

Re: moving the /var partition [SOLVED]

Source: <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/RedHat/2003-10/2198.html>

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Date: 10/23/03

To: redhat-list@redhat.com

Date: Thu, 23 Oct 2003 16:50:07 -0400

Peter B. West wrote:

> *Bill,*
>
> *This is getting a bit confused. You say you have just installed a new*
> *disk, yet you also say you want to reduce a 60Gb /var partition. If you*
> *are installing a new disk, you can decide at the outset how big a /var*
> *partition you want. I would go back to the beginning, decide how big I*
> *wanted my var to be, and partition the new disk accordingly. Decide*
> *what you want to do with the rest of the disk, e.g., /opt, /usr2 or*
> *whatever. Partition accordingly. Whatever tool you use will tell you*
> *the /dev/hd? name of your new partitions. Build your filesystem(s) on*
> *the new disk. Then follow the instructions about temporary mounts.*
>
> *I would enter the values for the temporary mount in /etc/fstab, making*
> *sure to create the mount point for your temporary var – say /mnt/var. If*
> *these things match you will be able to issue*
> *# mount /mnt/var*
>
> *Do the copy using cpio or cp. If using cp I would try -ax (i.e. -dpRx).*
> *If using cpio, I would probably add --sparse to the args, just in case*
> *it saves some space.*
>
> *Now modify the /etc/fstab. Where is your current /usr? Is it a*
> *directory on the / partition? /usr is a critical partition itself. As*
> *you have a new disk, I would *first* bring the /var partition up in its*
> *new home, then sort /usr out. In either case, don't touch /usr to start*
> *with. It sounds as though /var is currently a partition. Change the*
> */var mount point to the newly created partition, and change the current*
> */var partition to mount on /mnt/var. Reboot. If all goes well, this*
> *process will be transparent.*
>
> *Then do something similar for your current /usr. Delete the contents of*
> */mnt/var. (Be careful where you are. You might be better to create a*
> */mnt/newusr directory, and in the previous step, change the old /var*
> *partition mount point to /mnt/newusr, just so that the names don't get*
> *confused.) Do the copy of the current contents of /usr to the old var*
> *partition as you have mounted it. Change /etc/fstab to mount the old*

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> *var partition as /usr. Reboot.*
>
> *As suggested, I would use the device names for all of this, (/dev/hdb1,
> etc), and sort out the labels later.*
>
> *Incidentally, if wither /var or /usr is currently a directory in the /
> file system, rather than a mounted partition, you will have to arrange
> to delete the old contents of the directory when everything is working.
> The best way to do that would be to boot in rescue mode, and delete the
> directory contents from /mnt/sysimage, after making sure you didn't have
> the new partitions mounted there. I don't know how rescue treats
> mounted partitons, but I assume they are mounted at the appropriate
> points under /mnt/sysimage.*
>
> *Peter*
>

Sorry about the confusion. I was trying to solve several problems at once, and should not have mentioned them all in one email.

This is what I did to solve my problem:

On a test machine, I installed the new hd, then used fdisk to partition it. I ran into problems, I think because I said one partition was extended, and not primary. Anyhow, I put two primary partitions on the disk, then used

```
# mke2fs -jc /dev/hdb1  
# mke2fs -jc /dev/hdb2
```

to put an ext3 file system on the partitions. Having forgot to label them, I used

```
# tune2fs -L /var /dev/hdb1  
# tune2fs -L /usr /dev/hdb2
```

I then mounted them and used

```
# rsync -e ssh -avz doggett:/var/ /mnt/var  
# rsync -e ssh -avz doggett:/usr/ /mnt/usr
```

to get the data off the old partitions. I then altered the /etc/fstab on the production machine. Next, I shut down both machines, swaped disks, and restarted them.

Worked like a charm.

THANKS to everyone for their help. One of the key piece of information I didn't have was that tune2fs can be used on ext3 file systems. The man pages didn't state that.

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Thanks again,

Bill

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