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How do I access NAS server using automount?

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[Network-attached storage](#) ^[1] commonly used to store backup and other shared files over TCP/IP network. For example:

- i) Corporate e-mail system with multiple, load-balanced webmail servers
- ii) Load-balanced web servers access the same contents from NAS storage
- iii) Backup files or dumps to NAS storage from all other servers using FTP/NFS/CIFS.

Autofs is a automounter for Linux. It allows:

- a) Mount your directory on demand i.e. when you type command `cd /backup` it will mount NAS server share.
- b) Useful to transparently mount your backup directory as you need it
- c) Mail or web server can use to store mails/files
- d) Compare files on the different servers (snapshots)
- e) Give user a common home directory server for all users to login and be authenticated and able to work from and workstation using any server in the network.
- f) Reliability - Increase the reliability of your LAN by removing the dependencies on a single server etc

Assuming that:

- NAS Server IP: 202.54.20.111 / nasbackup02.nixcraft.com (FQDN)
- NAS CIFS username: nixcraft
- NAS CIFS password: mySecret
- NAS CIFS sharename: `:/202.54.20.111/sharename` or `:/202.54.20.111/username`

Make sure you have autofs installed. Now you will need to configure your filesystem to mount automatically. Edit file `/etc/auto.master` using vi text editor:

```
# mkdir /backup
# vi /etc/auto.master
```

Append following line:

```
/backup /etc/auto.backup
```

Save the file and open `/etc/auto.backup` file:

```
# vi /etc/auto.backup
```

Append following line `/etc/auto.backup`:

```
smb -fstype=smbfs,username=nixcraft,password=mySecret :/202.54.20.111/sharename
```

Save the file. Restart autofs:

```
# /etc/init.d/autofs restart
```

Make sure that autofs is starting on boot (after reboot). If you are using RedHat/Fedora Linux:

```
# chkconfig autofs on
```

If you are using other Linux distribution use old good soft link method:

```
# ln -s /etc/init.d/autofs /etc/rc2.d/S80autofs
# ln -s /etc/init.d/autofs /etc/rc2.d/K80autofs
```

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[1] Network-attached storage: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Network-attached_storage

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