

# POSIX draft ACL attribute extension to NFSv4.2

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Some NFSv4.2 server implement POSIX draft  
ACLs as their “true form”

For those server's, the acl/dacl attribute can only  
provide an approximation of the “true form” ACL

This draft proposes new attributes that allow an  
NFSv4.2 client to manipulate a POSIX draft ACL  
directly

- An ACL's true form is the model of ACL actually stored for the file object and used to determine access permissions on the object
- The `acl_trueform` attribute is a read-only attribute that indicates the true form
- Set to `ACL_MODEL_NFS4`, `ACL_MODEL_POSIX_DRAFT` or `ACL_MODEL_NONE`

- The `acl_trueform_scope` attribute is a read-only attribute that describes the scope of `acl_trueform`
- The `acl_trueform_scope` can be `ACL_SCOPE_FILE_SERVER`, `ACL_SCOPE_FILE_SYSTEM` or `ACL_SCOPE_FILE_OBJECT`

- The `posix_default_acl` and `posix_access_acl` are read/write attributes for the POSIX draft ACLs
- Each consists of
  - an ACE count
  - the ACEs
    - tag (`user_obj`, `user`, `group_obj`,...)
    - perm (read/write/execute)
    - who string (`owner->uid`, `owner_group->gid`)

# VERIFY/NVERIFY

- Problematic because there is no definition of “same”
  - For example, ACE ordering does not affect semantics...
    - > Are two ACLs with the same ACEs, but in a different order the “same”?
- There is also a problem with the who strings, where different strings can refer to the same uid/gid.

# Multiple mode attributes

- This was brought up during discussion on the email list, but I'll admit I did not understand the need for separate mode attributes?

# Prototype implementations

- I had done prototype implementations of these attributes for both FreeBSD and Linux
- With the exception of VERIFY/NVERIFY, they appear to function and interoperate well

I hope that these implementations will receive testing at the next Bakeathon