

Re: Root directory filling up...

Source: <http://unix.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/FreeBSD/newbies/2004-12/0105.html>

From: Nikolas Britton (freebsd_at_nbritton.org)

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Date: Tue, 14 Dec 2004 20:32:10 -0600
To: Kiffin Gish <kiffin.gish@planet.nl>

Kiffin Gish wrote:

>Wow, that seems like a lot of work. Suppose instead I choose just to
>reinstall everything all over again...
>
>What stuff do I need to save and restore later so that I don't have to
>reinstall all my applications all over again (Internet, mail, gnome,
>x-windows)?
>
>Like the /etc/*, etc. Is there a standard way to do this?
>
>
>

Yes you could save everything in /etc, but most of it you don't need,
"tar -czf /home/etc.tar /etc"

Save any files you changed in /etc, save rc.conf in /etc, and possibly
hosts and resolv.conf
Save all your personal data i.g. your "home" and roots directory
if you have custom conf files for programs save them, i.g. samba's conf
file etc.
if you have custom conf files in /usr/local/etc/ save them
if you have custom scripts in /usr/local/etc/rc.d save them
save your Xorg config file (man xorg.conf)
save /boot/loader.conf
save a copy of the dmesg output... "dmesg >> /home/dmesg"

basically save anything that you have made or edited

I highly recommend starting a log/notes/diary for all this stuff;
special settings, hard to remember commands, tips/tricks,
special/complex procedures, advice etc.

if you reinstall everything you'll have to rebuild/install all your
ports/packages that you installed (you could backup/restore everything
but that will be just as hard and time consuming) most of the

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configuration data for these programs (like gnome etc) are stored in your home directory so you would restore you home directory to the new install to get those settings back.

by the looks of it (/dev/ad0s4d 7.4G 5.9M 6.8G 0% /home)
id just tarball and gzip the whole thing.

```
tar -czf home.tar /home
```

then move all the saved files/data from you old install (that you backed up, off of the hard drive, because your going to wipe it clean again) to the new install:

```
mkdir /tmp/olddata  
mv foo /tmp/olddata
```

then to restore it cd into /usr
and do something like this tar -zxvf /tmp/olddata/home.tar

make sure to recreate everything as much as possible during the new install, i.g. make the same users (with the same passwords) on the new install etc., postinstall settings like setting up network card etc. and installed programs (you can get a complete list of all the programs installed using pkg_info, "pkg_info >> /home/pkg_info") if you do this then you shouldn't need to restore the files in /etc (unless you made special or manual changes to them etc.

you can use diff to check if the files are the same and if there not what needs to be add to them, you'd do it kinda like this
diff /tmp/olddata/etc/rc.conf /etc/rc.conf
diff /tmp/olddata/boot/loader.conf /boot/loader.conf

Here is a basic list of all the commands & stuff you should learn before starting your adventure, read the man pages ("man foo") for very detailed info, most of which you don't need to know or memorize, just get familiar with the basics and what each thing does: cd, pwd, su, cp, ln, mv, tar, gzip, mkdir, whatis, grep, diff, rm, dmesg, more, ee, echo, how and when to use ">", ">>", "|", "*" (pipes, redirectors, and wildcards), whatis, how to use the scroll lock key to scroll up/down at the console, man, woman, chmod, chown, ls / ll / ls -d foo*, how to switch between virtual consoles aka Alt. plus F1 though F8, rc.conf, loader.conf, "Metasyntactic variables" i.g. what someone means when they say foo or foobar etc., whatis, whereis, find, mount / umount. Learning these basic commands will help you in all future expeditions into the UNIX system.

!!The two most important commands to master and remember are "whatis" and "man"!!

The following links will help you understand all (with the help of the man pages and google) of the stuff I'm talking about:

http://www.freebsd.org/doc/en_US.ISO8859-1/books/handbook/consoles.html

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http://www.freebsd.org/doc/en_US.ISO8859-1/books/handbook/permissions.html
http://www.freebsd.org/doc/en_US.ISO8859-1/books/handbook/disk-organization.html
http://www.freebsd.org/doc/en_US.ISO8859-1/books/handbook/dirstructure.html
http://www.freebsd.org/doc/en_US.ISO8859-1/books/handbook/mount-unmount.html
http://www.freebsd.org/doc/en_US.ISO8859-1/books/handbook/editors.html
http://wks.uts.ohio-state.edu/unix_course/intro-18.html#HEADING18-0
http://wks.uts.ohio-state.edu/unix_course/intro-24.html#HEADING24-0
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