Accessing Samba from Linux. What’s new? What’s faster? What’s better?

Steve French
Principal Systems Engineer – Primary Data
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Who am I?

- Steve French  smfrench@gmail.com
- Author and maintainer of Linux cifs vfs (for accessing Samba, Windows and various SMB3/CIFS based NAS appliances)
- Also wrote initial SMB2 kernel client prototype
- Member of the Samba team, coauthor of SNIA CIFS Technical Reference and former SNIA CIFS Working Group chair
- Principal Systems Engineer, Protocols: Primary Data
Most Active Linux Filesystems this year

- 4412 kernel filesystem changesets in last year (since 4.0 kernel)!
  - Linux kernel file system activity is continuing to be strong
  - 5.3% of overall kernel changes (which are dominated by drivers) but watched carefully
  - Improvements in defacto standard Linux xfstest test suite as well
- cifs.ko (cifs/smb3 client) had fewer changes than last year but still among more active fs
  - Btrfs 764 changesets (increased)
  - VFS (overall fs mapping layer and common functions) 709 (increased)
  - Xfs 395 (decreased)
  - Nfs client 433
  - Ext4 304 (increased)
  - CIFS/SMB2/SMB3 client 108 (decreased)
  - Nfs server 142 (decreased)
- NB: Samba (cifs/smb2/smb3 server) is more active than all those put together since it is broader in scope (by a lot) and also is in user space not in kernel
Kernel (including cifs client) improving

- 13 months ago we had Linux 4.1 ie “Hurr Durr I'm a Sheep”

Now we have 4.6-rc7 “Charred Weasel”
High Level View of SMB3 Status

- SMB3 support is solid (and large file I/O FAST!), but lacks some optional advanced features (witness protocol integration e.g.) and a few basic features (ACL integration)
  - Metadata performance expected to be slower (need to add open/query compounding)
- SMB3 faster than CIFS (and sometimes NFS) for large file I/O
- SMB3 posix emulation is ok (use mount options “sfu” and “mfsymlinks”) but worse the cifs to Samba (and nfs)
- Can mount with SMB2.02, SMB2.1, SMB3, SMB3.02, 3.1.1
  - Specify vers=2.0 or vers=2.1 or 3.0 or 3.02 or 3.1.1 on mount
Improvements by release

- 3.19 26 changesets
  - Fix Oplock bug, inode caching bug and ioctl clone bug
  - Fix conflicts between SecurityFlags (which allowed CONFIG_MUST_LANMAN and CONFIG_MUST_PLNTXT)
  - Improve fallocate support
- Linux 4.0 21 changesets
  - Various minor stability fixes
- Linux 4.1 (23 changesets)
  - Stability fixes: Mapchars fix, fix to allow Unicode surrogate pairs (improved character conversion for some Asian languages), DFS fix, inode number reuse fix
- Linux 4.2 (14)
  - SMB 3.11 (Windows 10) dialect support (improved security)
  - Faster copy offload (REFLINK, duplicate_extents) added for Windows Server 2016
Improvements by release (continued)

- **4.3** 17 changesets
  - Minor bug fixes (including Mac authentication issue when timestamps differ too much on server/client)
  - Add krb5 support for smb3
  - Cifs.ko version updated to 2.08
  - Added ioctl to query detailed fs info on mounted share
- **Linux 4.4** (17 changesets)
  - Allow copy offload across shares
  - Add resilient and persistent handle mount options and support for the create context (durable v2)
- **Linux 4.5** (27 changesets)
  - Minor bug fixes
  - clone_file_range added to vfs, cifs support for clone_file_range
  - Allow O_DIRECT with cache=loose
  - Make echo interval tunable
  - (first phase of encryption support begun)
- **Linux 4.6** (8 changesets)
  - Minor fixes
- **Linux 4.7** (7 changes)
  - Fix badlock regression for guest mounts (mount with -o guest can fail to Samba servers when patched for badlock)
  - Cifs.ko version updated to 2.09
  - Minor fixes: including NetApp DFSpathname issue
  - Persistent handle reconnect fixes and improved Mac POSIX support (expected)
Copy Offload – big performance win

```bash
root@ubuntu:~# dd if=/dev/zero of=/mnt1/30M count=300 bs=100K
300+0 records in
300+0 records out
30720000 bytes (31 MB) copied, 0.445072 s, 69.0 MB/s

root@ubuntu:~# ls /mnt1
30M 3M copy-of-3M normal-non-ss-copy-of-3M public

root@ubuntu:~# rm /mnt1/copy-of-3M

root@ubuntu:~# time cp /mnt1/3M /mnt1/normal-non-ss-copy-of-3M
real 0m0.068s
user 0m0.000s
sys 0m0.032s

root@ubuntu:~# time cp /mnt1/30M /mnt1/normal-non-ss-copy-of-30M
real 0m0.484s
user 0m0.000s
sys 0m0.351s

root@ubuntu:~# time cp --reflink /mnt1/3M /mnt1/ss-copy-of-3M
real 0m0.018s
user 0m0.000s
sys 0m0.007s

root@ubuntu:~# time cp --reflink /mnt1/30M /mnt1/ss-copy-of-30M
real 0m0.020s
user 0m0.000s
sys 0m0.010s

root@ubuntu:~# 
```
DUPLICATE_EXTENTS is very efficient
Duplicate Extents vs CopyChunk for server side copy (to REFS)
CopyChunk server (to NTFS) – times vary less new vs. existing target
Better HA: Persistent and Resilient Handles

- New mount options (and code to add corresponding create contexts etc.)
  - “resilienthandles”
  - “persistenthandles”
- Two needed changes
  - Add channel sequence number on reconnect
  - Improve server to server failover
    - Alternate DFS targets in DFS referrals
    - Witness protocol server or share redirection
fallocate

- We currently support
  - Simple fallocate
  - PUNCH_HOLE
  - ZERO_RANGE
  - KEEP_SIZE
- We have discussed ways to add support for the remaining two when the server supports duplicate extents (currently REFS on Windows 2016 is the only one that advertises “FS_SUPPORTEDS_BLOCK_REFCOUNTING” capability). We can add support for:
  - COLLAPSE_RANGE
  - INSERT_RANGE
Cifs-utils

- The userspace utils: mount.cifs, cifs.upcall, set/getcifsacl, cifscreds, idmapwb (idmap plugin), pam_cifscreds
  - thanks to Jeff Layton for maintaining cifs-utils
- 4 changesets over the past year
  - Current version is 6.5
  - Minor bugfixes
Work in Progress

- Xstat integration
  - Returns birth time and dos attributes in more standardized fashion (cifs has a private xattr for that, but few tools use it)
- RichACL integration
- IOCTL to list alternate data streams
  - Querying data in alternate data streams (e.g. for backup) requires disabling posix pathnames (due to conflict with "::")
- Finish up of persistent handle support (adding channel sequence number on reconnect)
- Finish up of encryption support
- Add workaround for guest login problem introduced by “Badlock” Samba security fixes
- DFS improvements, including for DFS reconnect
SMB2/SMB3 Optional Feature Status

- **Security**
  - Complete: Downgrade attack protection, SMB2.1 signing
  - SMB3.11 negotiate contexts (partial), per-share encryption (started), ACLs (cifs only, started for SMB3)
  - Krb5 and ntlmssp support
  - Not yet: CBAC (DAC ACLs)

- **Data Integrity:**
  - Durable Handle Support (complete), resilient handles (mount option), persistent handles (need to add channel sequence number on reconnect but mostly complete)

- **Performance**
  - Complete: multicredit, large I/O
  - Copy offload, and reflink
  - Multichannel (started)
  - Not yet: T10 copy offload, RDMA, directory leases, Branch Cache integration, use of compound ops on wire

- **Clustering**
  - Not yet: Witness protocol integration

- **Other**
  - Set/Get Compression and Sparse File support (complete)
POSIX/Linux Compatibility: Details

- **Implemented:**
  - Hardlinks

- **Emulated: (current cifs.ko SMB3 code)**
  - POSIX Path Names: Approximately 7 reserved characters not allowed in SMB3/NTFS etc. (e.g. ? * \ : ! )
  - Symlinks (ala “mfsymlinks” Minshall-French symlinks, use “mfsymlinks” mount option)
  - Pseudo-Files: FIFOs, Pipes, Character Devices (ala “sfu” aka “Microsoft services for unix” use “sfu” mount option)

- **Partial:**
  - Extended attribute flags (lsattr/chattr) including compressed flag
  - POSIX stat and statfs info
  - POSIX Byte Range Locks

- **Not implemented, but emulatable with combination of SMB3 features and/or POSIX Extensions or even use of Apple AAPL create context**
  - Xattrs (Security/Trusted for SELinux, User xattrs for apps)
  - POSIX Mode Bits
  - POSIX UID/GID ownership information
  - Case Sensitivity in opening paths

- **Not solvable without additional extensions:**
  - POSIX Delete (unlink) Behavior
Approach 1: Enhance support for existing SMB3 features some servers already support

- Get mode from SMB3 ACL (or combination of that and SMB2_CREATE_QUERY_MAXIMAL_ACCESS_REQUEST create context)
- Recognize case sensitive volume at mount time and detect cases where server 'lies' about it
- Cleanup Microsoft “nfs symlink” code to better recognize this symlink (reparse point)
- Implement level 11 SMB2_QUERY_FS_INFO in Samba get “PhysicalBytesPerSectorForPerformance” and map to statfs f_bsize
- Doesn't address posix byte range locking fully, nor does it always address case sensitive posix path names, nor conflict between streams (which have : separating the file and ADS name) and posix paths (which allow : in the name)
Approach 2

- Implement AAPL context
  - Improved Mac interop is another benefit
  - Samba even has a vfs_fruit module that adds other interesting features (spotlight integration e.g.)
- Subset of POSIX requirements can be solved
- `kAAPL_SERVER_CAPS = 0x01`,
  - `kAAPL_SUPPORTS_READ_DIR_ATTR = 0x01`,
  - `kAAPL_SUPPORTS_OSX_COPYFILE = 0x02`,
  - `kAAPL_UNIX_BASED = 0x04`
  - `kAAPL_SUPPORTS_NFS_ACE = 0x08`
- `kAAPL_VOLUME_CAPS = 0x02`,
  - `kAAPL_SUPPORT_RESOLVE_ID = 0x01`,
  - `kAAPL_CASE_SENSITIVE = 0x02`
- `kAAPL_MODEL_INFO = 0x04` (pad, length, model string)
Approach 2 (continued) – Mac example

```
fset: 0x00000080
length: 40
main Element: <invalid> "AAPL"
Chain Offset: 0x00000000
Tag: AAPL
    Offset: 0x00000010
    Length: 4
Data
    Offset: 0x00000018
    Length: 16
```
Mac example (continued)
Approach 3 – POSIX Extensions for SMB3!

- See Jeremy's talk here and at Vault conference last month
More SMB3 Performance Linux->Linux

- client Ubuntu with 3.16-rc4 with Pavel's patches, srv Fedora 20 (3.14.9 kernel Samba server version 4.1.9)
- `dd if=/mnt/testfile of=/dev/null bs=50M count=30`
- testfile is 1.5GB existing file, unmount/mount in between each large file copy to avoid any caching effect on client (although server will have cached it)

- SMB3 averaged 199MB/sec reads (copy from server)
- CIFS averaged 170MB/sec reads (copy from server)
- NFSv3 averaged 116MB/sec (copy from server)
- NFSv4 and v4.1 averaged 110MB/sec (copy from server)

- Write speeds (doing `dd if=/dev/zero of=/mnt/testfile bs=60M count=25`) more varied but averaged similar speeds for copy to server for both NFSv3/v4/v4.1 and SMB3 (~175MB/s)
- NB: Additional NFS server and client scalability patches have recently been added to kernel (it is possible that they may help these cases)
- Continue work on improving xfstest automation
- Can now use “scratch” mount with cifs.ko expanding the range of xfstests that can run against cifs or smb3 mounts
- Need to cleanup some bugs found by xfstest to remove 'noise' and make it easier to identify and fix any regressions early
• Surprising number work even to SMB3 without POSIX support
• Some tests fail due to lack of posix permissions (mode bits) e.g. 29, 30, 67, 84, 87, 88, 98, 109, 123, 126, 129, 317
• Various tests fail due to falloc (missing features, and a bug)
  – 8, 9, 71, 86, 91, 112, 263, 315
• Failures due to other missing posix features
  – Advisory locking (test 131)
• Misc. failures and timestamp coherence client/server
  – Really hard to get mtime consistent on client/server in network file systems
  – 11, 23, 75, 124 ...
• The Future of SMB3 and Linux is very bright
• Let's continue its improvement!
Thank you for your time