wrote:
> ashmall@my-dejanews.com (Justin Ashmall) writes:
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> whd
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Subject: Re: fstat update
Posted by Martin Schultz on Fri, 29 Jan 1999 08:00:00 GMT
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Justin Ashmall wrote:
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> whole 8 hour run!
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> Thanks again,
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> Justin

We actually experienced something similar when we started to run IDL on an SGI Origin 2000 machine. But in our case, it was definitively NFS, because you could also copy files with some other machine on their hard drives, and the SGI wouldn't catch up (which caused me run over quota a couplke of times although I had deleted files). Our sys admin somehow

managed to fix this.

Short message: Try to find a test that is independent of IDL, then you know at least who is to blame (and who should fix this).

Martin.

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Dr. Martin Schultz
Department for Engineering&Applied Sciences, Harvard University
109 Pierce Hall, 29 Oxford St., Cambridge, MA-02138, USA

phone: (617)-496-8318
fax : (617)-495-4551

e-mail: mgs@io.harvard.edu
Internet-homepage: http://www-as.harvard.edu/people/staff/mgs/
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