



Talis Support Newsletter - Issue 7

May 2005

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Welcome to issue seven of the **Talis Support Newsletter**, in which we will conclude our two-part article on server hygiene. We welcome any queries or suggestions that you may have for this or future newsletters. Please use the Talis Forums (www.talis.com/forums) to post your views on any aspect of Talis' products and services. Talis has recently launched a **System Manager** forum at www.talis.com/forums/viewforum.php?f=73 and looks forward to receiving your contributions.

Important Announcements

Talis Alto Help in Knowledgebase

Talis is pleased to announce that it is now possible to incorporate the online help provided with Talis Alto when searching Knowledgebase (www.talis.com/knowledgebase). This new feature includes all the help usually available to customers by hitting F1 anywhere in Talis Alto, Alto Configuration and Alto Set Database.

Each of the three help programs can alternatively be accessed from your web browser using www.talis.com/alto_help, www.talis.com/alto_setconfig or www.talis.com/alto_setdbsource as required, and there is also the option of viewing them in HTML, PDF, DOC and original CHM format at www.talis.com/services/documentation/online_help.shtml.

Incorrect Permissions on bor_anon_delete.pl

If you use the borrower anonymiser script **bor_anon_delete.pl**, you may find that the recent version has incorrect permissions. This can be checked as the talis user by entering;

```
cd $TALIS_HOME/utils/bin
ls -l bor_anon_delete.pl
```

You should see "-r-xr-xr-x" in the first column, e.g.

```
-r-xr-xr-x 1 talis blcmp 56995 Jun 28 2004
/usr/opt/blcmp/talis/utils/bin/bor_anon_delete.pl
```

If you do not see this, enter;

chmod 555 /usr/opt/blcmp/talis/utlis/bin/bor_anon_delete.pl

Talis Training in 2005: Forthcoming Courses

6th June 2005 – System Management: Preparing for MARC21
15th June 2005 – Financial Year Rollover
16th June 2005 – System Manager: Alto Parameters and Configuration
23rd June 2005 – Talis Alto to Prism: Cataloguing for Quality
24th June 2005 – Authority Control

For details on these and other courses, please see www.talis.com/training. If you wish to discuss which training options are best for you, please contact the Training Team on +44 (0) 870 400 5419 or email training@talis.com.

Old Telephone Number

The re-direction of the old telephone and fax numbers is cancelled this month. An announcement will be recorded on the old main number (0121 471 1179) stating it has been changed to 0870 400 5000, together with further announcements being made via the Support Newsletter and Support area of the website.

Talis Blogs

A new Talis Blog is Infrablog (<http://blogs.talis.com/infrablog/>), representing the investigations and thoughts of the Infrastructure team. Senior Infrastructure Analyst Jim Prince outlines his thoughts on server platforms and the deployment of Talis Software on them, and presents ongoing evaluation of the performance, security and availability benefits of the Solaris 10 operating system. In addition, Saheed Akhtar and Ateeq Altaf consider security issues regarding wireless networks; and Adrian Mackey explores the e-book and web portal capabilities of Sony's PSP, including a test running of Talis Prism on it.

Feedback is requested to gauge potential interest in involvement with Jim's investigations of Solaris in particular. Please contact Jim by leaving a comment on the Infrastructure Blog, by posting a message on the Forum or by emailing jim.prince@talis.com.

Defects and PERs

Some of the Defects and Performance Enhancement Requests (PERs) raised by our user base have now been published at www.talis.com/defects/. This is a gradual process, so please revisit this site over the coming weeks as product coverage increases. Lists already available include known Defects lists for Talis Alto 1.3.0.18, Talis Mobile 2.0.10 and Talis Prism 1.1. In addition to the Defects' numbers and descriptions, the lists offer solutions or work-arounds to many of them.

Along with publishing these on the website, we are currently reviewing our PERs and Defects process and will be contacting customers in the near future for feedback. In the meantime, of course, please continue to raise discussions about PERs and Defects under the relevant product thread in the Talis Forums, where we will be delighted to discuss your findings and queries.

New Material from the Talis Developer Network

The Database Analyser is a utility which produces HTML reports upon the structure of users' Talis databases. These reports enable users to formulate queries against a database by means of simple SQL statements (NB requires Talis Alto to run).

The BusinessObjects CIPFA Reports article has been republished; this is to enable libraries to understand the sample queries Talis provides with BusinessObjects for the purposes of filling in CIPFA returns (book stock statistics, annual issues, revenue, etc.)

Prepared searches are those which produce either very popular results (e.g. for all *Harry Potter* titles), or else those which may not be easy to retrieve through the search interface (e.g. for all new books received this month). A new article describes how these may be set up for Talis Prism.

Also now available are;

a routine for importing records from Talis Prism into the bibliographic data tool EndNote
instructions on putting £ signs in PERL MIS script formats
analysis of Talis Prism web server logs AWStats 6.4 / Apache 1.x.x or 2.x.x, plus instructions for upgrading from AWStats 6.1 to 6.4

Please remember that this material is only accessible by signing up to the *Talis Developer Network*. For more information on the material, or to acquire a login if you have not already done so, please visit www.talis.com/community/developer/tdn/TDNhome.shtml

Tips and Tricks – Server Hygiene part 2

In the previous newsletter we outlined a number of UNIX commands used for identifying files and directories to delete in order to free up disk space. The concluding part of this article offers suggestions for deleting from the /scratch directory.

/scratch is necessarily one of the largest file systems on customer machines as most report, log and error files are created in it. It will also acquire many junk files over time. It is good system housekeeping to monitor its size and periodically clear it out. As /scratch is an area for temporary files, anything found in there could be a candidate for deletion, and anyone creating files in /scratch should understand they could be deleted at some point. However, /scratch does contain certain files and directories that should never be deleted;

/scratch/lost+found – used by Solaris to keep track of files and directories in /scratch.

/scratch/prod_talis – this contains the trandump data logs which are needed in a database restore situation.

/scratch/blcmp – this directory is needed by the talis online software link files. But blcmp_7.0 or blcmp_8.0, if they exist could be deleted.

/scratch/master – contains a copy of the Sybase master database and one of the sybssystemprocs database. Again needed in restore situations.

/scratch/ax_err – contains terminal session log files useful for diagnosing online system problems.

/scratch/data

/scratch/var_tmp

*/scratch/tgml** - any directory beginning with tgml as these are caches used by web opac

If /scratch is 100% full, look immediately for the largest files to delete. These are often Talis software files which have been ftp'd to /scratch from Talis. If you've been running the latest version of Talis for a month or so, these can be deleted. If they are accidentally deleted then they can always be ftp'd to you again. Examples of such files are;

```
-rw-rw-rw- 1 talis blcmp 118104064 Jun 11 1999 talis.9.18.04.99
```

```
-rw-rw-rw- 1 talis blcmp 31617329 Jun 20 1999 talis_offline.1.04.06.99
-rw-rw-rw- 1 talis blcmp 96026624 Sep 16 11:07 tutor_talis.9.18.04.99
```

Other files that can be deleted include files ending in ".tar" or ".tar.Z" ;

```
sybase11.upgrd.files.tar
sybase11.upgrd.files.tar.Z
```

also the following directories left over from the sybase 11 upgrade;

```
drwxrwxrwx 2 sybase sybase 1024 Jun 24 10:02 sybase11_files
drwxrwxrwx 21 sybase sybase 1024 Sep 16 09:49 sybase_11.0.3.3
drwxrwxrwx 3 sybase other 512 Sep 16 09:50 sybase_4.9.2
```

also files with the following extensions;

```
.old          .report      .error       .save        .tar          .orig
.rep         .err        .tmp         .out         .tar.Z
```

A chronological listing of files can be obtained using;

```
# ls -lart /pg
```

Typical output would look like this;

```
drwx----- 2 root root 8192 Oct 28 1997 lost+found
-rw-r--r-- 1 root other 841 Nov 2 1997 error
-rw-r--r-- 1 root other 233 Nov 7 1997 sybase_spconf_script
-rwxr-xr-x 1 talis blcmp 2736 Nov 24 1997 httpd_load.sc
-rwxr-xr-x 1 talis blcmp 1326 Nov 24 1997 http_useradd.sc
-rwxr-xr-x 1 talis blcmp 991 Nov 24 1997 http_dg_user.sc
-rwxr-xr-x 1 talis blcmp 1328 Nov 24 1997 http_Sun_user.sc
-rw-rw-rw- 1 talis blcmp 241410 Nov 27 1997 xref_tra.so
-rw-r--r-- 1 talis blcmp 3 Dec 9 1997 lib_code
-rw-r--r-- 1 talis blcmp 0 Dec 10 1997 mb_invalid_cnr.out
-rw-r--r-- 1 talis blcmp 14 Dec 10 1997 talis_log.10Dec1139
-rw-r--r-- 1 talis blcmp 371292 Dec 12 1997 mb_t1.works.load.run
-rw-r--r-- 1 talis blcmp 14 Dec 12 1997 talis_log.12Dec1156
-rw-r--r-- 1 talis blcmp 14 Dec 12 1997 talis_log.12Dec1453
-rw-r--r-- 1 talis blcmp 14 Dec 12 1997 talis_log.12Dec1513
-rw-r--r-- 1 talis blcmp 3716 Dec 12 1997 mb_t1.items.load.run
```

Precautions to take before deleting files

You must be logged onto the machine as root to ensure you can delete files owned by others. Be mindful that root permissions let you delete any files on the system; do not accidentally delete any files in the root (/) file system or from /etc. Also make certain you are in the /scratch directory before using the rm command.

Although /scratch is backed up to tape each time a full_softdump is run, it may have been a while since the last softdump and the files you have elected to delete may not be on the last softdump tape. If you subsequently decide these files should not have been deleted, or files have been accidentally deleted, they may not be on the softdump tape.

Its therefore a good idea to run a full_softdump before starting deletions or, better still and faster, dump the contents of /scratch to tape;

```
# cd /  
# ufsdump 0uf /dev/rmt/0 /scratch 0
```

This command will write all files in /scratch to a local tape drive.

If you want to verify what has been dumped to the tape use;

```
# ufsrestore tvf /dev/rmt/0
```

If your tape drive is on a remote machine (eg if you are backing up the contents of /scratch on the client to the dat drive on the server), use;

```
# ufsdump 0uf <remote_hostname>:/dev/rmt/0 /scratch 0
```

where <remote_hostname> is the name of the machine with the dat drive you want to dump to, e.g.

```
# ufsdump 0uf cvserver:/dev/rmt/0 /scratch 0
```

If you want to verify what has been dumped to the remote dat drive use the command;

```
# ufsrestore tvf cvtalis:/dev/rmt/0
```

How to delete files and directories in /scratch

To remove a sub-directory of /scratch such as blcmp_8.0 , use the following command;

```
#cd /scratch  
#rm -r blcmp_8.0
```

To remove all files with the extension .old , use;

```
#rm *.old
```

or if you want deletion to be interactive, as an extra safety feature use the -i option;

```
#rm -i *.old
```

Comments, Feedback and Contacts

Please let us know what you think of the Talis Support Newsletter. We want to hear your views and contributions so we can share them with our community of customers, and of course use them to improve our products and services. You can contact us via email support@talis.com or call +44 (0) 870 400 5400.

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