

Restricting FTP users to their home directory

000090006

Article Content

Audience: Level 30 = Customers

Impact: Introduction

By default, when a user logs in to a cluster using FTP, the user's current working directory is his or her home directory (typically */ifs/home/username*).

However, if the permissions on the */ifs* directory do not restrict them from doing so, users may simply run the `cd /ifs` command to get to the top level of the cluster file system. This may not be suited for environments in which administrators want to limit users to accessing only their home directories.

Resolution: Solution

Note: These instructions require you to stop and restart the FTP service in order to load the configuration changes. All currently connected FTP clients will be disconnected during this operation.

To restrict FTP users to their home directory:

1. Create a *ftpchroot* file in the */etc/* directory on node-1 by running the following command:

```
touch /etc/ftpchroot
```

2. Add users to the file by running this command for each user:

Note: Replace `<myuser>` in the following step with each FTP user's user name.

```
echo <myuser> >> /etc/ftpchroot
```

3. Copy the modified *ftpchroot* file to the */ifs* directory by running this command:

```
cp /etc/ftpchroot /ifs/
```

4. Copy the */ifs/ftpchroot* file to each node in the cluster by running this command:

```
isi_for_array -sq "cp -f /ifs/ftpchroot /etc/ftpchroot"
```

5. Disable the FTP service by running this command:

```
isi services ftp disable
```

6. Verify that FTP has stopped on every node by running this command:

```
isi_for_array -s "ps awwx | grep ftp | grep -v grep | wc -l"
```

Note: This process may take up to 60 seconds.

The system returns output similar to the following example:

```
isilon-1: 0  
isilon-2: 0  
isilon-3: 0  
isilon-4: 0
```

7. Re-enable the FTP service by running this command:

```
isi services ftp enable
```

8. Verify that FTP has restarted on every node by running this command:

```
isi_for_array -s "ps awwx | grep ftp | grep -v grep | wc -l"
```

Note: This process may take up to 60 seconds.

The system returns output similar to the following example:

```
isilon-1: 1  
isilon-2: 1  
isilon-3: 1  
isilon-4: 1
```

At this point, if a user connects via FTP, the user will be unable to change (cd) out of his or her ftproot directory.

Note: After configuring ftpchroot, restricted users logged in via FTP will see file-last-modified times represented in GMT. For information about changing this setting, see the article [90015](#) for a workaround.

Notes: Prerequisites

Implementing this solution requires the following technical skills and knowledge:

- An understanding of basic UNIX file manipulation commands, such as cp (copy) and mv (move).

Risks

The risks involved with this implementation are minimal, and should affect only the FTP subsystem.

Note: The results of this procedure are not preserved if you upgrade to version 4.79 and earlier, or from 5.0.0 to 5.0.2 of the OneFS operating system.

Notes (Restricted): Note:

Isilon internal only

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