

Re: Tuning Postgresql on FreeBSD 5.1

Source: <http://unix.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/FreeBSD/performance/2003-08/0017.html>

From: Scott Lambert (lambert_at_lambertfam.org)

Date: 08/26/03

Date: Tue, 26 Aug 2003 00:48:56 -0400

To: freebsd-performance@freebsd.org

On Mon, Aug 25, 2003 at 09:20:46PM -0700, Sean Chittenden wrote:

> > > *while still maintaining reasonable file system performance (ext2 is
> > > faster than ext3 by a wide margin, but ext2 is not a reliable FS).*

> >

> > > *#fsync = true*

> > >

> > > *Change this to false.*

> >

> > *This is a funny thing to suggest after the filesystem comment.*

>

> :) *Did you enjoy that? :) I should clarify that piece of "advice"*

> *though.*

>

> *If you're sure power isn't going to fail (using a UPS) and make
> regular backups (standard operating procedure), then fsync = false
> can be a good thing in terms of performance (roughly speaking, it
> <snip>*

> *keep fsync = true. If, however, you have mitigated the risks to
> levels that your business/operation is comfortable with (your data
> center is on generators, your DB systems have UPSs, are using RAID,
> and make frequent backups), then I would set fsync = false for most
> noncritical apps (non-financial, non-medical).*

I've had more UPS failures than grid failures in the past year and a half. In the blackout, one of my APCs smoked rather than do it's job the second time the power went down.

The UPS maintainance people at on of the colo facilities I use managed to drop power to everything while doing routine maintenance on their UPS. That left me with a lot of unexpected softupdates inconsistencies. And three machines that dropped to single user mode on restart. One machine's disk didn't survive. We lost a lot of files on the other two systems. The sad part being that the backups had just started for the day when they burped the UPS. Two hours later and it wouldn't have hurt as bad.

A UPS doesn't necessarily reduce your likelihood of having a power

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failure. Two fully online UPS's and redundant power supplies in each machine might.

BTW, e-mail and web hosting for Grandma and Aunt Bessie and Uncle Joe are critical services too. No, really, I'm serious.

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