

Q: Why is the performance of my file server so poor? The load is high and rpc.mountd is taking up large chunks of CPU time.

A: There is a file called `/etc/rmtab`, which contains statistics about remotes mounts. See the man page `rmtab(5)` for details. When an NFS client crashes, it does not remove its entry in this file and so as more NFS clients crash, the file `/etc/rmtab` on the file server grows without bound. Eventually things break or slow down severely. Notable symptoms are:

- The file `/etc/rmtab` is large—there should only be one line for each NFS client mounting a file system.
- High %CPU (e.g., higher than any other process) value as shown by `ps -aux`:

```
nfsserver%      ps -aux | grep mount
USER    PID  %CPU %MEM  VSIZE  RSIZE  TT  STAT  TIME COMMAND
root    276  19.6  1.4  1.23M  224K  ?  S    0:00 rpc.mountd
...
```

- High load values on the server immediately following multiuser boot.
- Home directories not mounting properly.

The fix is as follows:

- 1) Boot the machine in single-user mode.
- 2) Empty the file /etc/rmtab (e.g., `cat /dev/null > /etc/rmtab`).

3) Reboot.

This solves the problem.

QA565

Valid for 1.0, 2.0,3.0,3.1