

Re: Virtual Memory

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- *From:* Don Morris <dmorris@xxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Wed, 17 May 2006 15:03:05 GMT
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mehaboob@xxxxxxxxxx wrote:

Thanks for the reply.

From "man swapinfo"

"Paging space residing on a mass storage device, either taking up the entire device or, if the device contains a file system, taking up the space between the end of the file system and the end of the device. This space is exclusively reserved for paging, and even if it is not being used for paging, it cannot be used for any other purpose. Device paging areas typically provide the fastest paging."

My questions

- 1)"mass storage device" refers to Hard Disk?
- 2)device refers to Hard Disk?

Mass storage device refers to... well... mass storage device.

A hard disk is a mass storage device, certainly — but so is a RAID array of hard disks. If your machine has only hard drives hanging off of SCSI buses then for you they're synonymous. But a Logical volume under LVM is also a mass storage device [but may be many drives], etc.

By the way — given that you're asking about swapinfo and you were earlier inquiring about memory — I'd like to point out that the "memory" line in swapinfo is "memory swap" aka "pseudoswap"... which is basically an accounting trick used by the kernel swap reservation management so you don't need tons of device or FS swap on machines where the working set (how much virtual address space is consumed by everything running) fits in memory (RAM). It is not equivalent to actual RAM (either in total or in real consumption..)

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Don

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