

Help – I can't create device files.

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I had a relatively small problem today on my Ultra 80 running Solaris 9 that I managed to make into a ****big**** problem. If you have any suggestions how I can get out of this mess, please let me know. Sorry if the message is a bit long-winded, but hopefully someone can see what I need to do.

The basic problem is I can't seem to create device files for some external disks, so I can't read them, although the disks are seen by format and mount okay if I boot from cd-rom. That's the problem – this is the background.

The original (small) problem was the external disks would not mount. For reasons I can't work out, following a boot -r, the /dev/dsk/c3* device files had been removed and in their place were files which appeared to be on controller #5 (/dev/dsk/c5*) – which is a bit odd given I only have 4 SCSI controllers – two on the motherboard, plus a dual SCSI card.

I edited /etc/vfstab and replaced the all the c3's with c5's and the machine booted and mounted all systems okay. However, like a stupid fool, not content with that, I thought I'd remove the appropriate files in /devices, with a hope of getting the disks back to their correct place – on controller #3. The problem was I obviously removed the wrong file(s) in /devices, as then the system was completely unbootable. I could do nothing with it. boot -b, boot -r, all failed miserably.

My backups of the root file system were not as recent as they should be, so I booted from CD, mounted and backed up every single partition to tape, although the backup of the root file system was clearly missing some important device files.

I then reinstalled the system from the Solaris installation CD, doing the smallest installation. I then did a 'boot cdrom' restored the / and /usr file systems from tape, but without any files in /devices, /dsk or /rdsd.

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The system now boots and mounts all the file systems I created during the install (/var, /usr), plus one other (/export/home) which is on an internal disk. The data on /export/home has not been changed, so all the user directories remain.

The problem is I can't create device files. Following a boot -r, there are entries in /dev/dsk for controllers 0 and 1, but not and 3. The disks and partitions on the disks on c3 are visible to format. Booting from CD I can mount them. But I can't mount them if I boot from disk, as I don't have any device files, and seem unable to create them with a boot -r.

Any suggestions – other than to keep better backups!

Dave Kirkby