
Subject: Strange behaviour in disk space. How to diagnose sudden rise in file space used?

Posted by [mcarreira](#) on Mon, 26 Jul 2010 15:24:29 GMT

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My server is a centos-4 openvz hardware node and root file system is a 50GB partition. Until last week, df -h command showed 46GB Size, 17GB used, 28GB Available (38% used). Suddenly the disk became full, and messages in /var/log/message stopped because no space available. So I was unable to see what was wrong with it.

I tried to see which directories were "guilty" about this problem. But, using "du" command was not very informative, because it showed me only 13 GB used (?). There was a different result between "du" and "df" commands I cannot understand.

I deleted some useless files to get some disk space available, and now I have 4.8GB available with "df" command, and /var/log/messages started to be written again.

This is the result of "df -h"

```
[root@hn ~]# df -h
Filesystem      Size  Used Avail Use% Mounted on
/dev/md1        46G   39G   4.8G  89% /
/dev/md0        84M   47M   33M  60% /boot
/dev/md5        92G   46G   42G  53% /vz
/dev/md2       917G  340G  532G  39% /shares
/dev/sde1       917G  508G  363G  59% /disco2
/dev/sdf1      113G  188M  107G   1% /tempdisk
none            2.0G    0   2.0G   0% /dev/shm
```

This is the result of du -hs /*

```
[root@hn ~]# du -sh /*
284K  /baksystem
6.7M  /bin
44M   /boot
1.5M  /copia
616K  /dev
508G  /disco2
55M   /etc
458M  /home
8.0K  /initrd
179M  /lib
21M   /lib64
16K   /lost+found
12K   /media
8.0K  /misc
20K   /mnt
8.0K  /opt
4.6G  /proc
2.6G  /root
```

```
21M   /sbin
8.0K  /selinux
339G  /shares
8.0K  /srv
0      /sys
20K   /tempdisk
864K  /teste
72K   /tftpboot
188K  /tmp
4.6G  /usr
913M  /var
470M  /vmachines
421G  /vz
```

If I sum all space used in every directory (except /disco2 /shares and /vz directories, which are mounted points of other disks) I only get approximately 13GB.

So, why "df" tells me that my disk is almost full, when some days before it was showing me 17GB used?

Also those impossible 421GB in /vz are not corresponding to 46GB used in a 92GB partition when using "df" command.

Someone has a clue?