Subject: Problematic Hard Disk - Read Only Mode
Posted by Ashley on Wed, 15 Aug 2007 08:53:40 GMT
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Hello,

I recently brought a new Dedicated Server from LayeredTech, installed OpenVZ and installed two VPS's and all works fine.

However at random times, can be up to 3 days between them or just a few hours the VPS will stop responding. Apache starts to throw an 500 error, and SSH an error about caught create something.

However at one point the problem happened during my already been logged into SSH, however when ever i went to do something it said, permission error (hard disk is loaded in ReadOnly mode).

This would explain for the Apache 500 error due to me running Suexec and it needing certain persmisons, and the SSH error as it can not create any files on the Hard Disk.

However the problem is i am not sure what is causing this, it happens both inside the VPS and the Host Node so i can not login to any SSH.

The datacentre has run many checks on the hard disk and changed over cabels just incase, however i now think its something to do with the setup.

I followed the guide word for word and this is the 3rd server that I have run OpenVZ on.

Any ideas?

Thanks Alot,
Ashley

Subject: Re: Problematic Hard Disk - Read Only Mode
Posted by kir on Wed, 15 Aug 2007 08:56:03 GMT
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Running dmesg on the host system will probably tell you what happened to your hard drive -- some errors etc.

In some cases it might be a bad filesystem -- so it makes sense to run fsck on it.

Subject: Re: Problematic Hard Disk - Read Only Mode
Posted by rickb on Wed, 15 Aug 2007 08:56:58 GMT
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If the filesystem is new and hasn't been abused too badly (improper shutdowns whilst heavy io), usually it means a failed disk. post 'dmesg' when the fs goes into read only mode and we can tell you for sure.

Rick

Subject: Re: Problematic Hard Disk - Read Only Mode
Posted by Ashley on Wed, 15 Aug 2007 09:04:55 GMT
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They already run a fsck and it fixed a few Inodes, and i can not login via SSH when the server is readonly mode to grab a "dmesg"

The company did say i could have a OS Reload and Swap over the HardDisk however this will cost, and i don't want to do this if this is not the cause of the problem.

Thanks,
Ashley

Subject: Re: Problematic Hard Disk - Read Only Mode
Posted by rickb on Wed, 15 Aug 2007 09:12:52 GMT
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I would fire up bonnie++, and run that disk for a few hours. This should trigger the io errors if its a serious problem. Keep checking dmesg and save anything about seek errors, aborted journals, etc. Basically anything before it going into ro mode. Send that to your datacenter along with the fact that the fs was fsck'd clean just prior, and they will swap out the disk free of charge. Also, you should be using at least raid1 on this server. this will give you so many reliability and per. benefits, and will save you from reinstalling the OS when a disk goes south, like in this case.

Rick

Subject: Re: Problematic Hard Disk - Read Only Mode
Posted by Ashley on Wed, 15 Aug 2007 09:16:11 GMT
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Okie thanks

So if i set it up to run and then have a cronjob run every 2 minutes or so send me the output of dmesg to my email account?

As of course it could take hours for the error to appear???

Thanks,
Ashley

Subject: Re: Problematic Hard Disk - Read Only Mode
Posted by rickb on Wed, 15 Aug 2007 09:29:25 GMT
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run bonnie++ from the HN, there is no way to know how long to wait, I would say a few hours means your disk is ok.

Every 10 mins, check dmesg or rig a script to do this and mail to you I suppose.

Rick

Subject: Re: Problematic Hard Disk - Read Only Mode
Posted by Ashley on Thu, 16 Aug 2007 15:16:47 GMT
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Ok i run bonnie++ for a few hours, nothing appeared in the dmesg, i have attacked the whole output of dmesg bellow.

Any other ideas about what could cause the server to do this??

Thanks,
Ashley

File Attachments
1) dmesg.txt, downloaded 534 times

Subject: Re: Problematic Hard Disk - Read Only Mode
Posted by vaverin on Fri, 17 Aug 2007 05:01:02 GMT
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Hi Ashley,

disk remounts to ReadOnly in case of disk/filesystem errors and we need to see first error to understand the reasons of this issue.

Unfortunately in case disk/filesystem troubles the error messages cannot saved in local log files, therefore I would like to ask you to attach remote console:
http://wiki.openvz.org/Remote_console_setup

thank you,
Vasily Averin

Subject: Re: Problematic Hard Disk - Read Only Mode
Posted by Ashley on Fri, 17 Aug 2007 09:33:04 GMT
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Thanks Vasily Averin

So there is no way this could be a software/configuration problem, as the datacentre has done many tests on the hard disk.

I have setup a netconsole, however the problem has not happened in the last few days.

So im hoping the problem has gone, however could it have been a config error, or would this not be able to do a remount in read only mode?

Thanks