

vfs_mountroot panic on tru64 v5.1A

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Hi,

First of all, my apologies if this sounds a little vague. Unfortunately the error I am getting is on the actual server console, which is in a secure location (ie. no internet etc.)

We're running tru64 v5.1A, and I have just completed installation of patch kit 4. On Wednesday last week, we had a new SDLT drive added to the system, along with a new SCSI card to run the drive off. The following 2 days, I experienced intermittent problems using the drive – particularly with the device name 'disappearing' from within the /dev/tape or /dev/ntape directory. I put this down to a minor issue, and on rebooting the box it came back and worked fine.

However, I installed the patch kit on Tuesday – something I've done many times in the past. I have never had the following happen though! When I tried to reboot, bcheckrc hung, stating that there was a problem with the database on line 294 (which had the string /dev/tape within the error message – but it shot past so quickly I didn't have time to make a note). It would then stop in single user mode, with root mounted as ready only.

On contacting Compaq, they decided that the hardware database was the main cause, so I was asked to delete the relevant files and reboot in order to rebuild the database. Great, I thought.

It booted back fine – no problems, and I could see everything again (ie. domains etc).

I thought at this stage 'time to make a backup', so decided to use the new SDLT. This time, the SDLT drive 'remapped' itself to tape1 (it was tape 2 before – when it worked that is). So, I started to backup / using vdump.

This is when the major problem kicked in – the machine hung, blue screened, then said there was a panic on vfs_mountroot. It didn't give any specifics, and just went back to the machine prompt (>>>>). No matter what I do – single user, different vmunix etc. – it still

panics.

My initial thoughts are that it is almost definitely the new SCSI device. The fact that I patched the system is probably just coincidence, and so far Compaq seem to agree that it certainly looks hardware orientated.

My question is : has anyone else had the same problem in the past – and if so what was done to resolve the issue? We running on a DEC ALPHA 4100, with 2 HSZ50 controllers in a storageworks cabinet. It might also be worth mentioning it's a dual processor machine.

Another interesting point is that I can boot from a v5.1 OS Cd ok, and get to the shell window. However, I tried to scan all devices using 'scu scan edt', but that hung and threw me out to a blue screen all over again.

Compaq are looking into the problem as I write this, but I want to cover all avenues and see if anyone else has had similar problems, particularly with SDLT units.

Cheers,

Tony

Ps. We also have an additional tape drive on the system, but on totally seperate card – it's a TZ88.....