NFS access to GPFS at DLS, our experience

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Outline

Diamond

Filesystems and their use

Latest Implementation

CES

CES NFS problems

Cosmetic

Real Issues

Dealbreaker

Solution for DLS



Diamond

Diamond Light Source (DLS) is the UK's national synchrotron facility. It is located at the Harwell Science and Innovation Campus in Oxfordshire, UK.

- Synchrotron
- many beamlines/detectors
- users/scientists need quick feedback on data quality for experiment planing





High Performance Filesystems at DLS

3 GPFS file systems

- Shared use with Data Acquisition, Processing and Visualisation in parallel
- Scientists want to see data on Desktops
- NFS (and CIFS) access required



GPFS03 — Initial CES setup

- ► GPFS 5.0.2.X
- 4 nodes
- CES
- ▶ SMB CES service proved not possible due to POSIX ACLs





ACLs (POSIX)

```
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
drwxrws--T. 2 gda2 em2
drwxrws---. 2 gda2 em2
(bnh65367@ws386 mnt) $ cd test
bnh65367@ws386 test1 $ ls -l data/2019/en20287-24
           1 m86detector em20287 24 1029629 Jul 10 10:18 Atlas grid3 slot9 1.1pg
            1 m86detector em20287 24 21883572 Jul 10 09:49 DataAcquistion grid2 slot8 1.jpg
           1 m86detector em20287 24 21893672 Jul 10 09:55 DataAcquistion grid2 slot8 2 ing
                         em20287 24
                                       4896 Jul 18 15:52 processing
                                       4096 Jul 12 05:40 raw
                         em20287 24
                         em20287 24
                                       4896 Jul 8 11:37 spool
rwxrwxr-x. 12 m86detector em20287 24
                                        4096 Jul 10 11:09 supervisor 20190710 110010 atlas
rwxrwxr-x. 4 m86detector em20287 24
                                        4096 Jul 10 14:29 supervisor_20190710 111130 data
                                        4096 Jul 8 11:37 tmp
                         em20287 24
                                       4096 Jul 8 11:37 xml
bnh65367@ws386 test] $ getfacl data/2019/em20287-24
file: data/2019/em20287-24
 owner: gda2
 group: em20287 24
 flags: -s-
group::rwx
bnh65367@ws386 test1 $
```

ACLs over NFS

- fully enforced (good)
- not displayed on NFS (CES)



Impatient Scientist Scenario

- Detector creates files. File count over NFS lagging behind by initially seconds, increases with number of files in directory, eventually writer completes 10000 files but NFS still listing only 7000-8000 files hours later.
- expected NFS behaviour???
- eventually hotfix....



I/O errors

Some time after restarting everything, user suddenly receive I/O errors over NFS.

- ganesha process hitting limit of open FDs (No failover trigger?)
- ► FD leak?

https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/ibm-spectrum-scale-nfs-operations-may-fail-io-error



random CES IP failovers

With the changes for the FD issue in place, NFS ganesha now so busy that it causes IP failovers? Clients hanging...





file corruption over NFS

Users reported that their data collection were broken, the data they see is not what they expect!

- files on native GPFS client OK
- files on NFS different => not OK
- only some files affected
- consistent across all NFS clients
- peristent for hours (i.e. identified a file at midnight, still same issue next morning)

Still unresolved to date.



Documentation?

Best practice documents how to set CES up for this? => 404





Solution for DLS

Giving up on CES (for now??????), replacing it with kernel NFSd solution

Problem solved!



Questions

Questions?



