Globalscape® WAFS™ vs. DFSR

Use WAFS and Avoid the Problems of DFSR

The Distributed File System Replication (DFSR) service, supported on Windows server operating systems beginning with Windows Server 2003 R2, is a multi-master replication engine that is used for folder synchronization on multiple servers within a domain. DFSR has numerous issues with files not being copied, missing files, and performance.

Problems with DFSR:

- DFSR uses a "staging folder" in which files are copied while waiting to be replicated. When this folder gets full, files are deleted to make space for "new" files, causing some files to not replicate.

- Locked (open) files cannot be replicated.

- You can only replicate files in the same domain.

- Antivirus programs can cause replication issues on files.

- DFSR overwrites files, causes change collisions, or loses data.

- DFSR is vulnerable to remote procedure calls (RPC) on port 135 (and 137, 138, 139, 389, 445) which can cause denial of service (DoS).

In contrast, Globalscape WAFS causes none of these issues and has many other benefits that are not available with DFSR. The table below lists features of WAFS that are not available in DFSR.

Feature	WAFS	DFSR
Native file locking	Yes	No
Scalable hub-and-spoke architecture	Yes	No
File version history	Yes	No
Comprehensive backup strategy	Yes	No
Contingency plan for disconnections, outages	Yes	No
Uses open internet for replication	Yes	No
Encrypts data in transit	Yes	No
Operates in multiple AD forests	Yes	No
Replicates or shares files in real time	Yes	No
Offers advantages for AutoCAD and Revit® users	Yes	No

Using WAFS in Conjunction with DFS for Failover

WAFS works seamlessly with DFS namespaces. DFS's unified namespace for all shares and folders can be used to redirect all users' access to files to an alternative location if the primary local server becomes unavailable. Using DFS in conjunction with WAFS provides simple and fast automatic failover. Instructions for configuring WAFS with DFS are provided in the WAFS help file.

Globalscape WAFS is a Better Solution

Globalscape serves numerous WAFS customers in architecture, engineering, and construction companies (AEC) who need to share very large files with partners outside of their network domain. This would not be possible with DFSR. The customer stories below demonstrate some of the differences between using WAFS and using DFSR.

WAFS	DFSR
An AEC customer had three offices and was a happy WAFS customer. Then came the recession of 2008 and they closed two of the offices. The owner kept his WAFS maintenance and support current and kept using WAFS, because there was no faster, simpler tool in his arsenal when he needed to recover one deleted file or go back to a previous version.	You cannot revert to previous versions of files or deleted files with DFSR.
An AEC customer is doing business with other corporations and wants to share some work with them and not share other work. They set up multidirectional jobs within their own offices and set up unidirectional jobs to their collaboration partners. These unidirectional jobs protected them from the other organization's network, guaranteed all changes were within their offices, and their models and drawings could not be negatively affected.	You cannot share files across domains with DFSR, and replication is not multidirectional.
A medium-sized AEC has the software loaded on a laptop so they can send a field engineer to a job site and have complete access to all of the plans, even with very limited bandwidth, so they can also adjust drawings and models post construction to maintain accuracy.	You cannot collaborate on files over a WAN with DFSR.
Several major clothing labels use WAFS to get their designs and orders from the US-based distributors and design shops to manufacturing and buyers in the Far East.	You cannot share files across domains with DFSR; DFSR does not provide file locking.
An AEC customer with nine locations was growing rapidly and needed to add human capacity to projects as they come in. With WAFS, they took under-utilized resources at other locations and threw them into the project as it came online.	You cannot share files across domains with DFSR; DFSR does not provide file locking.

DFSR could not provide those companies with the competitive advantages that WAFS does. These companies and more have benefited from relying on WAFS for file collaboration in their own LAN and around the world.

WAFS is powerful, award-winning, file collaboration software unlike any other, allowing secure, real-time remote file access and sharing for files of all sizes between domains around the world. WAFS simplifies collaboration and allows you to easily locate files, eliminate errors, and decrease bandwidth usage. WAFS eliminates slow, cumbersome collaboration and helps you avoid project delays, budget overages, and angry clients.

Visit http://www.globalscape.com/wafs/ to learn more or request a free trial.