

/tmp/00427aaG.ag

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# **The Hesiod Name Server**

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# The Unix Database Files

- Mostly static information.
- Bogs down with too many entries.
- Difficult to synchronize large number of workstations.

# Why not NIS?

- Platform-specific.
- Not extensible.
- Clients too dependent on server.

# Hesiod

- ▣➔ **Cross-platform: based on BIND - the DNS server.**
- ▣➔ **Scalable - multiple servers easy to set up.**
- ▣➔ **Extensible - can hold any data.**
- ▣➔ **Database is more secure.**

# Hesiod Queries

- Modified resolver queries.
- Hesiod name (nsdahya1, aapuch, g100ha).
- Hesiod type (passwd, filsys, grplist, etc.).
- LHS & RHS (/etc/hesiod.conf).
- Class HS<sup>+</sup>, type TXT.
- UDP limitations (maximum response size).
- DNS limitations (limitations on query string).

# Uses on Campus

- ▣▣▣▣➔ Replaces /etc/passwd<sup>†</sup>.
- ▣▣▣▣➔ Replaces /etc/group.
- ▣▣▣▣➔ Replaces /etc/printcap.
- ▣▣▣▣➔ Complements /etc/hosts.

# libhesiod

- ➔ hesiod.h
- ➔ hes\_resolve()
- ➔ hes\_to\_bind()
- ➔ hes\_error()
- ➔ hes\_getmailhost()
- ➔ hes\_getservbyname() (not used here)
- ➔ hes\_getpwnam()
- ➔ hes\_getpwuid()
- ➔ hesiod\_free\_...()



# Disadvantages

- Database entries more difficult for users to modify.
- Programs must be modified to use hesiod.
- Contents of database available to entire Internet.

# More Information

- ➡ hesiod(3) manual pages
- ➡ <ftp://athena-dist.mit.edu/>
- ➡ namedroppers mailing list (archived at <http://www.ima.com/mlarchive/lists/namedroppers.1995/>)