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 unuseful 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 aproximately 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?
