

Re: RAID 1 versus RAID 5

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/BackOffice/microsoft.public.backoffice.smallbiz2000/2004-12/0092.html>

From: Kevin Weilbacher [SBS-MVP] (kweilbacMVP_at_gte.net)

Date: 12/02/04

Date: Thu, 2 Dec 2004 06:11:42 -0500

Reply to Fred -

your points are well taken and should be considered. I was simply addressing the fact that posts and articles that say that you CANNOT have your system partition on a Raid-5 disk are incorrect.

--

Kevin Weilbacher [SBS-MVP]

"The days pass by so quickly now, the nights are seldom long"

"Fred Blum" <h.f.blum@marketconnectnospam.nl> wrote in message news:%23T4XKiE2EHA.1192@tk2msftngpl3.phx.gbl...

>

> Thanks,

>

> had not thought of that and you're right. My RIAD controller doesn't allow a dynamic resizing on W2K.

> IMHO opinion this thread question/answer should be in the FAQ.

>

> Fred

>

> "Joshua Bolton" <JoshuaBolton@discussions.microsoft.com> wrote in message news:5AC99C16-73A5-4B52-98B6-113D9E26E73D@microsoft.com...

>> Kevin I would point out that this configuration precludes any disk space being added to your system. This is why the standard has been mirror [raid1]

>> the OS and stripe [raid 5/0+1/10] the data.

>>

>> Here is the reason why. It is common to need to add disk space to the data

>> partition/drive. Most raid controllers don't allow dynamic upgrades in the

>> raid array. So to add more disk space with your present configuration you

>> have to wipe the existing array and recreate the raid5 array with the additional disk so you have more space. This usually means you have to repartition the way you want, reinstall the OS and backup software and restore from a backup. A long painful process.

>>

>> Lets say you have a raid controller that can add the disk to the array dynamically. Great. Now you have system, apps and data partitions. How are

>> you going to add the "unallocated space" to the data partition? You only have two options. The best being buy a server version of Partition Magic and

>> use it to add the space to data. Or create a volume set between the data partition and the unallocated space [very bad choice since I have seen

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>> chkdsk
>> /f destroy a volume set].
>>
>> Now if you had mirrored the OS and stripped the data [in your case apps
>> and
>> data] it is a simple matter of backup apps and data, reinit the array
>> with
>> the added disk, use disk manager to partition as you desire and format
>> the
>> partitions. Then restore from backup. I have done this in 4 hours on a
>> Sat.
>> [depending on how long it took to init the array and restore data].
>>
>> Lets say you wanted to make the OS drive space larger. You can't mirror
>> to
>> a larger drive. But you can break the mirror, use ghost to ghost from
>> small
>> driver to larger and then with another larger drive in the system mirror
>> the
>> two. Again a fairly straight forward operation which you can not do if
>> you
>> have all three partitions on a single raid5 array. This is a two hour or
>> less operation.
>>
>> Just something to think about.
>>
>>
>>
>> "Kevin Weilbacher" wrote:
>>
>>> Fred, I know way back when it was recommended not to use raid-5 for your
>>> system partition. But I don't believe that is applicable any longer. I
>>> know
>>> I use hardware Raid-5 for all my SBS servers without any problems. I
>>> take my
>>> 3 or 4 drives, set them up in Raid-5, and partition them into 3
>>> sections:
>>> system, apps, data.
>>
>
>
```