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Using the Distributed File System (DFS) feature of Windows Server 2003 to Manage Ultimus Attachment Control Files

Last Updated: October 25, 2006

This document applies to Ultimus Version 6.x.

Note: Ultimus Version 7.0 now features configurable attachment directories.
Ultimus supports the ability to specify any directory location as the Attachment Directory for Ultimus processes that use the Ultimus Attachment Control. This provides improved flexibility and enhanced support for load balanced configurations – attachments can be placed in any central network drive location. In Administrator, right click on the machine node, select Properties, and then the *System* tab.

Configurations for DFS

When using the Ultimus Attachment Control within a process that is deployed across Network Load Balanced (NLB) Servers, attachments made by users who attached to a BPM Server A will not be accessible by users who attach to BPM Server B. This problem can be eliminated by using a feature of Windows Server 2003 known as Distributed File System (DFS). Impmementing DFS in an Ultimus environment is described below:

As a first step, you need to set up NLB according to Microsoft guidelines for the Ultimus BPM Servers in the cluster. One item to note is that in Windows Server 2003 you will need to set the Cluster Operation Mode to 'Multicast' for the machines to be able to see each other.

Setting up DFS

1. Go to Start>Programs>Administrative Tools and choose 'Distributed File System'.
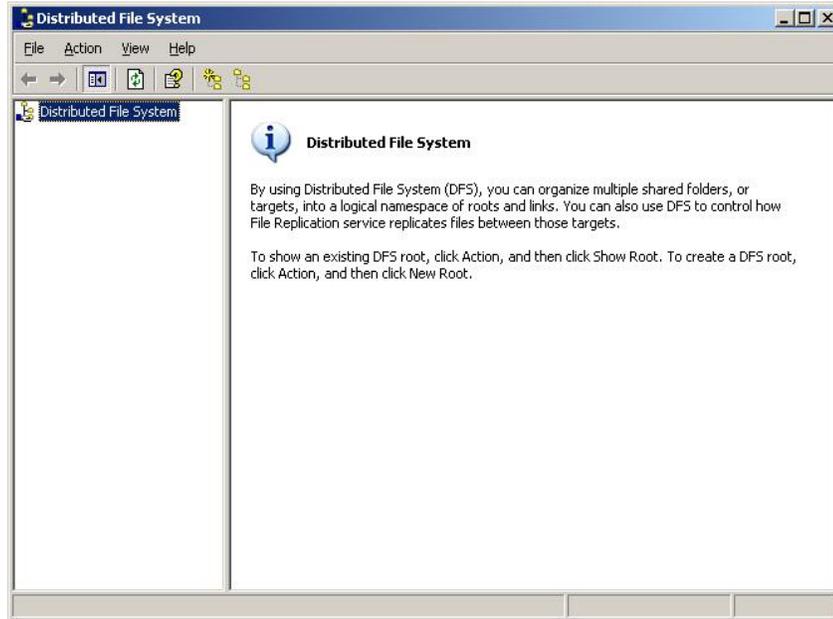
2. Once the MMC has opened you will need to right click and choose 'New Root'. This will walk you through the root creation wizard. Be sure to choose 'Domain Root' instead of 'Stand-alone' root. This will make all replication instantaneous. For the target enter whatever you would like the root to be called (in the example below we chose 'Test' and had the system create the folder for us).

3. Go to the Ultimus Install Directory (typically C:\Program Files\Ultimus BPM Suite 6.0) and share the 'Attachments' folder. Repeat for each server in your cluster.

4. After that is complete right click on the root and choose 'New Link'. You will name this "Attachments" and point it to the first share you created in step 5.

5. When you have completed that right click on the link you created and choose 'New Target'. Enter the path to the share on another machine in your cluster. You will need to add a target for each machine in your cluster.

6. Once you have entered the targets you will go through the Replication Wizard. Choose the defaults until you are finished. Once complete right click on the link and choose 'Properties'. Go to the 'Replication' tab and change the topology to 'Full Mesh', you will also need to remove any file or folder filters. Click 'OK'

Attachments Properties

General | **Replication**

Topology:

Full mesh   Customize...

To modify the replication schedule for all connections, click Schedule.   Schedule...

You can specify the files and subfolders that are excluded from replication.

File filter:

[ ]   Edit...

Subfolder filter:

[ ]   Edit...

OK   Cancel   Apply
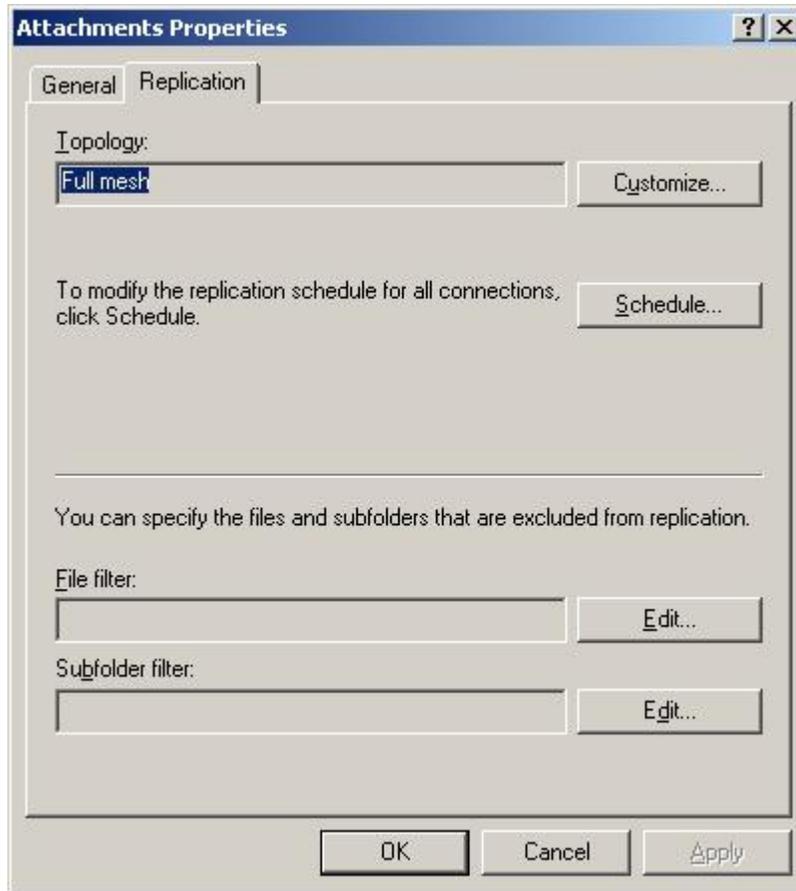
7. Select the "Edit" button next to the "File filter" text box. Remove any of the default filters and add the following filter: *.war. This should be the only file filter.
8. Now that replication is setup test it by creating a file in the "Attachments" folder and see if it populates to each of the other folders on the machines in your cluster.