Transmission and FreeNAS Using Shared NFS Mounts

I wanted to share all of the related mount paths for transmission to other users, so i could have full control of whats in the folders without having to ssh into the jail every time. This will assume you've installed the transmission pbi plugin, its not running (plugin turned OFF), and know you your way around a linux shell.

FreeNAS Configuration

There are several things that need to be in place before you can get transmission to work completely. All of these

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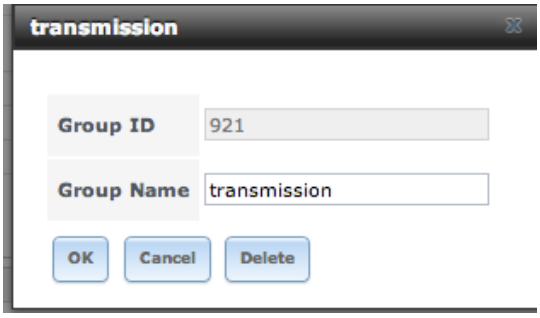
Group & User Account

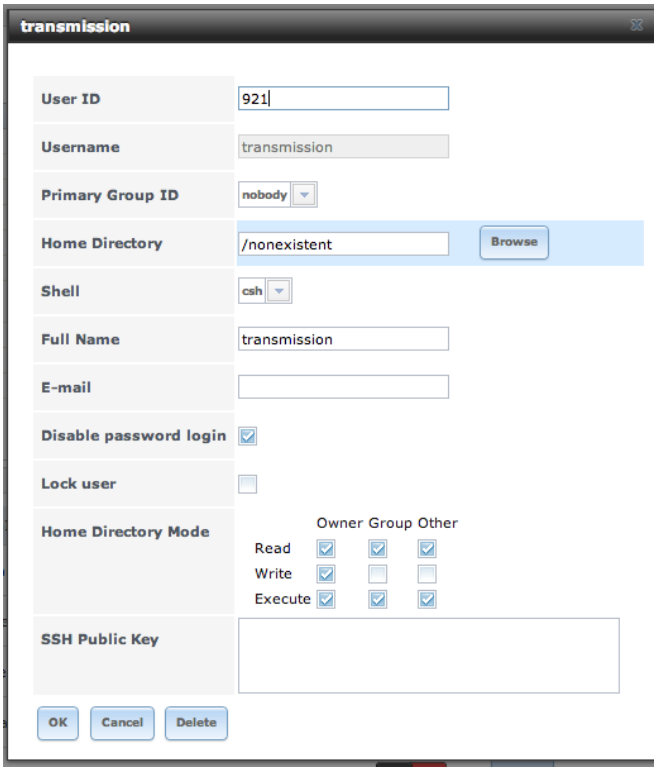


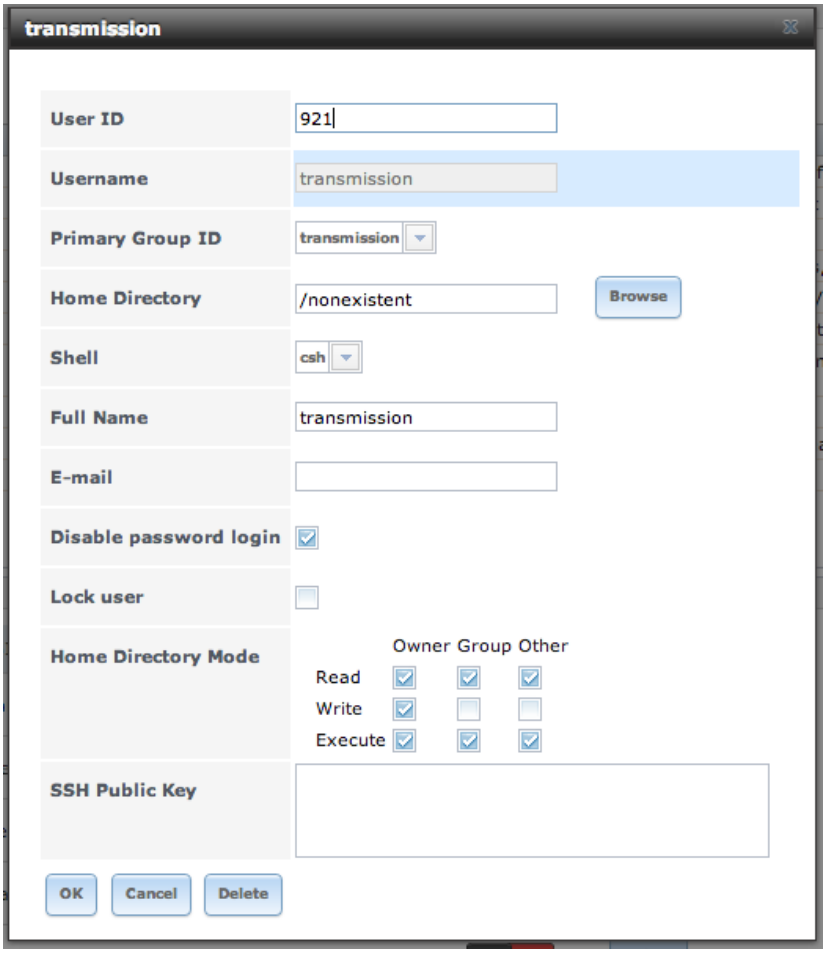
Create a new group called transmission with the same gid as to the one in the jail. In my case the gid was 921 yours may be the same, just double check.

Create a user on the nas web-ui called transmission. Make the user ID match the user ID of the jail's transmission user. If you aren't sure what this uid is. you can login to the jail to get it.

simply run:

cat /etc/passwd I grep transmission



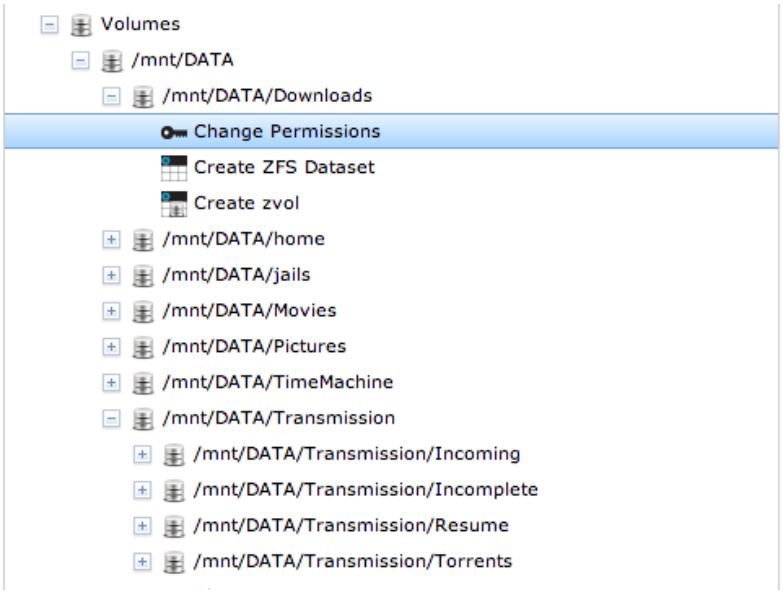


set the primary group ID to the group you just created above (transmission), i suggest disabling password login.

Create Mount Points

Once thats all done, create the mount points on your raid array. For my configuration I wanted to separate everything out. This led me with the following structure. The idea is all the finished Downloads will be in /mnt/DATA/Downloads and the incomplete files, watch dir, resume file, torrents will be stored in a separate mount point entirely.

The purpose of this is to prevent other plugins such as couch potato from scrubbing your incomplete downloads and all the torrents and such.



Once all your mount points are created we need to chown the appropriate permissions onto these datasets.

In my case im okay with 0777.. You may not be. Either way click Change Permissions and set them to something similar to what you see in the screenshot.

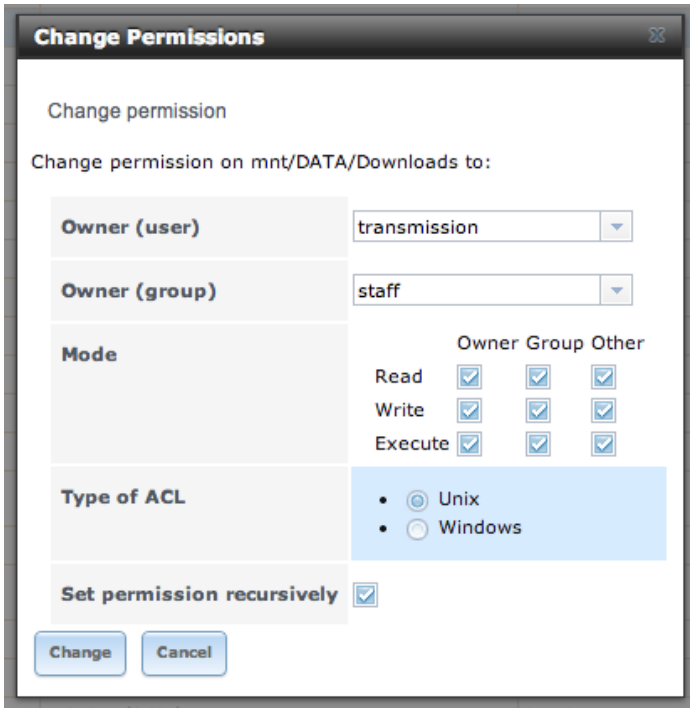
For the Downloads dir i set the group to a common group which is shared among my AFP/CIFS/SMB users (in this case staff).

Make sure to set permissions recursively!

Once you're satisfied with this stuff, hit change.

Do something similar for the /mnt/Transmission mount point. Except set the group to transmission.

You should be able to set it at the root level and it can push the changes to all the sub mount points that were created.



The next thing you need to do is ssh into the nas, login to the jail and create a few directories. In my case i put all my mounts in all my jails at /mnt/*. I find that having a standard location across all jails for your shared mount points makes things worlds less complicated.

```
$ cd /mnt;
$ mkdir downloads incoming incomplete resume torrents;
```

In the end what you should have is something like this:

```
root@bit_2:/mnt # ls
downloads       incoming        incomplete      resume          torrents
root@bit_2:/mnt #
```

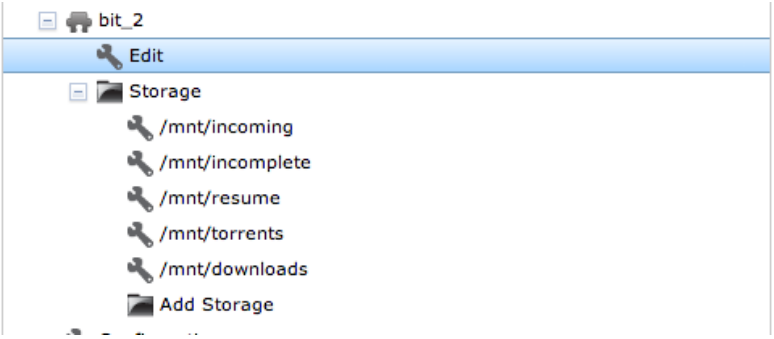
Create Storage Points for Jail

Once all the folders are created we need to map the datasets to the jails local folders for the NFS mounts.

In the NAS web-ui begin adding storage, referring to this chart on how to layout your mount points.

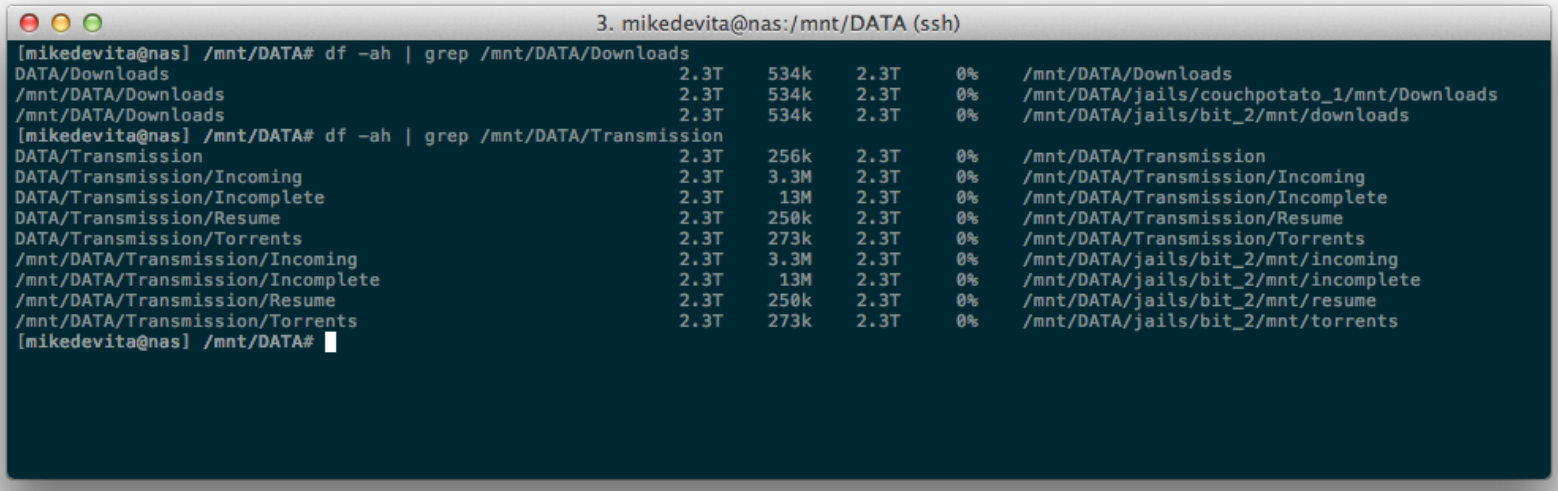
	NAS	Jail	settings.json
Downloads	/mnt/DATA/Downloads	/mnt/downloads	download-dir
Incoming	/mnt/DATA/Transmission/Incoming	/mnt/incoming	watch-dir, watch-dir-enabled
Incomplete	/mnt/DATA/Transmission/Incomplete	/mnt/incomplete	incomplete-dir, incomplete-dir-enabled
Resume	/mnt/DATA/Transmission/Resume	/mnt/resume	need to ln -s /mnt/resume trans dir/resume
Torrents	/mnt/DATA/Transmission/Torrents	/mnt/torrents	need to ln -s /mnt/torrents trrans dir/torrents

Once all the storage points are created you should have something similar to this in your web-ui.



To confirm things are mounted properly you can ssh into the nas, and run a df -ah to see all the mounted fs paths.

Mine looks like this (i grep'd for only the ones we care about) so you may see more than whats in the picture. You can see it mounts to the jails/bit_2/mnt/*



Fix Those Pesky Resume & Torrents folders!

So there is no way currently via transmissions settings.json to configure the path for the resume and torrents folders. There is however a way around this restriction… symbolic links!

when in the jail simply create symbolic links from the /mnt/resumeltorrents folders to the transmissions dir..

first off, delete the damn local resume and torrent folders.

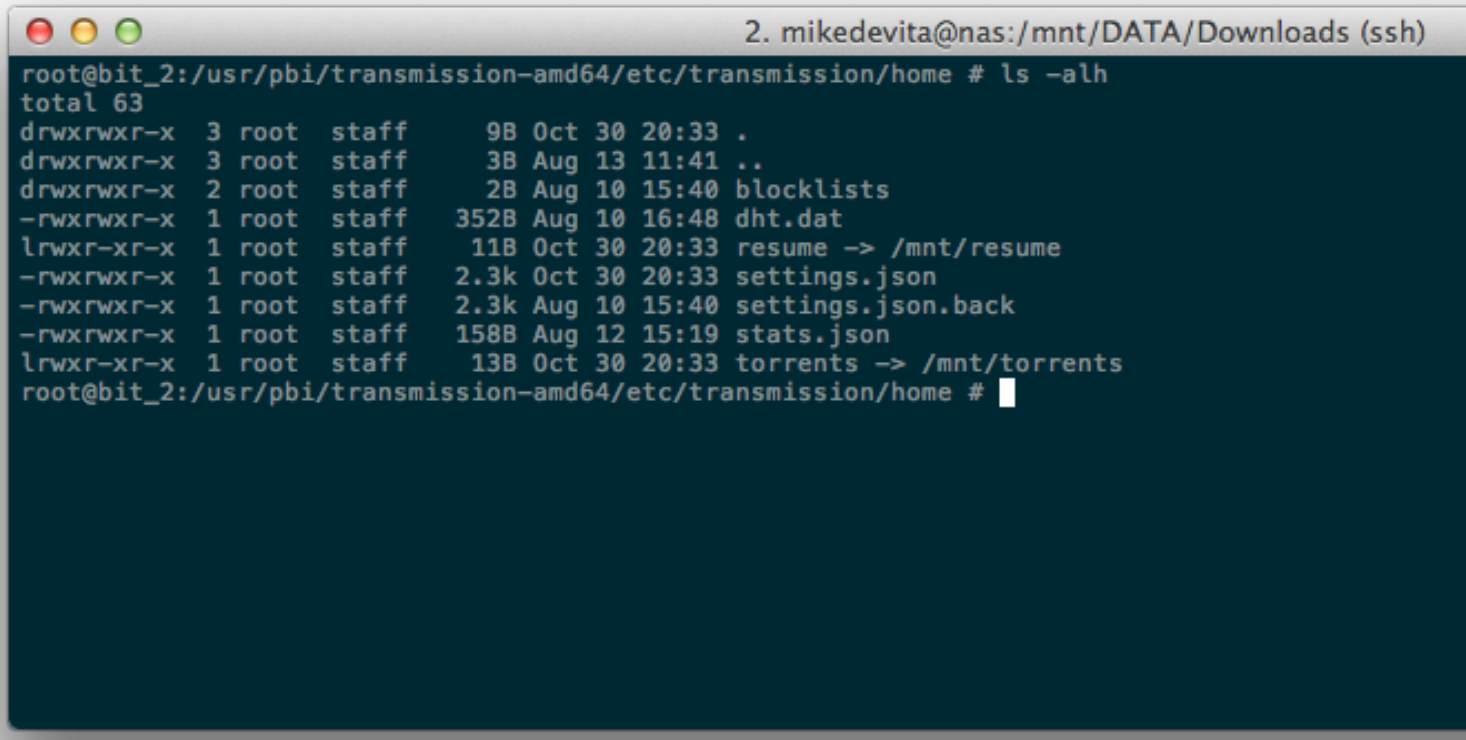
```
$ cd /usr/pbi/transmission-amd64/etc/transmission/home;
$ rm -rf resume torrents;
```

Next up create the symbolic links to those mount points.. make sure you're still in the transmission/home dir..

```
$ ln -s /mnt/resume resume;
```

```
$ ln -s /mnt/torrents torrents;
```

Doing an ls -alh should provide you with something similar to this



Configuring Transmission

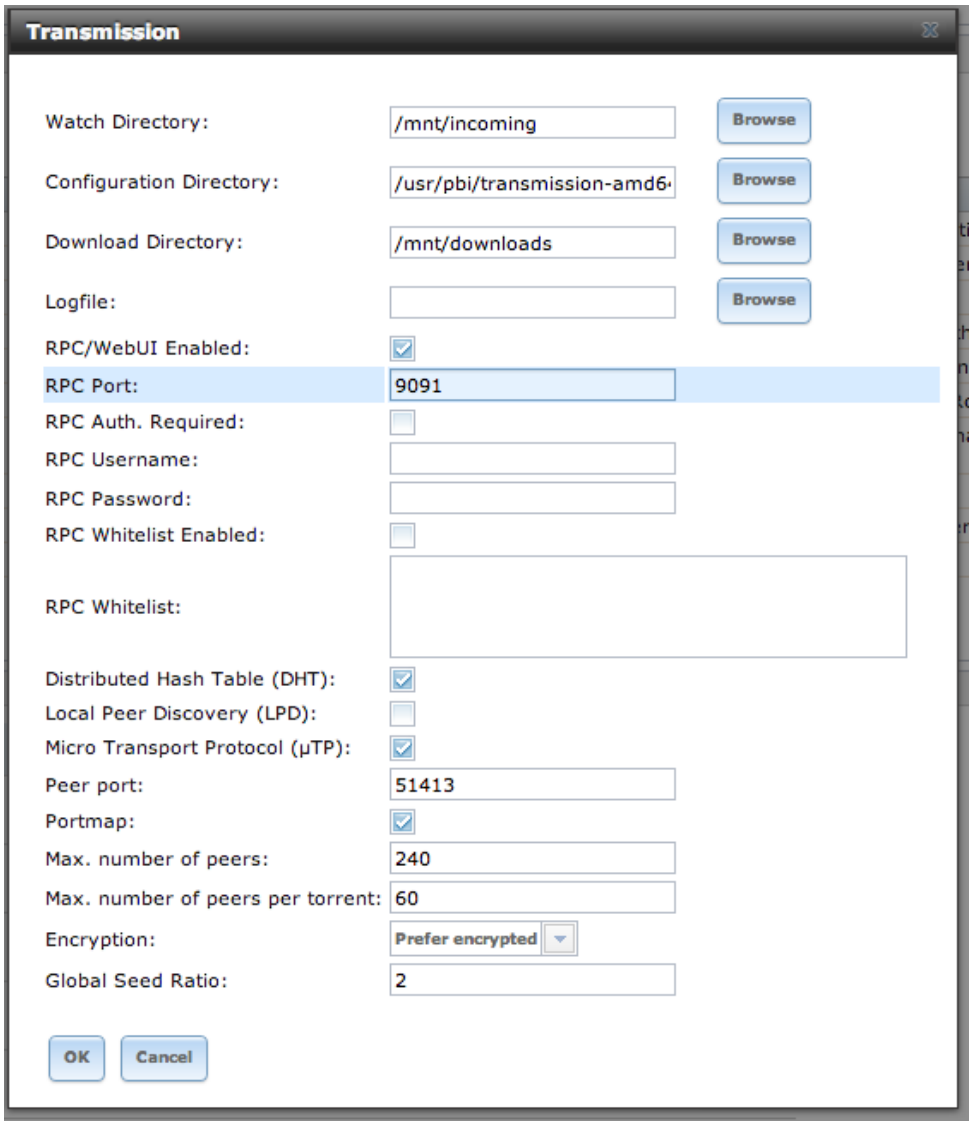
Now that all the mount points are there, and permissions are set its time to configure transmission.

Since FreeNAS takes some of the configuration in hand for you, its not as simple as just editing the settings.json file you see in the screenshot above. You will need to do two things: Edit the web-ui settings for the transmission plugin, then edit the settings.json file.

Make your Transmission Plugin Settings look like this:

You're only concerned really with the watch directory and Download Directory.

You can't set these two things in settings.json as it overwrites those things when you restart the plugin each time.



in order to move the Incomplete folder you'll need to modify settings.json manually.. which is located in: /usr/pbi/transmission-amd64/etc/transmission/home/settings.json

edit settings.json and change the two settings you see:

"incomplete-dir": "/mnt/incomplete",
"incomplete-dir-enabled": true,

Starting & Testing Transmission

Now if you've followed all these steps and haven't messed anything up, its time to start the plugin and test out the torrents.

Fire up the plugin, then to test every things worked you will need to do two things:

1. Drop a torrent file into the incoming dir on your nas
2. try to paste a web URL or upload a torrent via the transmission web-ui

I like to use the ubuntu torrent file as its always well seeded and downloads quick. The link to that is here: www.ubuntu.com/download/alternative-downloads

copy/paste the torrent link into the web-ui, and let it start downloading. While its downloading, check the various folders.

While its still downloading, it will show up on your NAS in /mnt/DATA/Transmission/Incomplete.

Once its finished it should show up in /mnt/DATA/Downloads

Test the Resume folder by pausing the torrent, you should see the .resume file show up in /mnt/DATA/Transmission/Resume

Rinse and repeat this same process except drop a torrent file in /mnt/DATA/Transmission/Incoming.

Q&A

If you have any questions, post in the thread, or shoot me a tweet @gorelative.