

freebsd-stable: RE: Sysinstall automatic filesystem size generation.

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**Source:** <http://unix.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/FreeBSD/stable/2005-08/0534.html>

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**Date:** 08/29/05

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Date: Mon, 29 Aug 2005 01:24:19 -0700

From: C. Michailidis

>

[sysinstall FS sizing defaults]

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> <...> *Isn't it safe to make some of the default sizes a  
> wee bit larger? That is, a 256mb /tmp and /var doesn't seem  
> "appropriate" if you have one of these massive modern disk  
> drives. For christ's sake, I'd gladly give up a GB or two of  
> /usr so I could build openoffice without needing to consider  
> that I may need an extra few megabytes in /var at the time of  
> the system install.*

>

<...>

>

> *Wouldn't it be smart to remove the hardcoded default sizes  
> altogether and dynamically generate them according to a  
> reasonable function?*

Probably, but a template for something like this isn't simple unless it's created as part of a general profile-based installer that would inform sysinstall of the machine's purpose in life. For example, a "workstation or Windows replacement" would need several extra GB in /usr whereas a server would get away with a much smaller /usr, but need those extra file-systems for logs, spools and other data.

There are, however, some basic constants:

If /usr, /var and /home are on another file-system, / doesn't need to be more than 150-200 MB. There just isn't that much in the root file-system.

Assuming the default log retention and no spooling, /var will likely never grow past 50MB. Adding a mail, web, db or log server or increasing log retention will go well past that mark, but then such servers should have subordinate file-systems to handle the extra data.

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What comes with the OS will take less than 300MB in /usr. /usr/src and /usr/obj eat around 500 MB each. /usr/local eats around 1 GB for most servers and 3 GB on a desktop. /usr/X11R6 is empty if X isn't installed, the base Xorg server package is a few hundred MB and a desktop can need several GB. /usr/ports should have 1-2 GB just for distfiles on a desktop built from ports and 3 GB for work if you're building something huge, like KDE. I size /usr/ports to 6 GB on my desktop machines.

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freebsd-stable@freebsd.org mailing list

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