PeerLock

File Locking
for Microsoft® DFSR

Enable File Collaboration with File Locking

Reliable file sharing and collaboration systems require the combination of file synchronization and locking. Without file locking, users will eventually encounter corrupted files and version conflicts as popular files are accessed, updated and replicated by multiple users across multiple servers on a network.

PeerLock is a best-of-breed file locking solution designed to integrate seamlessly with Microsoft® DFS Replication (DFSR) which has no file locking capabilities. Together they provide a cost-effective, easy to deploy, basic file collaboration environment that is in use today in thousands of organizations worldwide.

Supplementing Microsoft® DFSR for File Collaboration

Microsoft DFSR provides a simple and easily implemented solution for synchronizing files across multiple servers, permitting a more collaborative way of working. However, file version conflicts arise when more than one user wants to change the same file across different servers at the same time. This is caused by the lack of a file locking mechanism in DFSR which would prevent simultaneous edits across mirrored file systems.

The result is that when version conflicts do arise, file edits can be lost or edits need to be manually merged from multiple file versions.

Even in a small organization, this can result in hundreds, if not thousands, of potential file conflicts.

The best and most complete way to eliminate version conflicts when utilizing DFSR is to add and deploy a true file locking solution. Such a solution needs to minimally provide real-time detection of file use coupled with immediate remote locking like PeerLock.

How PeerLock Works

When a user opens a file in a watched folder on the network file server, the file is immediately locked by PeerLock on all other file servers across the WAN participating in the mirrored watch set. While locked, other users cannot make modifications to this file. When the user closes the file, the files residing on the other servers are immediately unlocked, and synchronization of file changes can then take place.

This process protects against multiple revisions occurring simultaneously on different machines, reducing the frustration and lost productivity associated with file version conflicts, corruption and accidental deletions.

Additionally, PeerLock delivers highly granular file management capabilities that power file collaboration including options for precise locking control, increased visibility into locked files across collaborative environments, and streamlined workflows for project teams.

Main Features:

Source/Target Folder Selection
Easy setup includes ability to select source and target folders to be watched.

File Selection
Granular file inclusion and exclusion capabilities enable administrators to filter file types for locking.

Administrator Lock Override
Ability to release locks from the PeerLock locked file list as well as perform additional actions for the specific file.

Support for UNC Folder/Path Names
Includes dynamic mapped drive creation.

Allow Access Based on Source File
Adds the ability to Lock Target Files with the same access as the Source File. When using this feature files on the source and their corresponding target(s) will be accessible by other users in the same manner: i.e. you cannot open the file, you can open the file for read access or you can open the file for read and write access. This is an important feature for applications that open some files for read and write access and other related files for read access only, as well as applications that just open Source Files for read access (such as CAD resource files).

Failed Connections Retry
Failed connections are automatically retried based on configuration, allowing file locks to be re-established without administrator intervention.

Internal File and Cache Management
Ability to track and remove temporary files used by PeerLock. Options include ability to enable caching, clearing the cache at the start of locking, and to clear the cache manually on demand.

Reporting
Detailed log file reporting provides file activity records for improved administrator visibility.

High Performance Locking
Files are locked and released in milliseconds.

Detection
File server mode detection recognizes files opened from users connecting over the network.

File Activity Visibility
Stores recently released files and all information pertaining to the locking and releasing of those files including why the file was released. Receive automated alerts for file activity replication issues as well as server and connectivity outages.

Peer Software File Collaboration Solutions:

	PeerLock	PeerLink®
Supported OS	Windows	Windows, Data ONTAP
Replication Engine	Microsoft DFSR	PeerLink
File Locking Solution	PeerLock	PeerLink
Central Monitoring Console	OPTIONAL	YES
File Locking During Transfer	NO	YES
Supported Network Latency	<150 ms	>150ms
Replication Topology	Full Mesh	Hub & Spoke
Recommended Sites	3 [*1]	2 - 100
Cross Domain	NO	YES
Cross AD's	NO	YES
Collaboration Class	BASIC	ENTERPRISE

[*1] - These numbers assume a FULL MESH replication architecture. A STAR TOPOLOGY architecture can support a higher number of sites.

More information

PEER™