Vancouver Response Center
T. 604.451.2727
Toll free T. 1.800.451.2727
F. 604.451.2713
Toll free T. 1.800.767.2736

Customer support email:
callcentre@creo.com

www.creo.com

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White paper

David Bradshaw
Systems Engineer
T. +1.604.451.2700 Ext. 5505
F. +1.604.437.9891
David.Bradshaw@creo.com

Unix Connectivity Scenarios

Copying files *from* UNIX

This is necessary to be able to add input files to our products. There are two ways our clients might wish to do this.

Client uses our UI to locate files and manually add them to their workflow.

Client puts files in a folder on a UNIX machine that is scanned by our software which triggers action on a Creo workflow.

Copying files *to* UNIX

This is needed for a Creo workflow solution to drive a UNIX based workflow or device. (Lotem)

Unix copying files to Windows

This means mounting an NT directory on a UNIX box. In the past this has been referred to as UNIX Push or other names. One example of why this was necessary is that Prinergy hot folders could not be located on a UNIX machine if we used Hummingbird NFS Client as our solution. Therefore we had to write the files to the NT volume.

Job Homing

This means that the Prinergy server is using a UNIX Volume for job homing. All the system files are stored on the UNIX volume. This is by far the most complex situation. In theory, if the Prinergy service has full access to the shared UNIX volume, this **should** work.

We do not recommend job homing.

Current Solutions for Scenarios

Client based Solutions

Hummingbird NFS Maestro Client

Hummingbird NFS Maestro Client is a program that when installed on a windows machine will allow it to mount a directory that a UNIX machine has shared out using NFS. This program requires installation on all machines that will require access to the UNIX share. A Daemon is required to be installed on the UNIX machine as well.

This solution is used for adding input files and for having Prinergy output files to a UNIX server.

PROS:

This solution does not use CIFS. This means that it can be used even when the UNIX server is running CIFS connectivity software such as PCShare (see below).

CONS:

Hot folders do not work properly if they are located on a drive shared using this solution. (Thus the need for the server solution).

This solution requires setup on each PC.

Hummingbird NFS Maestro Server

Hummingbird NFS Maestro Server is a program that when installed on a windows machine will allow a UNIX machine to mount a NT folder using NFS.

This solution is primarily used to support hot folders, since the Hummingbird NFS Client solution does not allow Prinergy to point a hot folder at a UNIX volume. The server solution gets around this limitation by allowing the Prinergy server to share a UNIX mountable directory via NFS. This directory is then setup as a hot folder within Prinergy.

PROS:

This solution does not use CIFS. This means that it can be used even when the UNIX server is using PCShare.

CONS:

This solution requires setup on each PC.

Microsoft Services for Unix

This solution provides both an NFS server and an NFS Client, and an NFS Gateway, i.e. you can map an NFS share then set that up as a Share for other Windows machines. We have not looked into it enough to make a recommendation.

Server Based Solutions

SAMBA

This solution is an all round solution that causes the UNIX server to emulate a Windows PC.

PROS:

After initial installation SAMBA is very simple to maintain. All maintenance is handled by an HTML interface.

SAMBA emulates a PC and does not require any software to be installed on the client machines.

Cons:

SAMBA uses the same CIFS protocol as other products (such as PCShare) to make shares available. This can cause conflicts.

Helios PCShare

PCShare is a “SAMBA like” product supplied by Helios. It is expensive and Creo has not tested Prinergy with it.

Recommendations

We should strongly consider moving to a UNIX connectivity solution where we allow the client two options:

A: They cause their UNIX machines to appear on the network as a Windows server that is browsable by specific NT accounts. If they can do this we certify that our products will work. This can be tested by verifying they work on a stand-alone Windows system at the client's site. If our product works on this stand-alone machine but not on their UNIX machine, we know the issue is with the UNIX machine.

B: On a per-system basis we will assist them to do A. this is done on a consulting basis. It is not part of a regular Prinergy sale and should be billed for on a per hour basis.

For systems where Creo provides both the UNIX machine (Brisque) and the PC side we can provide and support a complete solution, because we control both the UNIX and Windows environments.

David Bradshaw
Systems Engineer
T. +1.604.451.2700 EXT. 5505
F. +1.604.437.9891
David.Bradshaw@creo.com