

## Re: kernel: swap\_pager: indefinite wait buffer – on 5.3-RELEASE-p5

*Source:* <http://unix.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/FreeBSD/stable/2005-04/0958.html>

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*From:* Oliver Fromme ([olli\\_at\\_lurza.secnex.de](mailto:olli_at_lurza.secnex.de))

*Date:* 04/29/05

Date: Fri, 29 Apr 2005 14:13:25 +0200 (CEST)  
To: freebsd-stable@FreeBSD.ORG, tssajo@hotmail.com

Zoltan Frombach <[tssajo@hotmail.com](mailto:tssajo@hotmail.com)> wrote:

> Apr 29 02:10:14 www kernel: swap\_pager: indefinite wait buffer: device:  
> ad0s1a, blkno: 328636, size: 8192  
> Apr 29 02:10:24 www kernel: swap\_pager: indefinite wait buffer: device:  
> ad0s1e, blkno: 329842, size: 4096  
> [...]

The error message indicates that there was an I/O error accessing the swap area on your disk. Usually that's an indication for a hardware failure, e.g. a dying disk.

> I happen to have an identical hard drive around here, unused. If I hook it  
> up as a slave (IDE) drive, is there a way I can mirror the dying drive to  
> the spare one (with all partitions, etc, intact)?

If they're really identical (i.e. the same size and same geometry), then you can use `dd(1)` for duplication, like this:

```
# dd if=/dev/ad0 of=/dev/ad1 bs=64k conv=noerror,sync
```

The "noerror, sync" part is important so the `dd` command will not stop when it hits any bad spots on the source drive and instead will fill the blocks with zeroes on the destination drive. Since it's only the swap partition, you shouldn't lose any data.

However, one disadvantage of `dd` is that it copies the drive on block level, which means that it will also copy empty blocks which aren't used at all. Neither does it make sense to copy the swap partition.

If the filesystems on that drive don't contain much data, it might be more efficient to copy the data on filesystem level. To do that, copy just the boot sector and disklabel

(using dd(1) to copy the first 64k or something should be sufficient), then newfs the filesystems, mount them and copy the contents with an appropriate tool. I recommend "cpdup" from the port collection, because it's fast and easy to use, but cpio should work as well (and it's in the base of pretty much every UNIX system).

Performing newfs + filesystem copy also has the advantage that you're starting with fresh, unfragmented filesystems, and it gives you the opportunity to finetune the parameters if necessary, such as the inode density (newfs -i).

> *Any help/comments would be appreciated. Please CC me, as I am not a  
> subscriber of this list. Thanks!!!*

In that case you should set the "Reply-To" header in your mail appropriately.

Best regards  
Oliver

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Any opinions expressed in this message may be personal to the author  
and may not necessarily reflect the opinions of secnetix in any way.  
"In My Egoistical Opinion, most people's C programs should be indented  
six feet downward and covered with dirt."

-- Blair P. Houghton

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