

Problem with CLUSTER_CONFIG? (was: Re: DIFVOLMNT (%X0072832C), then bugcheck whenbooting any node.)

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I now understand how this problem occurred. Pending further information, I'd say it appears to be a weakness in the CLUSTER_CONFIG process.

I reran CLUSTER_CONFIG up until the point where you'd normally boot the new system, which in this case is to be a voting boot server (see my original post below for a few more config details). While CLUSTER_CONFIG waited for the new node to boot, I examined the new node's parameters in its system-specific ALPHAVMSSYS.PAR.

It turns out that the CLUSTER_CONFIG process had set EXPECTED_VOTES=1.

Now, recall that the new system at first had a bad Ethernet connection (and it has no other alternative path for cluster comms). I examined my boot logs from that original attempt to add the new node.

Sure enough, when the new node booted (to run its initial AUTOGEN) it saw no other cluster nodes, and it formed a VAXcluster all by itself. I assume that at this point it corrupted the boot volume's SCB (Storage Control Block, the first block in BITMAP.SYS), which led to the DIFVOLMNT when we next tried to reboot an existing cluster node.

SO: Is it reasonable to have CLUSTER_CONFIG set up a new voting node to initially use EXPECTED_VOTES of 1? Doing so means that there's a risk of corrupting the system disk if the new node needs a LAN to boot but doesn't have a good connection.

And since CLUSTER_CONFIG is executing on a cluster with at least one vote already present, couldn't CLUSTER_CONFIG.COM set EXPECTED_VOTES to at least 2? Or perhaps it could look at the other nodes in the cluster to get their EXPECTED_VOTES?

Perhaps there's some rationale for having EXPECTED_VOTES of 1, but is it worth the possibility of corrupting the system disk in a scenario like this? If so, perhaps Hoff or one of the other experts can explain.

comp.os.vms: Problem with CLUSTER_CONFIG? (was: Re: DIFVOLUME (%X0072832C), then bugcheck whenbooting and

(Sure, you could say that we should have tested the LAN connection beforehand, and you're probably right, but wouldn't a safety measure be desirable here?)

Fortunately the damage was confined to several log files on the system disk, and we didn't need to restore from backup.

In article <bd65a53.0310030347.33bd7031@posting.google.com>, gspamtackett@yahoo.com (Galen) wrote:

> *We've gotten into this situation with our cluster twice recently. (I'm not referring*

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