

External USB hard drive problems...

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I am trying to use an external IDE HD plugged into a USB port for backups. I have chosen a WD 120Gb and RH9 recognises it as /dev/sda1

I do fdisk and create the 120Gb partition OK, but when I do a:

```
mkfs.ext3 /dev/sda1
```

it creates the first 91 inode tables almost instantly and then it slows down to a crawl, doing 1 every couple of minutes. Then it will suddenly instantly do 5 or 10 and then slow down to a crawl again. It finally completes the 895 in about three quarters of an hour:

```
===== #
mkfs.ext3 /dev/sda1
mke2fs 1.32 (09-Nov-2002)
Filesystem label=
OS type: Linux
Block size=4096 (log=2)
Fragment size=4096 (log=2)
14663680 inodes, 29304560 blocks
1465228 blocks (5.00%) reserved for the super user First data block=0 895
block groups
32768 blocks per group, 32768 fragments per group 16384 inodes per group
Superblock backups stored on blocks:
    32768, 98304, 163840, 229376, 294912, 819200, 884736, 1605632,
    2654208, 4096000, 7962624, 11239424, 20480000, 23887872
```

```
Writing inode tables: 96/895
```

```
=====
After this completes, I can mount the drive and use rsync to write to it with no errors, no speed issues and no apparent problems. :-)
```

However:

When I re-run rsync to update the backups I get many errors, saying files don't exist. On further inspection I find that the file that it is looking

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for is ".thisisthefile", when the file backed up is "thisisthefile".
However, many files names are correct (without the dot) and there are no errors when reading/writing to them. Huh?

I try and rename the file with mv and it says that there is no space left on the device. I do a df and find that I have only used about 30Gb of the 120Gb total. It seems as though this is a default error message as the OS is having trouble talking to the USB subsystem.

I can create a file on the mounted /dev/sda1 with vi or touch with no problems, in spite of the "no space" error.

All of this seems to point to some sort of HD/Controller/Interface type issue. I have 2 of these external WD drives and I have tried both of them and they both react the same way. The motherboard is an ASUS P4P800 with USB2 ports. I can't use hdparm to talk to the drive as Linux thinks that the USB drive is a SCSI drive. I understand that a 120Gb-sized partition can be easily accommodated by the 2.4.20-13.9 kernel.

If you think that I am nonplussed, you would be correct!! :-)

Does anyone have ANY IDEA what is going on????

Cheers,
Brad