

Aim :-

Setting up NFS server and client on Linux.

NFS in Linux



Network File system



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Network File System (NFS)

A Network File System (NFS) allows remote hosts to mount file systems over a network and interact with those file systems as though they are mounted locally.

In Linux, NFS is a powerful protocol that lets you share directories between computers seamlessly. With NFS properly configured, moving files between computers becomes as easy as moving files around on the same machine.

Advantages of NFS :-

- Centralized Data Storage:** NFS enables centralized management of shared files. Administrators can maintain data in one location, reducing workload.
- Efficiency:** Easy setup using existing IP infrastructure. Users access remote files just like local files.
- Reduced Disk Space:** Individual users require less local storage since software and files can be accessed remotely.
- Granularity:** Fine-grained access control for files.

Disadvantages of NFS :-

- Not Suitable for Sensitive Data:** NFS isn't ideal for sharing sensitive data over public networks due to security concerns.
- Lacks Hierarchical Storage Management:** NFS doesn't support hierarchical storage management directly

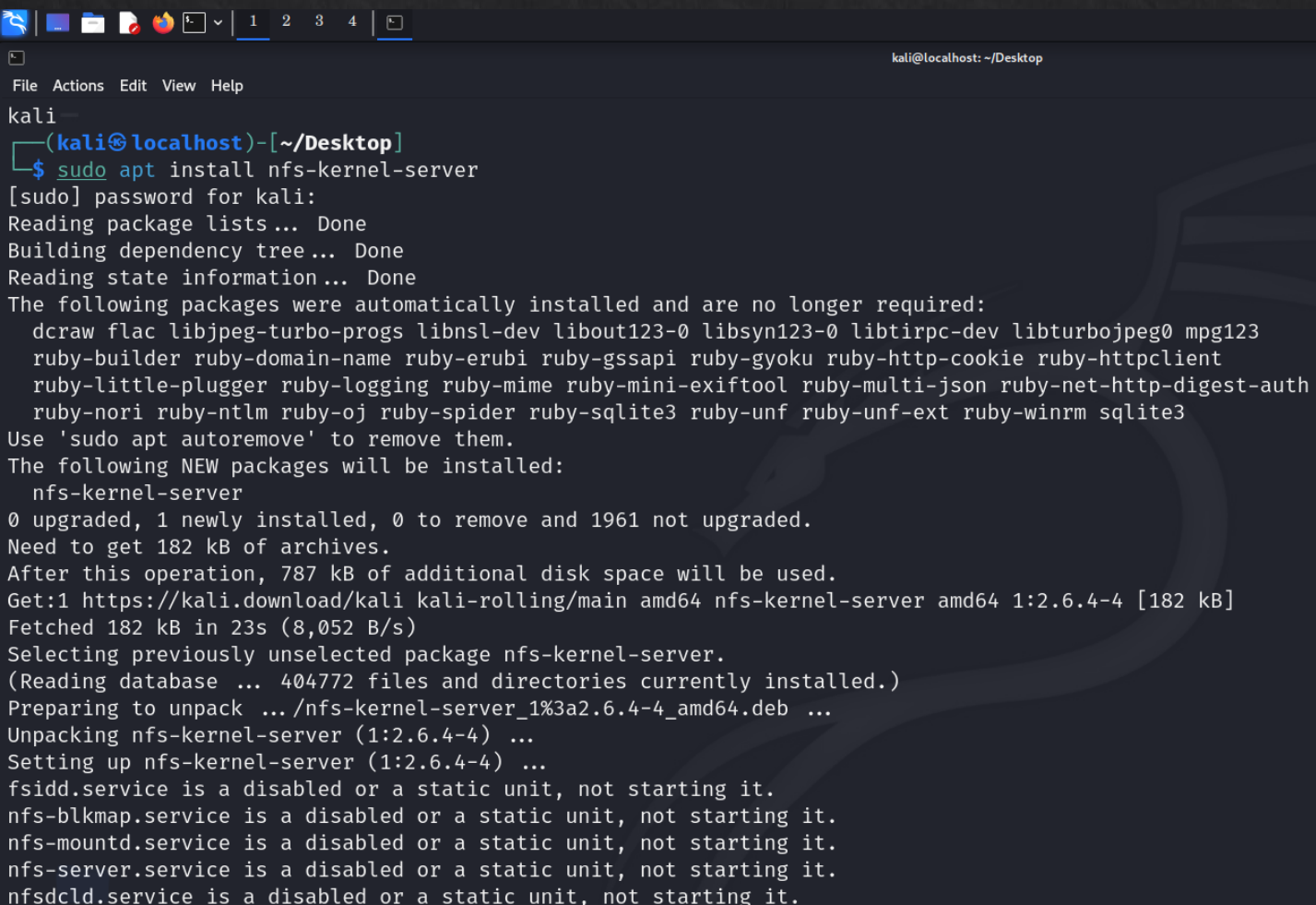
Procedure:-

- For setting up the NFS server here we have 2 Debian based system {kali linux and Ubuntu } which were connected with same IP
- Now we are considering **kali linux as a server** and **Ubuntu as a clients**

Step1 :-

For linking the both of the system we have to install the services in our system both clients side and server side by using <<< **sudo apt install nfs-kernel-server** >>> command.

Server :-



```
kali
(kali@localhost)-[~/Desktop]
$ sudo apt install nfs-kernel-server
[sudo] password for kali:
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree... Done
Reading state information... Done
The following packages were automatically installed and are no longer required:
  dcraw flac libjpeg-turbo-progs libnsl-dev libout123-0 libsbn123-0 libtirpc-dev libturbojpeg0 mpg123
  ruby-builder ruby-domain-name ruby-erubi ruby-gssapi ruby-gyoku ruby-http-cookie ruby-httpclient
  ruby-little-plugger ruby-logging ruby-mime ruby-mini-exiftool ruby-multi-json ruby-net-http-digest-auth
  ruby-nori ruby-ntlm ruby-oj ruby-spider ruby-sqlite3 ruby-unf ruby-unf-ext ruby-winrm sqlite3
Use 'sudo apt autoremove' to remove them.
The following NEW packages will be installed:
  nfs-kernel-server
0 upgraded, 1 newly installed, 0 to remove and 1961 not upgraded.
Need to get 182 kB of archives.
After this operation, 787 kB of additional disk space will be used.
Get:1 https://kali.download/kali kali-rolling/main amd64 nfs-kernel-server amd64 1:2.6.4-4 [182 kB]
Fetched 182 kB in 23s (8,052 B/s)
Selecting previously unselected package nfs-kernel-server.
(Reading database ... 404772 files and directories currently installed.)
Preparing to unpack .../nfs-kernel-server_1%3a2.6.4-4_amd64.deb ...
Unpacking nfs-kernel-server (1:2.6.4-4) ...
Setting up nfs-kernel-server (1:2.6.4-4) ...
fsidd.service is a disabled or a static unit, not starting it.
nfs-blkmap.service is a disabled or a static unit, not starting it.
nfs-mountd.service is a disabled or a static unit, not starting it.
nfs-server.service is a disabled or a static unit, not starting it.
nfsdclld.service is a disabled or a static unit, not starting it.
```


Client :-

```
root@chandu:/home/chandu# apt install nfs-kernel-server
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree... Done
Reading state information... Done
The following additional packages will be installed:
  keyutils libevent-core-2.1-7 libnfsidmap1 nfs-common rpcbind
Suggested packages:
  open-iscsi watchdog
The following NEW packages will be installed:
  keyutils libevent-core-2.1-7 libnfsidmap1 nfs-common
  nfs-kernel-server rpcbind
0 upgraded, 6 newly installed, 0 to remove and 38 not upgraded.
Need to get 615 kB of archives.
After this operation, 2,235 kB of additional disk space will be used.
Do you want to continue? [Y/n] y
Get:1 http://in.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy/main amd64 libevent-core-2.1-7 amd64 2.1.12-stable-1b
uild3 [93.9 kB]
Get:2 http://in.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy-updates/main amd64 libnfsidmap1 amd64 1:2.6.1-1ubuntu
1.2 [42.9 kB]
Get:3 http://in.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy/main amd64 rpcbind amd64 1.2.6-2build1 [46.6 kB]
Get:4 http://in.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy/main amd64 keyutils amd64 1.6.1-2ubuntu3 [50.4 kB]
```

After the installation will complete the we have also install libnfsidmap which holds multiple methods of mapping names to id's and it mainly for NFSv4. by using <<< **sudo apt install libnfsidmap-dev** >>> and <<< **sudo apt install libnfsidmap1** >>> command in both of the systems.

Server :-

```
(kali@localhost)-[~/Desktop]
$ sudo apt install libnfsidmap-dev
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree... Done
Reading state information... Done
The following packages were automatically installed and are no longer required:
  dcraw flac libjpeg-turbo-progs libnsl-dev libout123-0 libsyn123-0 libtirpc-dev libturbojpeg0 mpg123 ruby-builder ruby-domain-name ruby-erubi ruby-gssa
  ruby-gyoku ruby-http-cookie ruby-httpclient ruby-little-plugger ruby-logging ruby-mime ruby-mini-exiftool ruby-multi-json ruby-net-http-digest-auth
  ruby-nori ruby-ntlm ruby-oj ruby-spider ruby-sqlite3 ruby-unf ruby-unf-ext ruby-winrm sqlite3
Use 'sudo apt autoremove' to remove them.
The following NEW packages will be installed:
  libnfsidmap-dev
0 upgraded, 1 newly installed, 0 to remove and 1961 not upgraded.
Need to get 29.5 kB of archives.
After this operation, 113 kB of additional disk space will be used.
Get:1 https://kali.download/kali kali-rolling/main amd64 libnfsidmap-dev amd64 1:2.6.4-4 [29.5 kB]
Fetched 29.5 kB in 4s (6,937 B/s)
Selecting previously unselected package libnfsidmap-dev:amd64.
(Reading database ... 404816 files and directories currently installed.)
Preparing to unpack .../libnfsidmap-dev_1%3a2.6.4-4_amd64.deb ...
Unpacking libnfsidmap-dev:amd64 (1:2.6.4-4) ...
Setting up libnfsidmap-dev:amd64 (1:2.6.4-4) ...
Scanning processes...
Scanning linux images...

Running kernel seems to be up-to-date.

No services need to be restarted.

No containers need to be restarted.

No user sessions are running outdated binaries.

No VM guests are running outdated hypervisor (qemu) binaries on this host.
```

```
(kali@localhost)~[~/Desktop]
$ sudo apt install libnfsidmap1
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree... Done
Reading state information... Done
libnfsidmap1 is already the newest version (1:2.6.4-4).
The following packages were automatically installed and are no longer required:
  dcraw flac libjpeg-turbo-progs libnsl-dev libout123-0 libsbn123-0 libtirpc-dev libturbojpeg0 mpg123 ruby-builder ruby-domain-name ruby-erubi ruby-gssapi
  ruby-gyoku ruby-http-cookie ruby-httpclient ruby-little-plugger ruby-logging ruby-mime ruby-mini-exiftool ruby-multi-json ruby-net-http-digest-auth
  ruby-nori ruby-ntlm ruby-oj ruby-spider ruby-sqlite3 ruby-unf ruby-unf-ext ruby-winrm sqlite3
Use 'sudo apt autoremove' to remove them.
0 upgraded, 0 newly installed, 0 to remove and 1961 not upgraded.
```

Client :-

```
root@chandu: /chandu_test/test_apps
root@chandu:/home/chandu# sudo apt install libnfsidmap-dev
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree... Done
Reading state information... Done
The following NEW packages will be installed:
  libnfsidmap-dev
0 upgraded, 1 newly installed, 0 to remove and 45 not upgraded.
Need to get 26.2 kB of archives.
After this operation, 152 kB of additional disk space will be used.
Get:1 http://in.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy-updates/main amd64 libnfsidmap-dev amd64 1:2.6.1-1ubuntu1.2 [26.2 kB]
Fetched 26.2 kB in 2s (13.2 kB/s)
Selecting previously unselected package libnfsidmap-dev.
(Reading database ... 207379 files and directories currently installed.)
Preparing to unpack .../libnfsidmap-dev_1%3a2.6.1-1ubuntu1.2_amd64.deb ...
Unpacking libnfsidmap-dev (1:2.6.1-1ubuntu1.2) ...
Setting up libnfsidmap-dev (1:2.6.1-1ubuntu1.2) ...
```

```
root@chandu:/home/chandu# sudo apt install libnfsidmap1
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree... Done
Reading state information... Done
libnfsidmap1 is already the newest version (1:2.6.1-1ubuntu1.2).
libnfsidmap1 set to manually installed.
0 upgraded, 0 newly installed, 0 to remove and 45 not upgraded.
```

Step2 :-

- Now , we have to enable all the services for establishing the connection in both clients and server side .
- For starting the services with
 1. <<< **sudo systemctl start nfs-server.service** >>>
 2. <<< **sudo systemctl start rpcbind.service** >>>
 3. <<< **sudo systemctl start nfs-idmapd.service** >>>

Server :-

```
(kali@localhost)-[~/Desktop]
$ sudo su
(root@localhost)-[/home/kali/Desktop]
# systemctl start nfs-server.service

(root@localhost)-[/home/kali/Desktop]
# systemctl start rpcbind.service
```

```
(root@localhost)-[/home/kali/Desktop]
# systemctl status nfs-server.service rpcbind.service rpc-statd.service
● nfs-server.service - NFS server and services
   Loaded: loaded (/lib/systemd/system/nfs-server.service; disabled; preset: disabled)
   Active: active (exited) since Tue 2024-07-09 20:01:53 IST; 3 days ago
     Process: 12509 ExecStartPre=/usr/sbin/exportfs -r (code=exited, status=0/SUCCESS)
     Process: 12510 ExecStart=/usr/sbin/rpc.nfsd (code=exited, status=0/SUCCESS)
    Main PID: 12510 (code=exited, status=0/SUCCESS)
      CPU: 9ms

Jul 09 20:01:53 localhost.localdomain systemd[1]: Starting nfs-server.service - NFS server and services...
Jul 09 20:01:53 localhost.localdomain systemd[1]: Finished nfs-server.service - NFS server and services.

● rpcbind.service - RPC bind portmap service
   Loaded: loaded (/lib/systemd/system/rpcbind.service; disabled; preset: disabled)
   Active: active (running) since Tue 2024-07-09 20:01:53 IST; 3 days ago
 TriggeredBy: ● rpcbind.socket
    Docs: man:rpcbind(8)
   Main PID: 12494 (rpcbind)
     Tasks: 1 (limit: 4556)
    Memory: 680.0K
       CPU: 45ms
    CGroup: /system.slice/rpcbind.service
           └─12494 /sbin/rpcbind -f -w

Jul 09 20:01:53 localhost.localdomain systemd[1]: Starting rpcbind.service - RPC bind portmap service...
Jul 09 20:01:53 localhost.localdomain systemd[1]: Started rpcbind.service - RPC bind portmap service.

● rpc-statd.service - NFS status monitor for NFSv2/3 locking.
   Loaded: loaded (/lib/systemd/system/rpc-statd.service; static)
   Active: active (running) since Tue 2024-07-09 20:01:53 IST; 3 days ago
     Process: 12492 ExecStart=/usr/sbin/rpc.statd (code=exited, status=0/SUCCESS)
    Main PID: 12496 (rpc.statd)
     Tasks: 1 (limit: 4556)
    Memory: 632.0K
       CPU: 14ms
    CGroup: /system.slice/rpc-statd.service
           └─12496 /usr/sbin/rpc.statd

Jul 09 20:01:53 localhost.localdomain systemd[1]: Starting rpc-statd.service - NFS status monitor for NFSv2/3 locking...
Jul 09 20:01:53 localhost.localdomain rpc.statd[12496]: Version 2.6.4 starting
Jul 09 20:01:53 localhost.localdomain rpc.statd[12496]: Flags: TI-RPC
lines 5-40
```

If any service was disable or stoped then we can start them and enable them. And check the status with

1. <<< **sudo systemctl status nfs-server.service** >>>
2. <<< **sudo systemctl status rpcbind.service** >>>
3. <<< **sudo systemctl status rpc-statd.service** >>>
4. <<< **sudo systemctl status nfs-idmapd.service** >>>


```
(root@localhost)-[/home/kali/Desktop]
# systemctl enable nfs-server.service
Created symlink /etc/systemd/system/multi-user.target.wants/nfs-server.service → /lib/systemd/system/nfs-server.service.
```

```
(root@localhost)-[/home/kali/Desktop]
# systemctl status nfs-server.service
● nfs-server.service - NFS server and services
   Loaded: loaded (/lib/systemd/system/nfs-server.service; enabled; preset: disabled)
   Active: active (exited) since Tue 2024-07-09 20:01:53 IST; 3 days ago
   Main PID: 12510 (code=exited, status=0/SUCCESS)
     CPU: 9ms
```

```
Jul 09 20:01:53 localhost.localdomain systemd[1]: Starting nfs-server.service - NFS server and services...
Jul 09 20:01:53 localhost.localdomain systemd[1]: Finished nfs-server.service - NFS server and services.
```

```
(root@localhost)-[/home/kali/Desktop]
# systemctl start nfs-idmapd.service
```

```
(root@localhost)-[/home/kali/Desktop]
# systemctl status nfs-idmapd.service
● nfs-idmapd.service - NFSv4 ID-name mapping service
   Loaded: loaded (/lib/systemd/system/nfs-idmapd.service; static)
   Active: active (running) since Tue 2024-07-09 20:01:53 IST; 3 days ago
   Main PID: 12493 (rpc.idmapd)
     Tasks: 1 (limit: 4556)
    Memory: 804.0K
       CPU: 12ms
   CGroup: /system.slice/nfs-idmapd.service
           └─12493 /usr/sbin/rpc.idmapd
```

```
Jul 09 20:01:53 localhost.localdomain systemd[1]: Starting nfs-idmapd.service - NFSv4 ID-name mapping service...
Jul 09 20:01:53 localhost.localdomain rpc.idmapd[12493]: Setting log level to 0
Jul 09 20:01:53 localhost.localdomain systemd[1]: Started nfs-idmapd.service - NFSv4 ID-name mapping service.
```

Client :-

```
root@chandu:/home/chandu# systemctl start nfs-server.service rpcbind.service
```

```
Failed to start .service.service: Unit .service.service not found.
```

```
root@chandu:/home/chandu# systemctl start nfs-server.service rpcbind.service
```

```
root@chandu:/home/chandu# systemctl status nfs-server.service rpcbind.service
```

```
● nfs-server.service - NFS server and services
   Loaded: loaded (/lib/systemd/system/nfs-server.service; enabled; vendor preset: enabled)
   Active: active (exited) since Tue 2024-07-09 20:00:10 IST; 3 days ago
   Main PID: 5082 (code=exited, status=0/SUCCESS)
     CPU: 21ms
```

```
Jul 09 20:00:10 chandu systemd[1]: Starting NFS server and services...
```

```
Jul 09 20:00:10 chandu exportfs[5081]: exportfs: can't open /etc/exports for reading
```

```
Jul 09 20:00:10 chandu systemd[1]: Finished NFS server and services.
```

```
● rpcbind.service - RPC bind portmap service
   Loaded: loaded (/lib/systemd/system/rpcbind.service; enabled; vendor preset: enabled)
   Active: active (running) since Tue 2024-07-09 20:00:01 IST; 3 days ago
   TriggeredBy: ● rpcbind.socket
     Docs: man:rpcbind(8)
   Main PID: 4552 (rpcbind)
     Tasks: 1 (limit: 4554)
    Memory: 628.0K
       CPU: 51ms
   CGroup: /system.slice/rpcbind.service
           └─4552 /sbin/rpcbind -f -w
```

```
Jul 09 20:00:01 chandu systemd[1]: Starting RPC bind portmap service...
```

```
Jul 09 20:00:01 chandu systemd[1]: Started RPC bind portmap service.
```

Step 3 :-

Server :-

Now we have to create an directory in server side with the root access so we can make the directory in root terminal using <<< **mkdir -p /server/apps** >>> command.

```
(root@localhost)-[/home/kali/Desktop]  
# mkdir -p /server/apps
```

So now we can access those directories , for listing the directories of root files by using <<< **cd /** >>> (this command helps to change the current directory to the root directory) then simply use <<< **ls** >>> for listing the existing directory.

```
(root@localhost)-[/home/kali/Desktop]  
# cd /  
  
(root@localhost)-[/]  
# ls  
bin      dev      home      initrd.img.old  lib32    libx32    media     opt      root     sbin      srv        sys       usr       vmlinuz  
boot     etc      initrd.img  lib            lib64    lost+found mnt       proc     run      server   swapfile   tmp       var       vmlinuz.old
```

- Now we have to give the permission to server and apps directory.
- By using <<< **chmod 777 server** >>> (here **chmod 777** command is used to set full read, write and execute permission on it .)

```
(root@localhost)-[/]  
# chmod 777 server
```

Then we have to give permission to apps directory by changing the current directory to server directory by using <<< **cd server/** >>> command.

```
(root@localhost)-[/]  
# cd server/
```


Then give the permission to apps directory by <<< **chmod 777 apps** >>> command.

```
(root@localhost)-[/server]
# chmod 777 apps
```

- After giving all the permissions then we have to modify the /etc/exports file and also add the new shared files.
- Then we have to make a new rule and also have to define the new directory in /etc/exports. By using <<< **vim /etc/exports** >>> command.
- Where The /etc/exports file plays a crucial role in configuring Network File System (NFS) exports on a Linux server.

```
—(root@localhost)-[/server]
—# cd

—(root@localhost)-[~]
—# vim /etc/exports
```

After running the above command then there we have to define the new rule and new directory in vim editor with given command<<< **/server/apps *(rw,sync,no_root_squash)** >>>

Where *(rw,sync,no_root_squash):

- *****: This wildcard allows any client to access the exported directory.
- **rw**: Grants read and write permissions to clients.
- **no_root_squash**: Ensures that the root user on the client machine is treated as the root user on the NFS server (i.e., root squashing is disabled).
- **sync**: Data is written synchronously to the server's disk.

These options allow clients to read and write data to **/server/apps** without any restrictions.

```
# /etc/exports: the access control list for filesystems which may be exported
#               to NFS clients.  See exports(5).
#
# Example for NFSv2 and NFSv3:
# /srv/homes      hostname1(rw,sync,no_subtree_check) hostname2(ro,sync,no_subtree_check)
#
# Example for NFSv4:
# /srv/nfs4       gss/krb5i(rw,sync,fsid=0,crossmnt,no_subtree_check)
# /srv/nfs4/homes gss/krb5i(rw,sync,no_subtree_check)
# /server/apps *(rw,sync,no_root_squash)
~
~
```

With the help of <<< **exportfs -rv** >>> command enables NFS server to maintain the table of local file system accessible to NFS client.

```
(root@localhost)-[~]
# exportfs -rv
exportfs: /etc/exports [1]: Neither 'subtree_check' or 'no_subtree_check' specified for export "*/server/apps".
Assuming default behaviour ('no_subtree_check').
NOTE: this default has changed since nfs-utils version 1.0.x
exporting */server/apps
```

Step 4 :-

Client :-

From the client side we have to turn off the firewall settings by using <<< **systemctl stop ufw** >>> command

```
root@chandu:/home/chandu# systemctl stop ufw
root@chandu:/home/chandu# systemctl status ufw
○ ufw.service - Uncomplicated firewall
   Loaded: loaded (/lib/systemd/system/ufw.service; enabled; vendor preset: enabled)
   Active: inactive (dead) since Sat 2024-07-13 19:40:05 IST; 13s ago
     Docs: man:ufw(8)
   Process: 9159 ExecStop=/lib/ufw/ufw-init stop (code=exited, status=0/SUCCESS)
  Main PID: 663 (code=exited, status=0/SUCCESS)
    CPU: 442ms

Jul 09 19:53:40 chandu systemd[1]: Starting Uncomplicated firewall...
Jul 09 19:53:42 chandu systemd[1]: Finished Uncomplicated firewall.
Jul 13 19:40:04 chandu systemd[1]: Stopping Uncomplicated firewall...
Jul 13 19:40:05 chandu systemd[1]: ufw.service: Deactivated successfully.
Jul 13 19:40:05 chandu systemd[1]: Stopped Uncomplicated firewall.
```

- Now we have to take the server IP address by using <<< **ifconfig** >>> command.

```
(root@localhost)-[~]
# ifconfig
docker0: flags=4099<UP,BROADCAST,MULTICAST> mtu 1500
    ether 02:42:99:64:67:a1 txqueuelen 0 (Ethernet)
    RX packets 0 bytes 0 (0.0 B)
    RX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 frame 0
    TX packets 0 bytes 0 (0.0 B)
    TX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 carrier 0 collisions 0

eth0: flags=4163<UP,BROADCAST,RUNNING,MULTICAST> mtu 1500
    inet 192.168.217.129 netmask 255.255.255.0 broadcast 192.168.217.255
    inet6 fe80::7f33:c71c:26fe:7664 prefixlen 64 scopeid 0x20<link>
    ether 00:0c:29:bb:83:ed txqueuelen 1000 (Ethernet)
    RX packets 1449 bytes 327667 (319.9 KiB)
    RX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 frame 0
    TX packets 216 bytes 21018 (20.5 KiB)
    TX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 carrier 0 collisions 0
```

- Then , by using showmount command we can check the mount information on an NFS server . By using <<< **showmount -e 129.168.***.***** >>>

```
root@chandu:/home/chandu# showmount -e 192.168.217.129
Export list for 192.168.217.129:
/server/apps *
```

Now we have to create directory in client's side where the received data will be stored and also give the permission by following commands.

- <<< **mkdir chandu_txt** >>>
- <<< **cd chandu_txt** >>>
- <<< **mkdir test_apps** >>>
- <<< **chmod 777 test_apps**>>>
- <<< **cd ..**>>>
- <<< **chmod 777 chandu_txt**>>>


```

root@chandu:/# mkdir chandu_test
root@chandu:/# cd chandu_test
root@chandu:/chandu_test# mkdir test_apps
root@chandu:/chandu_test# chmod 777 test_apps

```

```

root@chandu:/chandu_test# cd ..
root@chandu:/# chmod 777 chandu_test

```

By using <<< **mount (ip):/server/apps chandu_txt/test_apps** >>> Command we can mount the client side directory to the server side directory with the given server IP.

```

root@chandu:/# mount 192.168.217.129:/server/apps chandu_test/test_apps
root@chandu:/# df -h

```

Filesystem	Size	Used	Avail	Use%	Mounted on
tmpfs	388M	3.6M	384M	1%	/run
/dev/sda3	59G	15G	41G	27%	/
tmpfs	1.9G	0	1.9G	0%	/dev/shm
tmpfs	5.0M	4.0K	5.0M	1%	/run/lock
/dev/sda2	512M	6.1M	506M	2%	/boot/efi
tmpfs	388M	120K	387M	1%	/run/user/1000
/dev/sr0	156M	156M	0	100%	/media/chandu/CDROM
192.168.217.129:/server/apps	79G	22G	54G	29%	/chandu_test/test_apps

Step 5:-

- Here , most of the work was done now we can simply use the services .
- First we have to change the directory and go to the mounted directory which was chandu_test/test_apps by using <<< **cd chandu_test/test_apps** >>> command.

Now I have made some files in the mounted directory named as <<< **touch data.txt letsdoit.txt** >>>

```

192.168.217.129:/server/apps 79G 22G 54G 29% /chandu_test/test_apps
root@chandu:/# cd chandu_test/test_apps
root@chandu:/chandu_test/test_apps# touch data.txt
root@chandu:/chandu_test/test_apps# touch letsdoit.txt
root@chandu:/chandu_test/test_apps#

```

After the client will make the files then we can simply able to access the files in the mounted /server/apps directory and with the help of <<< ls >>> command we can access those files which was created in the client system .

```
(root@localhost)-[~]  
# cd /server/apps  
  
(root@localhost)-[/server/apps]  
# ls  
data.txt  letsdoit.txt
```

Here I have made this step-by-step guide which will help you to perform to set up the NFS server in your linux system.

Thank you