
Sharing files on a FreeBSD machine with an iMac

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This document explains how to enable an iMac to see files on a **FreeBSD** server sitting on the iMac's local area network, using the port of **netatalk**. The machines used were **FreeBSD 4.4-R** on Intel, and an G3 iMac running **MacOS 8.1**. The following setup is bound to work for other versions of **FreeBSD**, and probably works for other versions of **MacOS**. The information is claimed only to be sufficient – there are bound to be other ways to do it. The instructions below should be followed as the `root` user.

1. Compile the AppleTalk protocol into the kernel

The netatalk port requires the presence of the AppleTalk communications protocol in the system's kernel. The following line in the kernel's configuration file will enable AppleTalk:

```
options          NETATALK      # AppleTalk
```

You should now recompile the kernel as described in the [FreeBSD Handbook](#). You will then need to reboot.

2. Install the netatalk port

2.1. Compile and install the port

Compile and install the netatalk port as follows:

```
# cd /usr/ports/net/netatalk
# make all install
# make clean
```

2.2. Post-install configuration

Ensure that netatalk starts after a reboot:

```
# cd /usr/local/etc/rc.d/  
# cp netatalk.sh.sample netatalk.sh
```

Modify the configuration file to share directories:

```
# cd /usr/local/etc/  
# ee AppleVolumes.default
```

You can uncomment anything in here, but note the default is to have the users home directories available.

2.3. Startup netatalk

Start netatalk:

```
# netatalk.sh start
```

3. Enable AppleTalk on the iMac

At the iMac, enable AppleTalk by going to the **Chooser** and click on **Shared Files**. You should see your **FreeBSD** machine.

Contacting the Author

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