

# gmirror comments and questions (causes panic)

**Source:** <http://unix.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/FreeBSD/stable/2005-11/1010.html>

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I'm on 6-Stable as of yesterday. I've been playing around with gmirror and overall I'm very impressed.

I created a mirror with three components:

```
gmirror label -v -b round-robin test twed12
gmirror insert -v test twed13
gmirror insert -v test twed14
```

in the man page for gmirror the synopsis for the label and insert commands are:

```
gmirror label [-hny] [-b balance] [-s slice] name prov ...
gmirror insert [-hiv] [-p priority] name prov ...
```

which means that it's calling twed12, twed13, twed14 the providers. presumably test would be the consumer. But when I do a gmirror list, I get (shortened):

Providers:

1. Name: mirror/test

Consumers:

1. Name: twed12
2. Name: twed13
3. Name: twed14

which means that it's calling twed12, twed13 and twed14 the consumers. So that is a little confusing. twed12 already had data on it, so I mounted it on /mnt and waited for 13 and 14 to finish syncing. I wanted to try using a disk image as a backup for a simulated data update so that I could roll back to the image if need be. I did a:

```
gmirror remove -v test twed12
```

so I could use 12 as the backup image. I made changes to the mirror and then:

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```
gmirror remove -v test twed13
gmirror remove -v test twed14
gmirror status
```

which caused the machine to panic. I know that's not the right procedure, but maybe gmirror could be changed to warn against removing the last component of a mirror, or possibly handle it in a better way.

I booted back up and recreated the mirror using twed12 as the first component, thus restoring the mirror to it's pre-upgrade state. So the disk-image-as-a-backup worked very well.

I was impressed with the fact that when I rebooted in the middle of a gmirror synchronize, it started where it left off rather than starting over.

so here's the big question; if I have the boot disk mirrored with gmirror, is it possible to remove a component of the mirror before a major upgrade and use it as a backup just in case the upgrade catastrophically fails. If so, what would be the correct procedure? This would all need to be remote without physical access to the machine of course.

Thanks in advance for any info/pointers/rtfm.  
Double thanks for gmirror, it is a fine piece of software.

Elliot

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