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## ISYS AND UNIX

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## **ISYS AND UNIX**

### **DOES ISYS WORK WITH UNIX?**

The short answer is – Yes. This document explains how simple it can be.

### **WHY USE ISYS WITH UNIX?**

You've got a UNIX box, a few other servers and a bunch of machines running Windows. You've been charged with the task of finding the best possible search tool for your budget. You don't have the time or the resources to overhaul your infrastructure just so users can find what they're looking for. That's where ISYS comes in.

ISYS is a powerful search tool. One of the benefits of using ISYS is the range of file types you can index, search and retrieve. Just because you're using a combination of platforms and applications doesn't mean searching for information on your network should be any more complicated. ISYS can work with over 125 different file types in a multi-platform environment.

### **WHY SHOULD YOU USE ISYS?**

You're thinking, "Big deal! I can run lots of Windows applications with UNIX. Why should I choose ISYS?"

ISYS gives you more flexibility to work with UNIX than most Windows-based applications. To overcome the gap in most cases you're limited to Samba or Network File System (NFS), but ISYS also offers FTP, HTTP and ODBC. ISYS provides the flexibility you need plus the ability to manage a huge range of file types.

### **WHY NOT USE A UNIX-BASED TOOL?**

Simply, because it makes sense to use the best knowledge management tool available. A mixed platform is not sufficient reason to paint yourself into a corner with an inferior tool.

### **ABOUT SAMBA**

Samba uses the Server Message Block (SMB) message format to share directories and files between Windows and UNIX machines. Samba-compatible servers and clients are part of the default network support of Windows PCs.

Advantages of Samba include:

- It's free. It is available under the GNU General Public License and can be downloaded from <http://samba.org>.
- It is relatively simple to configure.
- It's a faster protocol than NFS for sharing files on Windows networks

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## **ABOUT NFS**

NFS allows access to shared files stored on both Windows and UNIX machines. UNIX systems often use NFS by default.

Advantages of NFS include:

- It gives you greater control over file properties.

## **OTHER OPTIONS**

### **FTP**

Although FTP is the slowest method by which to index files on UNIX host, it does have some advantages:

- All UNIX systems come with FTP built-in
- There is no need to obtain additional software such as Samba or NFS.

### **HTTP**

If your website resides on a UNIX host and it is the only thing you want to index and search, then HTTP is ideal. Its advantages are:

- It provides a read-only interface to files, so users can view them but not change them.
- It ensures that Server-Side Include directives are respected.
- It requires minimal changes to the corporate firewall.

### **ODBC**

If you need to access UNIX-based SQL data sources and you are not using ISYS:sdk, they can be accessed using ODBC.

## **WHAT SORT OF FILES CAN BE INDEXED BY ISYS?**

ISYS can include files in a single index regardless of whether they reside on a Windows or a UNIX machine. ISYS will index and search:

### **General files**

Any files that exist on your server such as word-processed documents, spreadsheets, PDFs, text files and zipped files.

### **Websites**

Index your own or external websites using ISYS:spider or FTP.

### **Lotus Notes**

If you have a Windows Notes client working on your machine, then ISYS can index and search Lotus Notes.

### **SQL databases**

Using ODBC, ISYS can index MySQL, mSQL, Oracle, PostgreSQL, Ingres and other SQL databases. If your Windows machine can successfully connect to your SQL server using Access or Excel and retrieve data, then ISYS will be able to connect successfully also.

### **Other files**

ISYS can work with custom applications using ISYS:sdk, the Software Developer's Kit.

## USING ISYS WITH YOUR WEB SERVER

ISYS:web can operate as a self-contained web server, or interact seamlessly with your existing web server to add enhanced searchability to your web site or intranet.

ISYS can be seamlessly integrated with a UNIX web server in such a way that users will be unaware that multiple servers or multiple platforms are involved. All it takes is a small amount of network configuration. There are two integration options:

- Run ISYS:web with DNS entry of 'search.yourdomain.com' and ensure that all posts to ISYS:web include 'http://search.yourdomain.com/' at the beginning of the action statement in the form definition. For example:

```
<form method="post" name="command" action=  
"http://search.yourdomain.com/searchresults/">
```

- Use Network Address Translation to allow ISYS:web to appear as a secondary web server on your UNIX box by opening another port such as www.yourdomain.com:8080, and ensure that the form action is adjusted appropriately.

## FAQS

### **Do I have to have separate indexes for Windows and UNIX files?**

No. Windows and UNIX files can be combined in the same index and searched together. Similarly, you can index files from multiple boxes, regardless of whether they're Windows or UNIX-based.

### **Does each user need connectivity to the UNIX machine?**

No. Using ISYS:web, only the machine running ISYS:web needs connectivity to the UNIX machine. Requests from user machines are brokered via ISYS:web. User machines can also bypass ISYS:web and go directly to the UNIX machine if you prefer. This is all configurable.

### **What about UNIX-specific file formats?**

ISYS automatically works with ASCII files written in UNIX form (which is slightly different to Windows ASCII files). ISYS also works with products such as WordPerfect, which are available for the UNIX environment by recording their documents in the same format regardless of platform. ISYS does not directly support any products which are peculiar to UNIX and have no Windows equivalent, but frequently these products can save their files in a common format such as RTF.

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**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

For more information about UNIX and Windows, try these sites:

Samba – <http://samba.org>

NFS on Linux – <http://nfs.sourceforge.net>

Microsoft Windows 2000 and UNIX – [www.microsoft.com/windows2000/unix/interop/default.asp](http://www.microsoft.com/windows2000/unix/interop/default.asp)