

Re: Software RAID 0 and linux 2.6.8.1

Source: <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/Debian/2004-10/0525.html>

From: Niels (nls404_at_xs4all.nl)

Date: 10/05/04

Date: Tue, 05 Oct 2004 22:16:52 +0200

To: debian-user@lists.debian.org

Promise Netherlands told me today that the kernel 2.6.x.x drivers probably come next year. On a dutch forum they told me (2 secs ago) that the name of a non-true hardware controller is a firmware controller. I created a picture <http://www.xs4all.nl/~mghvl404/bin/fotos/got/RAID0uitleg.gif> to explain what I want with the promise fasttrack TX2 plus firmware raid controller. How can I do this?

Paul Yeatman wrote:

>Well, definitely sounds like you know what you want :)
>
>Seems like my confusion between you saying "software" and "hardware"
>controller is, as Paolo was saying, the Promise FastTrak isn't a "true"
>hardware controller apparently. It still requires some software, ie.
>kernel module, on the software side to operate. This is, however,
>coNSIDerably faster than using strictly software RAID where no card is
>needed at all. From the description of your system, however, this
>wouldn't appear to be a problem.
>
>I'll opt out of the conversation at this point because your
>proposed setup is different enough from mine that I can't really
>helpfully comment on it. As I mentioned (and I believe even
>tried), the "partial source code" from Promise for the FastTrak
>doesn't compile (or at least isn't written to compile) for the 2.6
>kernel. If the drivers you know of are slow, maybe Paolo is right and
>you should go with either strictly a hardware RAID controller or
>strictly software RAID given that you have a slick system.
>
>As for the boot loader issue, I'm not sure how a large BIOS is a
>solution unless you can get your boot loader to use your BIOS which
>I've never heard of. Unless you are using a true hardware controller,
>I'm not sure where/how your boot loader will be read with no other
>disks other than the RAID 0'ed disks.
>
>Best wishes,
>

>Paul
>
>->>In response to your message<<-
> --received from Niels--
>
>
>>I shall explain my choises. I really want to buy a RAID 0 (striping)
>>controller, because my current harddisk is the bottleneck in my current
>>system. I have a dual XP-M 2800+ with 1Gbit NIC and 1GB memory. I have
>>read enough about RAID 0. I really want it! I know that it is not safe,
>>but I can backup my data.
>>
>>I choose for a software RAID controller because it is cheap. An hardware
>>controller would cost me six times more, but would be at most 10%
>>faster. That's not worth it. Installing this RAID card is easy under Win
>>XP, because I can just put a disk in my pc with the drivers at setup
>>time and it will work.
>>
>>I know this will be another story for debian. I've read stories of
>>people who got the Promise drivers working under 2.6.8, but those
>>drivers are not fast. I use 2.6.8 because I have a SMP setup. I want no
>>other drives than the two of my RAID setup in my pc because I hate noise.
>>
>>I buy a software RAID controller because the price difference between a
>>software RAID SATA controller and a SATA controller is < i>1/210,-
>>
>>What are the troubles I will run into? I can load things in my BIOS,
>>because I have 2MB BIOS memory (MPX2).
>>
>>The adress you gave me was wrong,
>><http://www.1U-Raid5.net/HowTO/SW-Raid-HOWTO.txt> this one is correct.
>>
>>Alvin Oga wrote:
>>
>>
>>
>>>On Mon, 4 Oct 2004, Niels wrote:
>>>
>>>
>>>
>>>
>>>
>>>>I want to buy a Promise Fasttrack TX2 plus RAID 0 controller with two
>>>>SATA hard disks. The controller is a software controller. I want no
>>>>other hard disks than these two in my PC. Can I boot of this setup with
>>>>the 2.6 kernel?
>>>>
>>>>
>>>>
>>>>
>>>>yes...

Debian-User: Re: Software RAID 0 and linux 2.6.8.1

>>*listmaster@lists.debian.org*

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