

NetApp's WAFL vs. ZFS feature comparison

	<i>WAFL</i>	<i>ZFS</i>
Devices		
Raid (0,1,0+1,4,5,6)	Limited to raid-4	Yes ¹ , does not support raid-4
USB storage device support	No	Yes
Include Raw devices ²	Limited	Yes
Prevents silent data corruption	No	Yes
On Disk(s) Features		
Copy on Write design	Yes	Yes
Block size	Fixed 4KB	Real time variable 512 byte to 128KB
File system size	10's of gigabytes ³ maybe terabytes	Billions of gigabytes
Built in Compression	No	Yes
Built in Encryption	No	Being developed
End to end checksum	No	Yes
Quotas	Yes	Yes
Volume support ⁴	Yes	Yes
NFS	Yes	Yes
NFSv4 ACL support	Yes	Yes
Snapshots		
Unlimited Snapshots	Limited to 255 ⁵	Yes
Read/Write Copies (clones)	No	Yes
Snapshots accessible over NFS	Yes	Yes
Administrative Details		
Administrative GUI interface	Yes	Yes
Command Line interface	Yes	Yes
Pricing		
Pricing	Not free	Free
License Type	Commercial	CDDL
Source code available	No	Yes

Reference material used.

http://opensolaris.org/os/community/zfs/docs/zfsadmin_0525.pdf Solaris ZFS Administrative Guide
<http://www.netapp.com/library/tr/3002.pdf> File System Design for an NFS File Server Appliance
<http://www.netapp.com/library/tr/3014.pdf> MULTIPROTOCOL DATA ACCESS: NFS, CIFS, AND HTTP
<http://www.netapp.com/library/tr/3085.pdf> The NFS Version 4 Protocol

Footnotes

-
- 1 ZFS implements raidz and raidz2 which are advanced versions of raid-5 and raid-6
 - 2 Ability to import raw devices from other NAS, SAN, disk arrays
 - 3 Some people have commented that its closer to multiple terabytes, but still waiting for documentation.
 - 4 Support raw volumes, for database and apps that need a chunk of storage
 - 5 3002.pdf System Design for an NFS File Server appliance describes a limit of 255, but other have stated other wise.