
Subject: disk use/empty files question

Posted by [Keith Keller](#) on Thu, 31 May 2012 19:41:16 GMT

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Hello openvz users,

I am brand new to OpenVZ, evaluating it to see if it will work in my environment. I have been playing around, and had a question about disk usage.

I noticed that, when I first started using my new VZ container, that df always reported 0 blocks in use:

```
# df -h
Filesystem      Size  Used Avail Use% Mounted on
/dev/simfs      693G   0 693G   0% /
none            16G 4.0K  16G   1% /dev
```

This is even after having copied quite a bit of data into the container.

Recently, the hardware node seems to have had a hard crash (which I'm still checking out). On restart, a large number of files that I'd previously added were truncated to be empty, for example:

```
# ls -l /usr/lib64/libMagickWand.so.2.0.0
-rwxr-xr-x 1 root root 0 May  7 12:07 /usr/lib64/libMagickWand.so.2.0.0
```

I'm not sure how to interpret these events. Could they possibly be related? Is there an issue with my configuration that's causing problems with container storage?

I am using a CentOS 6.2 on the hardware node, and the stock packages available from the OpenVZ repos. In addition, after the file size issue occurred I modified the VZ's config to increase the disk space limits (it was previously 2G:1000G), which I wonder might be the cause.

Some additional info below. If you need any more details please let me know. Thanks!

```
# uname -a
Linux dhcp-128-32-252-85.lips.berkeley.edu 2.6.32-042stab055.10 #1 SMP
Thu May 10 15:38:32 MSD 2012 x86_64 x86_64 x86_64 GNU/Linux
```

```
# rpm -qa |grep vz
vzctl-3.2.1-1.x86_64
vzkernel-firmware-2.6.32-042stab055.10.noarch
```

```
vzctl-lib-3.2.1-1.x86_64
vzquota-3.0.12-1.x86_64
vzkernel-2.6.32-042stab055.10.x86_64
```

```
# cat /etc/vz/conf/21.conf
```

```
# RAM (this particular server has 128GB of physical memory)
PHYSPAGES="0:32G"
```

```
# Swap
SWAPPAGES="0:512M"
```

```
# Disk quota parameters (in form of softlimit:hardlimit)
DISKSPACE="1000G:2000G"
DISKINODES="400000:500000"
QUOTATIME="0"
```

```
# CPU fair scheduler parameter
CPUUNITS="1000"
VE_ROOT="/vz/root/$VEID"
VE_PRIVATE="/vz/private/$VEID"
OSTEMPLATE="centos-6-x86_64"
ORIGIN_SAMPLE="vswap-256m"
FEATURES=" nfs:on"
```

```
--
```

```
kkeller@wombat.san-francisco.ca.us
```

Subject: Re: disk use/empty files question

Posted by [massimiliano.sciabica](#) on Thu, 31 May 2012 20:23:12 GMT

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Hi,

I had a similar issue when I first tried to improve performance of VPS with high number of small files.

When a VPS reports 0% usage it is usually due to a not ext2 family filesystem. What fs where you using?

On 31/05/2012 21:41, Keith Keller wrote:

> Hello openvz users,

>

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> environment. I have been playing around, and had a question about disk
> usage.

>

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> This is even after having copied quite a bit of data into the container.
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> still checking out). On restart, a large number of files that I'd
> previously added were truncated to be empty, for example:
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> occurred I modified the VZ's config to increase the disk space limits
> (it was previously 2G:1000G), which I wonder might be the cause.
>
> Some additional info below. If you need any more details please let me
> know. Thanks!
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>
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> vzquota-3.0.12-1.x86_64
> vzkernel-2.6.32-042stab055.10.x86_64
>
> # cat /etc/vz/conf/21.conf
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> # RAM (this particular server has 128GB of physical memory)
> PHYSPAGES="0:32G"
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> # Swap
> SWAPPAGES="0:512M"

```

```
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> # Disk quota parameters (in form of softlimit:hardlimit)
> DISKSPACE="1000G:2000G"
> DISKINODES="400000:500000"
> QUOTATIME="0"
>
> # CPU fair scheduler parameter
> CPUUNITS="1000"
> VE_ROOT="/vz/root/$VEID"
> VE_PRIVATE="/vz/private/$VEID"
> OSTEMPLATE="centos-6-x86_64"
> ORIGIN_SAMPLE="vswap-256m"
> FEATURES=" nfs:on"
>
>
>
```

Subject: Re: disk use/empty files question

Posted by [Kirill Kolyshkin](#) on Thu, 31 May 2012 20:26:22 GMT

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On 31 May 2012 23:41, Keith Keller <kkeller@wombat.san-francisco.ca.us> wrote:

```
>
> Hello openvz users,
>
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> environment. I have been playing around, and had a question about disk
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> # df -h
> Filesystem      Size  Used Avail Use% Mounted on
> /dev/simfs      693G   0 693G  0% /
> none           16G 4.0K  16G  1% /dev
>
> This is even after having copied quite a bit of data into the container.
```

Assuming you don't have DISK_QUOTA=no in global config (ie /etc/vz/vz.conf), the figures shown come from vzquota, and in order for vzquota to work correctly when you want to copy something to container you have to have it mounted (ie vzctl status 21 should show the word 'mounted' among others) and copy the data to VE_ROOT (ie /vz/root/21) but not to VE_PRIVATE (/vz/private/21).

If you have already done it wrong (I assume you did *), you have to recalculate

vzquota, the easiest way is to stop container, do vzquota drop 21 and start container again. This should fix your issue.

* what happened I guess is you have copied something big to under /vz/private/21 (bypassing vzquota) and then removed it from either /vz/root/21 or right from inside the container (not bypassing the vzquota), leading to disk space being accounted on removal and the negative result, which is shown as 0.

A nice alternative is to use ploop (<http://wiki.openvz.org/Ploop>) instead of simfs+vzquota.

But I suggest you to fix your problem first.

```
>
> Recently, the hardware node seems to have had a hard crash (which I'm
> still checking out). On restart, a large number of files that I'd
> previously added were truncated to be empty, for example:
>
> # ls -l /usr/lib64/libMagickWand.so.2.0.0
> -rwxr-xr-x 1 root root 0 May  7 12:07 /usr/lib64/libMagickWand.so.2.0.0
```

I believe this is because of file system crash and the fsck (or journal replay) which truncated your files. In other words, this is not directly related to what you have described above.

Speaking of kernel crashes, it's nice to have some console logger installed, such as netconsole so whenever you have an oops you can report the bug. See http://wiki.openvz.org/Remote_console_setup

```
>
> I'm not sure how to interpret these events. Could they possibly be
> related? Is there an issue with my configuration that's causing
> problems with container storage?
```

Configuration below looks fine to me, except...

```
>
> I am using a CentOS 6.2 on the hardware node, and the stock packages
> available from the OpenVZ repos. In addition, after the file size issue
> occurred I modified the VZ's config to increase the disk space limits
> (it was previously 2G:1000G), which I wonder might be the cause.
>
> Some additional info below. If you need any more details please let me
> know. Thanks!
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```

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> # cat /etc/vz/conf/21.conf
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> # RAM (this particular server has 128GB of physical memory)
> PHYSPAGES="0:32G"
>
> # Swap
> SWAPPAGES="0:512M"
>
> # Disk quota parameters (in form of softlimit:hardlimit)
> DISKSPACE="1000G:2000G"

```

It looks like you have set disk quota values to more than you really have. Since this doesn't make sense my question is -- did you meant to disable disk space limit entirely? If yes, you can just have DISK_QUOTA=no in this config.

```

> DISKINODES="400000:500000"
> QUOTATIME="0"
>
> # CPU fair scheduler parameter
> CPUUNITS="1000"
> VE_ROOT="/vz/root/$VEID"
> VE_PRIVATE="/vz/private/$VEID"
> OSTEMPLATE="centos-6-x86_64"
> ORIGIN_SAMPLE="vswap-256m"
> FEATURES=" nfs:on"
>
>
> --
> kkeller@wombat.san-francisco.ca.us
>

```

>

Subject: Re: disk use/empty files question
Posted by [Keith Keller](#) on Thu, 31 May 2012 21:41:44 GMT
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Hello all, thanks for the quick responses!

On 2012-05-31, Kirill Kolyshkin <kolyshkin@gmail.com> wrote:

>
> Assuming you don't have DISK_QUOTA=no in global config (ie /etc/vz/vz.conf),

That's correct.

> the figures shown come from vzquota, and in order for vzquota to work correctly
> when you want to copy something to container you have to have it mounted (ie
> vzctl status 21 should show the word 'mounted' among others) and copy the
> data to VE_ROOT (ie /vz/root/21) but not to VE_PRIVATE (/vz/private/21).
>
> If you have already done it wrong (I assume you did *), you have to recalculate
> vzquota, the easiest way is to stop container, do vzquota drop 21 and
> start container
> again. This should fix your issue.

You are indeed correct that I originally copied data to /vz/private/21.
But when I attempted to drop the quota, it still reports 0 blocks used.
I wonder if Massimiliano's comment is relevant?

On 2012-05-31, Massimiliano
<massimiliano.sciabica@kiiama.com> wrote:

> Hi,
> I had a similar issue when I first tried to improve performance of VPS
> with high number of small files.
> When a VPS reports 0% usage it is usually due to a not ext2 family
> filesystem. What fs where you using?

I am using XFS. The FAQ mentions that disk quotas do not work with XFS,
so perhaps that's why it isn't displaying quite right (see below).

> I believe this is because of file system crash and the fsck (or journal replay)
> which truncated your files. In other words, this is not directly
> related to what you have described above.

Perhaps--on boot, I didn't notice any unusual messages from fsck, though
I admit I wasn't paying an enormous amount of attention, and the logs
don't have anything interesting to report either. Does OpenVZ do a lot
of caching of disk writes from within a container? (It's obviously too

late now to see what xfs_repair thinks of the filesystem, but FWIW it didn't find anything unusual.)

- > Speaking of kernel crashes, it's nice to have some console logger installed,
- > such as netconsole so whenever you have an oops you can report the bug.
- > See http://wiki.openvz.org/Remote_console_setup

Yes, I just set this up after the first crash--silly oversight not to have done it right away. :)

```
>> # Disk quota parameters (in form of softlimit:hardlimit)
>> DISKSPACE="1000G:2000G"
>
> It looks like you have set disk quota values to more than you really
> have. Since this doesn't make sense
> my question is -- did you meant to disable disk space limit entirely?
> If yes, you can just have
> DISK_QUOTA=no in this config.
```

Well, I am not entirely sure what I want, to be honest. If it's true that having VE_ROOT and VE_PRIVATE on an XFS filesystem means disk quotas don't work right, then perhaps I should either use ext3 (or ext4?) on that filesystem, or disable disk quotas for all containers.

As an experiment on the latter, I set DISK_QUOTA=no in vz.conf, and now I get:

```
# vzctl exec 21 df -h
Filesystem      Size  Used Avail Use% Mounted on
/dev/simfs      1.0T 332G 693G 33% /
none            16G 4.0K 16G  1% /dev
```

But it would be convenient to have disk quotas. Is there a preference for ext3 or ext4 for the host filesystem?

--keith

--
kkeller@wombat.san-francisco.ca.us

Subject: Re: Re: disk use/empty files question
Posted by [kir](#) on Fri, 01 Jun 2012 03:24:34 GMT
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On 06/01/2012 01:41 AM, Keith Keller wrote:
> Hello all, thanks for the quick responses!

>
> On 2012-05-31, Kirill Kolyshkin<kolyshkin@gmail.com> wrote:
>> Assuming you don't have DISK_QUOTA=no in global config (ie /etc/vz/vz.conf),
> That's correct.
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>> vzctl status 21 should show the word 'mounted' among others) and copy the
>> data to VE_ROOT (ie /vz/root/21) but not to VE_PRIVATE (/vz/private/21).
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>> again. This should fix your issue.
> You are indeed correct that I originally copied data to /vz/private/21.
> But when I attempted to drop the quota, it still reports 0 blocks used.
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>
> On 2012-05-31, Massimiliano
> <massimiliano.sciabica@kiiama.com> wrote:
>> Hi,
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>> When a VPS reports 0% usage it is usually due to a not ext2 family
>> filesystem. What fs where you using?
> I am using XFS. The FAQ mentions that disk quotas do not work with XFS,
> so perhaps that's why it isn't displaying quite right (see below).

Right. I am not sure why it behaves this way, but yes indeed, vzquota
doesn't work with XFS.

>
>> I believe this is because of file system crash and the fsck (or journal replay)
>> which truncated your files. In other words, this is not directly
>> related to what you have described above.
> Perhaps--on boot, I didn't notice any unusual messages from fsck, though
> I admit I wasn't paying an enormous amount of attention, and the logs
> don't have anything interesting to report either. Does OpenVZ do a lot
> of caching of disk writes from within a container? (It's obviously too
> late now to see what xfs_repair thinks of the filesystem, but FWIW it
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>
> But it would be convenient to have disk quotas. Is there a preference
> for ext3 or ext4 for the host filesystem?
```

Ext4 of course.

And then I recommend to try using ploop layout not simfs one.
http://wiki.openvz.org/Ploop/Getting_started

```
>
> --keith
>
>
```

Subject: Re: Re: disk use/empty files question
Posted by [massimiliano.sciabica](#) on Fri, 01 Jun 2012 06:09:18 GMT
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Hi Keith,
I'm quite sure XFS is the "problem".
Kirill response is technically perfect and his knowledge is far ahead of
mine, I would have not even imagined that disk quota might be implied.
But I suggest you to have a try with ext4 or ext3, the both work fine,
even with any tuning option you may need.

On 31/05/2012 23:41, Keith Keller wrote:
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> --keith
>
>
>

Subject: Re: Re: disk use/empty files question
Posted by [Kirill Kolyshkin](#) on Fri, 01 Jun 2012 06:45:12 GMT
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>
> Hi Keith,
> I'm quite sure XFS is the "problem".
> Kirill response is technically perfect and his knowledge is far ahead of
> mine, I would have not even imagined that disk quota might be implied. But

I suggest you to have a try with ext4 or ext3, the both work fine, even with any tuning option you may need.

Ext4 (since you will be able to use ploop)

```
>
>
> On 31/05/2012 23:41, Keith Keller wrote:
>>
>> Hello all, thanks for the quick responses!
>>
>> On 2012-05-31, Kirill Kolyshkin<kolyshkin@gmail.com> wrote:
>>
>>>
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```

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>> --keith
>>
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Subject: Re: disk use/empty files question
Posted by [Keith Keller](#) on Tue, 05 Jun 2012 18:31:56 GMT
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On 2012-06-01, Kir Kolyshkin <kir@openvz.org> wrote:
> Ext4 of course.

Sounds great, I am working with it now.

> And then I recommend to try using ploop layout not simfs one.
> http://wiki.openvz.org/Ploop/Getting_started

So, I found in this article:

<http://wiki.openvz.org/Ploop>

that ploop is still new. Is that still true? I'm already new to OpenVZ, and am not quite ready to also take on a new feature that's still somewhat experimental. (Perhaps on a different server that I'll be staging soon, which will not be as much of a production machine.)

It looks like the "empty files" issue may not be an OpenVZ issue, as I found empty files after a crash in which I was not running any containers (though it was still the OpenVZ kernel). But right now I'm guessing hardware, so will pursue that first.

--keith

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