

Re: /var keeps going read-only

Source: <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/comp.os.linux.misc/2005-04/1489.html>

From: Jean-David Beyer (jdbeyer_at_exit109.com)

Date: 04/21/05

Date: Thu, 21 Apr 2005 12:09:33 -0400

Jeff wrote:

> *Jeff wrote:*

>

>> *Paul Colquhoun wrote:*

>>

>>> *Some people have suggested a suspect controller.*

>>

>>

>>

>> *I'm really hoping it doesn't turn out to be this...Tyan motherboards
>> have been good to me over the years, but I had to replace mine a year
>> ago due to a bad power connection, and if I lose another one now to a
>> bad IDE controller, my faith in them will be seriously shaken*

>>

>>> *Is the second controller available? It might pay to move the disk from
>>> hdb to hdc or hdd (don't forget to adjust /etc/fstab).*

>>

>>

>>

>> *I'll also have to edit grub.conf since this is the boot drive (long
>> story why I boot of hdb instead of hda). I could try this as an
>> easier experiment...can anyone think of any other things I'll need to
>> edit to be sure I get up and running if I boot off of hdb instead of hdb?*

>

>

> *A few thoughts I'm hoping for feedback on.*

>

> *I've eliminated the disk as being bad...it's been replaced. So now if
> it's a hardware issue, its either the IDE controller on the MB, or it's
> a bad cable. So I'm going to try and replace the cable with a new one
> and see if that helps.*

>

> *But if it's bad hardware, why would it always impact /var? /var is the
> first logical partition, as the following shows:*

>

> *Minor Start End Type Filesystem Flags*

> *1 0.031 8189.384 primary ext3 boot*

> *2 8189.385 68189.963 primary ext3*

```
> 3 68189.963 128190.542 primary ext3
> 4 128190.542 239366.931 extended lba
> 5 128190.573 136379.926 logical ext3
> 6 136379.958 140474.619 logical linux-swap
> 7 140474.650 156327.824 logical ext3
> 8 156327.855 239366.931 logical ext3
> (parted)
```

I am not familiar with parted, but the fact that it gives its start and end block? track? cylinder? as a decimal number is bizarre. You would think those things would be integers. Ignoring that, you do not want the partitions overlapping and it looks like Minor 3 shares a block (or track or cylinder) with Minor 2. Not good if true. Similarly for Minor 4.

Now the logical partition at 5 skips a bit: unusual. As do all the logical ones. Here is what fdisk does for one of my drives:

```
Disk /dev/hda: 81.9 GB, 81964302336 bytes
255 heads, 63 sectors/track, 9964 cylinders
Units = cylinders of 16065 * 512 = 8225280 bytes
```

```
Device Boot Start End Blocks Id System
/dev/hda1 * 1 49 393561 83 Linux
/dev/hda2 50 1354 10482412+ 83 Linux
/dev/hda3 1355 1615 2096482+ 83 Linux
/dev/hda4 1616 9964 67063342+ f Win95 Ext'd (LBA)
/dev/hda5 1616 2659 8385898+ 83 Linux
/dev/hda6 2660 3703 8385898+ 83 Linux
/dev/hda7 3704 4225 4192933+ 83 Linux
/dev/hda8 4226 4747 4192933+ 83 Linux
/dev/hda9 4748 5073 2618563+ 83 Linux
/dev/hda10 5074 5196 987966 83 Linux
/dev/hda11 5197 6170 7823623+ 83 Linux
```

```
>
> /dev/hdb7 on / type ext3 (rw)
> /dev/hdb1 on /boot type ext3 (rw)
> /dev/hdb2 on /home type ext3 (rw)
> /dev/hdb3 on /usr type ext3 (rw)
> /dev/hdb5 on /var type ext3 (rw)
> /dev/hdb8 on /music type ext3 (rw)
>
> Not being a hardware expert, it seems odd it would always make /var
> read-only. Why no other partition?
>
> IAC, I'll pick up a new cable when I go to town today. If that doesn't
> work, I'll leave hda on the suspect IDE controller, since hda has the
> MBR on it. I can then actually move hdb off the MB completely, to one
> of my PCI/133 cards that control my other hard drives, and try and boot
> from there, or I can shuffle things around and boot from the secondary
> IDE channel on the MB. Is there a reason to try the onboard IDE rather
> than an PCI card? Realistically, the onboard is only ATA-100, and the
> Promise card is ATA-133, so I might get better performance off of the
```

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> *Promise card, since the disk supports 133.*
>
> *Thanks to everyone who has been following this saga and helping. All*
> *input welcomed.*
>
> *~Jeff*

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~. Jean-David Beyer Registered Linux User 85642.
/V\ PGP-Key: 9A2FC99A Registered Machine 241939.
/()\ Shrewsbury, New Jersey <http://counter.li.org>
^^-^^ 12:00:00 up 10 days, 5:16, 3 users, load average: 4.06, 4.07, 4.08