

## Re: [SLE] frequent hard disk failures – 9.3?

**Source:** <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/SuSE/2005-11/0338.html>

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**From:** Sid Boyce (*sboyce\_at\_blueyonder.co.uk*)

**Date:** 11/04/05

Date: Fri, 04 Nov 2005 04:42:29 +0000

To: suse-linux-e@suse.com

Carlos F Lange wrote:

> Hi,  
>  
> Since I upgraded my 2 PCs at home and 9 PCs at the university  
> to SuSE 9.3 (clean install, all partitions ReiserFS) I had 4 hard  
> disks either crashing or showing bad sectors. In all cases the  
> failure is (I still need to confirm one case) hardware related  
> and there is no apparent pattern: they were Maxtor, Western Digital (2),  
> and Seagate disks, EIDE and SATA, new and old, on Intel and  
> on AMD boards, so I can't pin the blame on any particular  
> brand or type.  
>  
> But I can say that it is definitely an unusually high number of  
> hard disk failures. Since I am one of only 2 in the department  
> running SuSE and my colleague also had a hard disk crash  
> while running 9.3, whereas the rest of the MSerfs (and a couple  
> of Mac addicts) in the department may have lost one HD in  
> the same period, it is starting to look bad. :(  
>  
> I wonder if it is just here, or if someone else also noticed higher  
> number of crashes. I remember a previous thread from July,  
> where people tried to blame ReiserFS and others convinced them  
> it was mainly hardware. Well, hardware seems to be the case here,  
> but then again, SuSE and ReiserFS were the only things in common  
> among the 4 failed HDs I had in the past 4 months.  
> Am I seeing things, or what?  
>  
> Carlos

Most SuSE/Mandriva/gentoo (I have them all) installs are reiserfs by default, so guess under what conditions failures occur. I have had a number of run-arounds with HD failures, some were due to bad IDE controllers so the disks were reclaimed after swapping out the motherboard and reformatting the drives, all others, 2 in about 2 years have been genuine HD failures.

My bet is that if you install Fedora core which is ext3, you'd have the same problems. I shot down reiserfs as the cause the last time the issue

SuSE: Re: [SLE] frequent hard disk failures – 9.3?

was raised on the grounds that if reiserfs was that bad, the kernel mailing list would be full of complaints, customers would be frothing at the mouth and RedHat/Fedora/Windows would be replacing the other distros in short order.

Regards

Sid.

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Sid Boyce ... Hamradio License G3VBV, licensed Private Pilot  
Retired IBM/Amdahl Mainframes and Sun/Fujitsu Servers Tech Support  
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Microsoft Windows Free Zone - Linux used for all Computing Tasks

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