

Re: ext3 filesystem not working with raid5

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From: Walter Mautner (nextnews.15.eatallspam_at_spamgourmet.com)

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Mario Thomas wrote:

> *I have a computer with a RAID5 array running of an adaptec 2400A IDE
> raid controller. There are four disks each of 250Gb and made by
> Maxtor.*

....

> *Following a lot of diagnostic work and over a week of downtime of the
> array we have come to the conclusion that the ext3 filesystem is
> damaged somehow. When we run fsck -t ext3 /dev/sdb1 it runs but then
> exits with an error about a magic number. Also it suffers from lot's
> of I/O errors.*

>

Hmm, that definately should not happen. It means you have troubles with your hardware, and the array might already have reconstructed with bad data due to that.

> *My question is – how do we restore the ext3 filesystem. We've spoken
> to adaptec who have confirmed that the raid5 is healthy. So it has to
> be a filesystem problem. Just to be sure we've arranged an RMA of the
> card just to swap it out – but my fear is that the ext3 is to blame.*

>

So the array by itself appears "healthy" (again) but it's comparable to the habit of windozes scandisk that often used the wrong FAT to repair and *then* damaged the data. Or even worse, since a hardware raid doesn't know about the filesystems stored on it.

Before or when you exchange the card, make sure you have the correct cabling (80pole, blue bay on mainboard, end bay on master ide, middle on slave) and look for "DrivenotReady SeekComplete" or similar messages.

In addition, consider *maxtor*250GIG IDE disks to be nice for single-user harddisk video recording, but not for (drive)head-shaking multiuser applications.

> *The disks contain a lot of sensitive business critical information for
> which there is no back up – just lots of work to manually re-create it
> – which would be a complete pain. I think i've learned my lesson about
> backing up – even when you have a RAID5!*

>

Of course. A RAID is by no means a substitute for backups, it might help to

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keep downtime low on s