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Deleting Software RAID

by [lornegaetz](#) » Thu May 07, 2009 2:41 pm

From the webGUI today I attempted to delete a software raid 1 set from **Disks|Software RAID|RAID1|Management** and was greeted with this confirmation:

Do you really want to delete this volume?
!!Note all data will get lost and can not be recovered!!

Does deleting a RAID set from the WebGUI really destroy the data on the hard drives or is this meant as a warning to newbies who stray where they should not?

Lorne

Re: Deleting Software RAID

by [al562](#) » Thu May 07, 2009 7:59 pm

lornegaetz wrote: Does deleting a RAID set from the WebGUI really destroy the data on the hard drives or is this meant as a warning to newbies who stray where they should not?

Even if you click "OK" it will ask you to remove the mount point/dismount the mirror first (I figured, what the heck, let's try to really loose it all). It then warns you again and you have to apply the changes. I rebooted here for good measure. I then proceeded to mount each former member separately, not as a RAID, with no problems. All the data was there. Remember, the system no longer sees a single volume since we deleted the mirror, it now sees 2 separate drives. I made no changes to the data.

We now need to make it a mirror again. When you check the "initialize RAID" box, there is a warning again that all data will be lost and that you should not use this option if you want to add an already existing RAID again. Well, I figured let's live on the edge and checked it, applied it, then rebooted. I then mounted and shared it again and my data was still there. It's possible that the data remained because I configured everything exactly the same (it's not so easy to do if you don't document and it's a year later). Obviously you don't check "initialize" under normal circumstances when trying to mount a pre-existing RAID.

Based on this test I would say it is just meant as a warning because there are too many easy ways to screw it up with a GUI 😊 .

Best wishes,
Al

Re: Deleting Software RAID

by [lornegaetz](#) » Thu May 07, 2009 11:29 pm

It was interesting to read your experiences, because I got tired of waiting for an answer and did EXACTLY what you did. Deleted the RAID (despite the warnings) and also mounted a single disk of the array to confirm that the data was still there (it was). Then I unmounted that disk and tried to recreate the RAID from scratch (without initializing) and it came in stopped. Nothing I could do would convince the RAID to restart so I deleted it (again ignore the warning that all my data would be lost) then recreated and initialized it (ignored the third warning that my data would be lost) and then lo and behold the mirror was back up with all data intact.

Lorne

Re: Deleting Software RAID

by [danmero](#) » Thu May 07, 2009 11:33 pm

Something like: [Add old SoftwareRAID workflow](#)

Re: Deleting Software RAID

by [lornegaetz](#) » Thu May 07, 2009 11:37 pm

danmero wrote:Something like: [Add old SoftwareRAID workflow](#)

Yes I have read that workflow before, but really wanted to try it out for myself with non-important data. When you are in crisis mode, having a strongly worded warning that you will never see your data again is not good for the blood pressure.

Lorne

[lornegaetz](#)

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[Re: Deleting Software RAID](#)

by [bmccclure937](#) » Fri May 08, 2009 12:21 am

Interesting thread... I am always learning something new here!! This will be great to know in the future.

For the sake of completeness... does this only work on a RAID1 (mirror) or will it work with a RAID5 array as well??

[Re: Deleting Software RAID](#)

by [jefewest](#) » Tue Jun 23, 2009 11:28 pm

I have a slight deviance from the situation described here. I originally created a Raid 0 array with 3 250GB drives, using an older version (v0.66) of freeNAS. I stupidly reset to factory settings and lost my configuration and had no backup (I know, I know). I'm now trying to recreate the array using the latest version (v0.69.1), but I'm having no luck. I honestly don't care if I recreate the array; I just want to retrieve the data then make a new array later. One of the things I tried is to mount each element of the former array individually, as described, but again, to no avail. Can someone provide more details about how to do that? IOW, when I add the former array element drive (which was formatted with v0.66), do I specify the file system as "softRaid" or as some kind of UFS? Then what partition type do I specify?

[jefewest](#)

Posts: 5

Joined: Tue Jun 09, 2009 8:04 pm

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[Re: Deleting Software RAID](#)

by [al562](#) » Wed Jun 24, 2009 6:43 am

*bmccclure937 wrote:*will it work with a RAID5 array as well??

Yes, it will, any SoftRAID as long as you are careful and know what you are doing.

*jefewest wrote:*do I specify the file system as "softRaid"

SoftRAID is correct. UFS is when you try to mount.

*jefewest wrote:*Then what partition type do I specify?

Generally it should be 1. Do `FDISK /dev/YourProvider` the output should list whatever partions the system sees and that may help figure out how to mount.

Al