

Re: 3ware raid

Source: <http://unix.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/FreeBSD/stable/2004-10/0206.html>

From: Carroll Kong (*me_at_carrollkong.com*)

Date: 10/27/04

To: <freebsd-stable@freebsd.org>

Date: Tue, 26 Oct 2004 18:40:29 -0400

Well, in the normal cases (where the disk is legitimately dying) you can usually replace it and be okay. (recalling one instance from the massive thread regarding a 3ware 7506 with maxtor disks that had issues but once they replaced bad disks they were a-ok).

You can use smartmontools to help you run tests on the hdds under a 3Ware controller while still in FreeBSD. It works in 4.X (with the latest snapshot of smartmontools).

In the other cases where the disk appears fine, but still randomly pulls disks into DEGRADED mode, you have to find out why.

In some cases it's because the power drop is too significant, which means you need to swap out your power supply. In other cases, the IDE cabling is legitimately bad (in my case, I highly suspect it is the IDE backplane, which is part of the disk-to-controller data path so I put bad cabling in quotes there). In short, 3Ware makes a note that you must ensure the entire data path is squeaky super clean. Of course, the problem could be the controller itself...

3Ware claims it takes a lot of punishment to DEGRADE the disks. There are some procedures to pull out the extended diagnostics from 3Ware controllers via the 3ware command line utility and if you send them to 3Ware they can try to tell you more information.

In my case, 3Ware copped out and gave me some BS excuse for why my system had issues.

– Carroll Kong

----- Original Message -----

From: "Marc G. Fournier" <scrappy@hub.org>

To: "Carroll Kong" <me@carrollkong.com>

Cc: <freebsd-stable@freebsd.org>

Sent: Tuesday, October 26, 2004 6:27 PM

Subject: Re: 3ware raid

> On Tue, 26 Oct 2004, Carroll Kong wrote:

freebsd-stable: Re: 3ware raid

>
> > 4) *Monitor the system carefully. Apparently in DEGRADED mode, the*
> > *system has a high chance of complete lockups if left unattended. It is*
> > *important to note that the 3Ware controller is very sensitive. People*
> > *have gone into DEGRADED mode randomly because of slight power drops or*
> > *"bad" IDE cabling.*
>
> *How do you test (and fix) something like this? revive the drive and hope*
> *the same drive doesn't happen again?*
>
>
> -----
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