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Subject: NIS Users on NFS homes

Posted by [Thomas Sattler](#) on Thu, 24 Jan 2008 16:06:33 GMT

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Hi there ...

We have a beowulf cluster here. The master holds all data and distributes work to eight compute nodes. The system is running well but as debian old stable is used I can't install some newer software.

I thought about running a kind of application server in a VE. So people using bleeding edge software will be transparently send to the VE (using a wrapper like this: `alias latest_software='ssh -X VE-IP latest_software'`)

Installing NIS on the VE worked fine. I can see all users via `getent`. But automounter refuses to work:

```
Jan 24 15:27:44 beo-09 automount[24060]: failed to create iautofs
directory /data
```

```
Jan 24 15:27:44 beo-09 automount[24060]: /data: mount failed!
```

I found some older mails that autofs is not yet supported inside VEs so I tried to install NIS in the HN. The first thing I found out this way is that portmap refuses to start in HN if there is a portmapper running in the VE. (Starting the portmapper in the HN first works.)

Then I saw that the `bind mount` didn't solve my problem very well. `/data` is a virtual directory, managed by autofs. The content is dynamically added and removed. While I can use the mounted directories on the HN, in the (bind mounted) VE only the first level of directories is shown.

```
(*) HN# mount --bind /data /var/lib/vz/root/9/data
```

I can also trigger the automounter from inside the VE. But when changing to an autofs mounted directory, it is complete empty:

```
root@beo-09:/data/home3# ls -la
ls: .: No such file or directory
```

Becoming a user works, but he cannot see his homedir:

```
root@beo-09:/data/home3# su - tsattler
No directory, logging in with HOME=/
```

tsattler@beo-09:/\$

I have no more ideas about this at the moment. Can anyone give me a hint what I can do to get the NIS managed users and their NIS/autofs managed to work inside a VE?

Thanks for reading this long mail ;-)  
Thomas

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