1. /BriefCase Server Host, Client Host and User Configuration

This document outlines the configuration steps for new client hosts and users. Please note that all references to the /BriefCase, /Stage and /projRCS *directories* bear an implicit, installation dependent "Repository Nexus Path" (RNP) prefix.

2. Server Configuration

On the /BriefCase server, login as root and do the following:

1. Add the new host to /etc/hosts and /etc/hosts.equiv files

2. Add new host to the NFS export/share table for /Stage and /BriefCase filesystems

3. re-export the /Stage and /BriefCase filesystems

4. If necessary to secure "private" projects, add new project group(s) to the /etc/group file

2.1 Remote Server Access: rsh vs. ssh

The /BriefCase scripts can use either the rsh or the ssh command to invoke server-side scripts. The rsh mechanism has less overhead than the ssh mechanism and, thus, offers a performance advantage. However, some OS distributions (older Linux and FreeBSD, in particular) contain a problematic rshd server which stalls or hangs when it receives numerous rsh requests within a short time. To determine whether your server suffers from this problem, run the /BriefCase/testing/rsh_loop script on a remote client host:

    rsh_loop <server_host>

If the rsh_loop stalls short of 500 iterations, then you will need to upgrade your OS or use ssh.

Obviously, this test can only be run after the server is set up to allow rsh access from a client host. It is mentioned here because the outcome determines whether you need to install/use OpenSSH on these hosts.

2.2 Special steps for Servers using Secure Shell (ssh)

In a secure shell environment, it is necessary for the new user to establish "ssh credentials" on both the client and the server. Refer to the accompanying SSHhowto.txt file for details.

2.3 Configuring New Client Hosts and Users

This section summarizes the steps necessary to configure /BriefCase client hosts and users, regardless of whether they use NFS, rcp, scp or FTP to transport files between client and server hosts.

1. Set up the new client host as a "trusted host", e.g. update the appropriate security files: /etc/hosts.equiv or /etc/hosts.allow etc.

2. Set up any new user accounts and project groups.

    If NIS/NIS+ is NOT being used for NFS client host system tables, you must manually ensure that the Group/GID and User/UID entries for /BriefCase users and projects on the client host agree with the corresponding entries on the /BriefCase server (/etc/group, /etc/passwd and /etc/shadow files). For non-NFS configurations, uid/gid correspondence is not critical, though it remains desirable.

2.4 NFS Client Configuration

As root, do the following:

1. create /BriefCase and /Stage directories or links to the directories which you want to store the /BriefCase scripts, etc. (/BriefCase) and use as a "staging area" (/Stage).

2. configure the NFS mounting facility to mount the /BriefCase server's exported /BriefCase and /Stage filesystems at the client's /BriefCase and /Stage mount points.

2.5 Non-NFS Client Configuration

As root, do the following:

1. create /BriefCase and /Stage directories or links to the directories which you want to store the /BriefCase scripts, etc. (/BriefCase) and use as a "staging area" (/Stage).

    The filesystem where /BriefCase lives will need about 12MB of disk space and will not grow during use except, possibly when a new version of /BriefCase is installed.

2. cd to /Stage and make a directory called "home"; make world-writable (777). The filesystem where /Stage lives will grow and shrink during use and may get fairly large if project files tend to be very large of if many users check files in/out of the repository simultaneously.

3. Install an image (tar file?) of the server's /BriefCase directory tree.

4. cd to /BriefCase and modify the BCconfig file line such that the active RCPMODE= assignment reads:

    RCPMODE=rcp

    or

    RCPMODE=scp

    depending on whether rcp or scp is to be use to migrate files between this client and the server.

Regardless of whether the client host is configured for NFS or non-NFS access, test the new client host and user set up as follows:

1. Ensure that the client user can access the server using rsh or ssh using the date command:

        rsh <BCserver> date

    or, if configured for ssh:

        ssh <BCserver> date

    where <BCserver> is replaced with the hostname of your /BriefCase server. This test succeeds if the current date/time is displayed WITHOUT prompting for a password.

2. If SSH is installed, some extra effort is required to ensure that SSH credentials are established on both the client and back to the server; see the SSH documentation for details. See the /BriefCase Reference and User's Guide for more configuration and trouble-shooting info.

3. Modify the /BriefCase users' shell startup scripts (.profile, .login, .bash_profile, etc.) to connect to the /BriefCase repository. For Bourne, Korn and BASH shell users, modify the appropriate .profile script by adding the following lines near the end of the file:

        BC_RUNTIME=dev; export BC_RUNTIME
        . /BriefCase/BC.profile

    For users of C-Shell type shells, add the following lines to the .login script:

        setenv BC_RUNTIME dev
        source /BriefCase/BC.login

For more information, refer to the /BriefCase "Reference Manual and User's Guide".