

Re: Problem with random disks mount sequence

Source: <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/Fedora/2007-12/msg01536.html>

- *From:* wwp <subscript@xxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Tue, 11 Dec 2007 10:45:51 +0100
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Hello Mikkel,

On Mon, 10 Dec 2007 13:00:15 -0600 "Mikkel L. Ellertson" <mikkel@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

wwp wrote:

Hello there,

running a Fedora 8.. since I don't know when, my root partition is randomly mounted as /dev/sda3 or /dev/sdc3. This breaks the mount possibilities from within Nautilus, as it seems to be a complete mess w/ detected devices (or remembered?) devices.

It's a D810 laptop, w/ a SATA disk (usually sda, root sda3 and labelled as '/' and swap as SWAP-sda4, sda1 and sda2 being NTFS). When I boot the laptop w/ some USB disks connected (labelled storage3 and storage4), I'll get random mount sequences. At the beginning the USB disks were sdb and sdc and could be mounted w/o problem from Nautilus. But I recently reboot and found that this has changed -> root is sdc3 and one of the external USB disks is now sda1.
/ and swap partitions are in fstab, storage3 and storage4 aren't.

If that doesn't prevent the system from running fine, from within Nautilus, I can't mount the external USB disk anymore, it seems that nautilus remember that 'storage3' was 1st partition, but now it tries to mount /dev/sda1, and fails w/: NTFS signature missing..

Any clues how I could get a fixed mounting sequence? Should I force a specific device (/dev/sdc1) for the labelled partition 'storage3' for instance (and how)? How can it be that the / partition doesn't get the 1st /dev/sdX assignment?

Regards,

Re: Problem with random disks mount sequence

SCSI drives are listed by order of discovery. (SATA drives are handled as SCSI drives.) You should not have USB drives discovered before your SATA drive. It almost sounds like you have the `usb_storage` module in your `initrd` file. You may also want to check `/etc/modprobe.conf` for SCSI controller aliases.

I didn't change factory defaults for kernel config and params, `modprobe` settings or `initrd` contents, it was working fine until I did some reboots (it worked fine for several reboots, I can't tell if that came from an upgrade or if it's a random behaviour, and I'm not rebooting every day). If this problem shows here, it's potentially everyone else's problem, if it's not BIOS or hardware dependent.

I normally let HAL mount USB drives – it uses the label for the mount point off the `/media` directory. It is possible to write HAL rules that mount specific drives on specific mount points. It is also possible to write `udev` rules that will mount the USB drive based on the partition label, just like your root directory is mounted. (You need to use the `noauto` option, so the system does not try to mount them on boot.)

This should give you a couple of ways to try and solve the problem, or at least give someone else an idea on more troubleshooting.

Yeah, thanks for the tips. The easy (temporary) workaround I found for my next reboot was to have the USB disks unplugged before GDM shows up (one plug to get off, they're connected to a USB concentrator). I wonder if disabling booting USB devices in the BIOS could help.

I'm a bit amazed in fact, and I say this w/o any irony, really. After so many years where I could see that the way external devices and fs are mounted (that started w/ manual `fstab` handling, then `hotplug`, `udev`, `hal`, mixing with `autofs` and `gnome` mount mechanisms (correct me if I forget one), it's like we'll never get an auto-mounting mechanism that is reliable from a Desktop PoV. Maybe it's simply not possible because software can't guess human expectations, but then, maybe a wizard should ask what to do when new device IDs get plugged in (remember it and automount it next time, etc.). Waiting for a smart mount robot, I think I'll look into the the HAL rules direction!

Regards,

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wwp

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