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Cover Story

NIM Resources

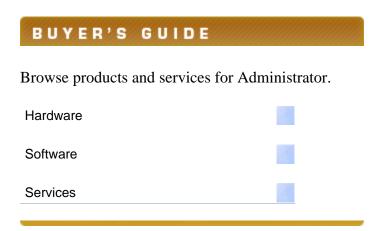< Return to main article

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NIM resources are defined in the NIM database on the master and the file-based resources are served out to the clients using NFS. Many different NIM resources must be defined and some of the more critical ones include:

- **lpp_source**- The lpp_source (Licensed Program Product source) directory contains the images AIX* uses to load software. These are typically the backup file format (BFF) images that exist on the AIX installation CDs or DVD. Each OS version should have its own lpp_source. Additionally, these should be separated into 32-bit and 64-bit lpp_source sets.
- **SPOT**- The Shared Product Object Tree (SPOT) is a directory created from the lpp_source. The SPOT is used in a similar fashion to the boot images and installation scripts on the base installation CD volume 1 for AIX. It may be necessary to create multiple SPOTs depending on the maintenance levels and versions that need to be supported.
- **mksysb**- The NIM master can use lpp_source to install an instance or it can install the instance from a mksysb of either that instance or another one. Once the mksysb is restored, a script can automatically run to customize the instance.
- **Scripts**- Scripts can be set to run during a base OS (BOS) install to ensure the resulting instance of the OS is correctly tailored with any post-installation items. These can include security requirements, third-party software installation and other customizations related to additional paging or dump space.
- **bosinst_data**- This is a file, not a directory, and it contains the necessary information to allow the installation to take place without manual intervention. It's used to define defaults such as default disk drive, installation type, etc.
- **image_data**- This is also a file and contains OS image information related to file systems, mirroring, etc.
- **installp_bundles**- These are files that list additional software to be loaded after AIX is installed. This can be useful when setting up groups of servers. As an example, one bundle may be for DB2* servers while another may be for Web servers. Once the OS is installed, you simply select the post install bundle and apply it.

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