

freebsd-performance: Re: dd(1) performance when copying a disk to another

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To: Eric Anderson <anderson@centtech.com>

Hi Arne and Eric,

>>> # *atacontrol mode 0*

>>> *Master = BIOSPIO*

>>> *Slave = BIOSPIO*

>> *Hmm... 0 seems to be the wrong ata... Thats why the output does*

>> *not fit to SATA drives, I think...*

oops... I'll have to do it again with channels 2 and 3

>>> # *dd if=/dev/ad4 of=/dev/null bs=1m count=1000*

>>> *1000+0 records in*

>>> *1000+0 records out*

>>> *1048576000 bytes transferred in 17.647464 secs (59417943*

>>> *bytes/sec)*

>> *That seems to be 2 or about 2 times faster than disc->disc*

>> *transfer... But still slower, than I would have expected...*

>> *SATA150 sounds like the drive can do 150MB/sec...*

As Eric pointed out, you just can't reach 150 MB/s with one disk, it's a technological maximum for the bus, but real world performance is well below this max.

In fact, I've though I would reach about 50 to 60 MB/s.

>>>> *(Maybe you could find a way to copy /dev/zero to /dev/ad6*

>>>> *without destroying the previous work... :-))*

>>>>

>>>> *well, not very easy both disk are the same size ;)*

>> *I thought of the first 1000 1MB blocks... :-)*

damn, I misread this one... :)

I'm gonna try this asap.

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> *Instead of dd, why not use gmirror?*

I had no idea gmirror exists, but I'll continue with dd. It's a one time experiment.

> *Have you tried a smaller block size? What does 8k, 16k, or 512k do for you? There really isn't much room for improvement here on a single device.*

nop, I'll try one of them, but I can't do many experiments, the box is in my living room, it's a 1U rack, and it's VERY VERY noisy. My girlfriend will kill me if it's running more than an hour a day :))

Pat

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