

JFS on Linux = Surprisingly Lossy

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[1]

Posted by [smokris](#) [2] on 2009.03.08 @ 19:29

Filed under:

[Antisocial Story](#) [3] [SoftPIXEL](#) [4]



I set up a RAID media server a couple years ago, and decided to give [JFS2](#) [5] a try, since it's touted as being fast and reliable across the spectrum of usecases. My setup is primarily write-once-read-many, for storing the terabytes of audio and video recordings I've made over the last decade for [project ruori](#) [6] and the like.

Several weeks ago, the power went out for an extended period of time while I was away, and, while it was on UPS backup, it failed to shutdown cleanly and the power was suddenly cut when the UPS ran out.

When I brought the machine back up, the volume wouldn't mount, so I ran `jfs_fsck` on it. `jfs_fsck` said that the journal was corrupt, and started block-scanning. It came up with a pretty big list of files and directories that were irrevocably corrupt. Parts of a few of them got linked into `/lost+found`, but the majority simply vanished.

Funny thing is, I hadn't made any changes to these files in several years. I could understand if maybe some very recent FS updates were lost due to write-caching, but why did it lose track of these ancient files?

This reminds me of the rampant table corruption of MS-DOS's FAT16 filesystem, which couldn't keep track of a needle dancing on the point of a needle.

So, *plus one* for backups of backups, and *minus one* for JFS on Linux. I think I'll be rebuilding the machine with [ZFS-fuse](#) [7]. Or OpenSolaris, for that matter.

Links:

[1] <http://fdiv.net/2009/03/08/jfs-on-linux-surprisingly-lossy>

[2] <http://fdiv.net/users/smokris>

[3] <http://fdiv.net/category/antisocial-story>

[4] <http://fdiv.net/category/softpixel>

[5] <http://jfs.sourceforge.net/>

[6] <http://ruori.org/>

[7] http://www.wizy.org/wiki/ZFS_on_FUSE