

Mysterious Unmounts

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I'm running FC5 and earlier this week one of the two hard drives in my system died. It was the disk with FC5 on it. I bought a new disk, installed it and reinstalled FC5. (Previously, I had done upgrade installations starting with RH9->FC3->FC4->FC5 so this was really the first time I had done a clean FC5 install.) I then did a "yum update".

I logged in as my normal non-root user and su'ed to root. As I was logged in as root and pulling various files from my backups to get my web server, mail server and other tools running again I happened to notice that some disk partitions were no longer mounted. The disk I replaced contains partitions mounted on /, /boot, /var, /space1 and a 1 GB swap partition. /boot and /space1 were missing. I remounted them. Some time later I noticed the same thing. I remounted them. This kept happening. Sometimes the /home partition from the second disk would be missing. This seemed to be happening whenever root logged off or I exited the kyum (a GUI for yum) application. I was using that to add additional packages I needed. The / and /var partitions never disappeared. It looked like any partition with no open files were being unmounted.

Here's what I did to try to figure out what was happening. I renamed /bin/umount to /bin/umount-real. I then wrote a quick script for /bin/umount that would append to a file the time and date and the output from "ps -ef". Then it would call /bin/umount-real with whatever arguments had been passed to it. I forced the problem to happen again and then looked at the file my script had written. I caught a umount from the ps output. Here are the entries tracking parent and child PIDs back to the hald daemon:

```
68 1850 1 0 Apr28 ? 00:00:03 hald
root 1851 1850 0 Apr28 ? 00:00:00 hald-runner
root 23576 1851 0 22:33 ? 00:00:00 /bin/bash
/usr/share/hal/scripts/hal-system-storage-umount
root 23577 23576 0 22:33 ? 00:00:00 /bin/bash
/usr/share/hal/scripts/hal-system-storage-umount
root 23578 23577 0 22:33 ? 00:00:00 /bin/sh /bin/umount /home
root 23580 23578 0 22:33 ? 00:00:00 ps -ef
```

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(The 68 as the UID for the first line is because the username is 9 characters long – haldaemon. Apparently that's a known problem with ps and ls when the username is >8 characters.)

I tried googling for this and looking through the archives of this list but did not find anything (yet). Does anyone know what is happening here and how to fix it? These filesystems are mounted at boot time. Why is hal trying to unmount them? They are not removable media.

I'm sure there is more information needed that I have not supplied so just ask and I'll respond. If this is a known problem with a known fix, just point me in the right direction. If something I've said above is not clear, let me know and I'll clarify.

Thanks for any help.

Charlie Dennett

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