Manage NFSv4 ACLs

ONTAP 9

NetApp
August 18, 2023

Table of Contents

Manage NFSv4 ACLs

Benefits of enabling NFSv4 ACLs

There are many benefits to enabling NFSv4 ACLs.

The benefits of enabling NFSv4 ACLs include the following:

- Finer-grained control of user access for files and directories
- Better NFS security
- Improved interoperability with CIFS
- Removal of the NFS limitation of 16 groups per user

How NFSv4 ACLs work

A client using NFSv4 ACLs can set and view ACLs on files and directories on the system. When a new file or subdirectory is created in a directory that has an ACL, the new file or subdirectory inherits all ACL Entries (ACEs) in the ACL that have been tagged with the appropriate inheritance flags.

When a file or directory is created as the result of an NFSv4 request, the ACL on the resulting file or directory depends on whether the file creation request includes an ACL or only standard UNIX file access permissions, and whether the parent directory has an ACL:

- If the request includes an ACL, that ACL is used.
- If the request includes only standard UNIX file access permissions but the parent directory has an ACL, the ACEs in the parent directory's ACL are inherited by the new file or directory as long as the ACEs have been tagged with the appropriate inheritance flags.

  A parent ACL is inherited even if `-v4.0-acl` is set to `off`.

- If the request includes only standard UNIX file access permissions and the parent directory does not have an ACL, the client file mode is used to set standard UNIX file access permissions.
- If the request includes only standard UNIX file access permissions and the parent directory has a non-inheritable ACL, the new object is created only with mode bits.

If the `-chown-mode` parameter has been set to `restricted` with commands in the `vserver nfs` or `vserver export-policy rule` families, file ownership can be changed by the superuser only, even if the on-disk permissions set with NFSv4 ACLs allow a non-root user to change the file ownership. For more information, see the relevant man pages.

Enable or disable modification of NFSv4 ACLs

When ONTAP receives a `chmod` command for a file or directory with an ACL, by default the ACL is retained and modified to reflect the mode bit change. You can disable the `-v4-acl-preserve` parameter to change the behavior if you want the ACL to be dropped

instead.

About this task

When using unified security style, this parameter also specifies whether NTFS file permissions are preserved or dropped when a client sends a chmod, chgroup, or chown command for a file or directory.

The default for this parameter is enabled.

Steps

1. Set the privilege level to advanced:

   ```
   set -privilege advanced
   ```

2. Perform one of the following actions:

If you want to…	Enter the following command…
Enable retention and modification of existing NFSv4 ACLs (default)	`vserver nfs modify -vserver vserver_name -v4-acl -preserve enabled`
Disable retention and drop NFSv4 ACLs when changing mode bits	`vserver nfs modify -vserver vserver_name -v4-acl -preserve disabled`

3. Return to the admin privilege level:

   ```
   set -privilege admin
   ```

How ONTAP uses NFSv4 ACLs to determine whether it can delete a file

To determine whether it can delete a file, ONTAP uses a combination of the file's DELETE bit, and the containing directory's DELETE_CHILD bit. For more information, see the NFS 4.1 RFC 5661.

Enable or disable NFSv4 ACLs

To enable or disable NFSv4 ACLs, you can modify the `-v4.0-acl` and `-v4.1-acl` options. These options are disabled by default.

About this task

The `-v4.0-acl` or `-v4.1-acl` option controls the setting and viewing of NFSv4 ACLs; it does not control enforcement of these ACLs for access checking.

Step

1. Perform one of the following actions:

If you want to…	Then…

Enable NFSv4.0 ACLs	Enter the following command: `vserver nfs modify -vserver vserver_name -v4.0-acl enabled`
Disable NFSv4.0 ACLs	Enter the following command: `vserver nfs modify -vserver vserver_name -v4.0-acl disabled`
Enable NFSv4.1 ACLs	Enter the following command: `vserver nfs modify -vserver vserver_name -v4.1-acl enabled`
Disable NFSv4.1 ACLs	Enter the following command: `vserver nfs modify -vserver vserver_name -v4.1-acl disabled`

Modify the maximum ACE limit for NFSv4 ACLs

You can modify the maximum number of allowed ACEs for each NFSv4 ACL by modifying the parameter `-v4-acl-max-aces`. By default, the limit is set to 400 ACEs for each ACL. Increasing this limit can help ensure successful migration of data with ACLs containing over 400 ACEs to storage systems running ONTAP.

About this task

Increasing this limit might impact performance for clients accessing files with NFSv4 ACLs.

Steps

1. Set the privilege level to advanced:

   ```
   set -privilege advanced
   ```

2. Modify the maximum ACE limit for NFSv4 ACLs:

   ```
   vserver nfs modify -v4-acl-max-aces max_ace_limit
   ```

   The valid range of

   `max_ace_limit` is `192` to `1024`.

3. Return to the admin privilege level:

   ```
   set -privilege admin
   ```

Copyright information

Trademark information