

PeerCollaboration

PeerCollaboration Basic edition using PeerLock

Customers of Microsoft Windows Server 2003 and 2008 may decide to employ the native DFS Replication capabilities for both branch office backup as well as inter-office file server mirroring. When enabling inter-office file server mirroring, the company's goal is to provide for employee file sharing. Generally this mechanism is far more efficient than emailing files among the collaborative teams, especially if the files are large in size.

Though DFS R2 is a more reliable and "network friendly" replication tool in comparison to its FRS predecessor, it is still incomplete and inadequate for today's more collaborative environments where data needs to be shared in real-time, among the branch offices and project teams operating in multiple locations.

Business Challenges

DFS lacks a central feature important for a collaborative environment where inter-office file servers are mirrored and data is shared: File Locking. Without integrated file locking, using DFS to mirror file servers exposes live documents to version conflicts. That is, a colleague in Office A can open and edit a document at the same time a colleague in Office B is working on the same document. In such a scenario, DFS will only save the changes made by the person closing the file last.

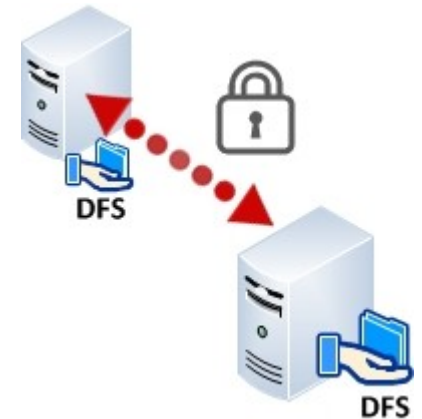
Moreover, another version conflict potential arises even if these two colleagues are not editing the file simultaneously. DFS Replication works on a single threaded, "pull" process. As a result, synchronization tasks can easily "queue" up and create a backlog whereby changes made from one location are not replicated to the other side in an immediate manner. This time delay creates another opportunity for file version conflicts

Solution

The surest and simplest way of eliminating version conflicts when using DFS is to add a true file locking solution - one that offers, at a minimum, real-time detection of file use and immediate remote locking, such as PeerLock. This assures that when a file is open at location A, all other versions - say local copies at various branch offices - are locked down, preventing anyone from opening and revising it. When the file closes, the file lock is immediately released and ready for synchronization.

While many customers enjoy the benefits of adding file locking to DFS, please bear in mind the potential synchronization backlogs while using DFS.

For a true solution that offers both real-time file locking AND real-time replication, thus eliminating version conflict and providing a fail-safe collaborative framework, evaluate the complete PeerCollaboration solution.



PeerCollaboration Standard edition using PeerSync and PeerLock

The goal of the solution is to facilitate high availability, collaboration, and backup among branch office users, by providing unobtrusive real-time mirroring and locking of files.

As companies expand and open new office locations, the requirement for efficient inter-office collaboration becomes increasingly important to ensure that geographic distance does not become an inhibitor of growth. One important aspect of this effort is to ensure that data is quickly available for any employee wherever they need it, regardless of whether they are in the headquarter office or a branch office location.

File mirroring solutions have thus been deployed to provide for employee file sharing. This mechanism is generally far more efficient than emailing files back and forth, especially if the files are large in size.

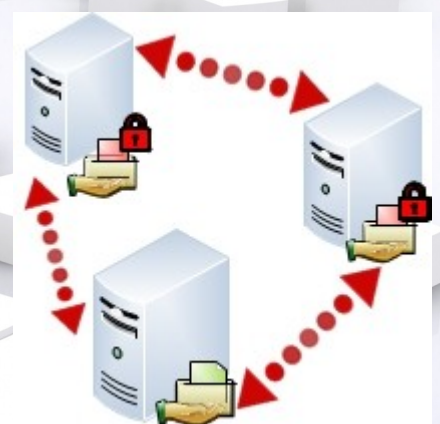
Business Challenges

However, standard file mirroring solutions generally lack a central feature important for a collaborative environment where inter-office file servers are mirrored and data is shared: File Locking.

Without integrated file locking, mirrored file servers expose live documents to version conflicts. That is, a colleague in Office A can open and edit a document at the same time a colleague in Office B is working on the same document. In such a scenario, standard file mirroring solutions will only save the changes made by the person closing the file last.

Benefits

The surest and simplest way of eliminating version conflicts with any file mirroring solution is to add a true file locking solution - one that offers, at a minimum, real-time detection of file use and immediate remote locking. This assures that when a file is open at location A, all other versions - say local copies at various branch offices - are locked down, preventing anyone from opening and revising it. When the file closes, the file lock is immediately released and ready for synchronization.



Data Sheet

The PeerCollaboration Standard solution offers both real-time file locking and real-time replication, thus eliminating version conflict and providing a fail-safe collaborative framework.

- Transparent file locking among N number of geographical office branches/Servers
- Cross Domain File Locking and File Copy
- Real-Time File Locking and File Transfers among Servers
- Multi-Threaded File Locking, File Release and File Propagation

PeerCollaboration Enterprise edition using PeerLink

PeerLink enables business file sharing and file collaboration for users around the world. Providing true Real-Time file synchronization and file locking. Instead of using email, FTP, or a centralized file repository, PeerLink (Peer File Collaboration Enterprise) ensures that your project files are always up to date on every file server through real-time file replication.

Version conflicts are prevented through distributed real-time file locking ensuring that only one person can edit a file at a time.

Business Challenges

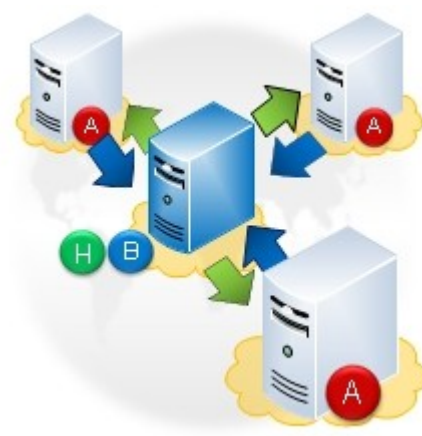
A recent study of 40,000 projects found that 66% of projects completely fail or are late, over budget or missing critical features.

One factor that can contribute to these failures is the geographic distance among project team members. Project teams now rarely have the luxury of working together in a single location. And they often lack even the assurance of having a stable team for the life of the project. As companies expand and open remote office locations or work with partner firms on projects, teams must find ways to work together across both geographic and company boundaries. Increasing this complexity is the large nature of certain project files, which necessitates that a local copy of such files are kept at each office.

Historically, providing project files to every team member was done through email attachments, uploading documents to an FTP site for retrieval, using a document management solution as a centralized data repository, and more recently, through document sharing services offered on the Internet. However, each of these solutions has its own limitations.

- How do you ensure that when one person is updating a file, another person is not simultaneously making changes and creating version conflicts?
- How do you ensure that team members are working on the most up to date files, regardless of where they are?
- Increased pressure to keep long-term electronic archives to stay competitive, leverage archived assets, and reduce overall design costs
- How do you share large project files over a slow connection link and do it securely?

With these challenges in mind, PeerLink was created to provide seamless document collaboration capabilities built around traditional file server management processes. Choose which folders you want to participate in collaboration and on which hosts. These folders will automatically replicate to only those file servers you designate. The designated folders will have real-time replication so changes made anywhere will propagate to all other locations. Files being edited at any location will propagate a file lock (to prevent version conflicts) at all other locations.



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