

Forum: [Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [Server Problems](#)

Omniscient - February 14, 2017, 10:29 am

Many months ago we began to have hardware failure on one of the main servers of HF. It seemed to be one of our RAID drives was going. I had planned to either replace the drive or to replace the entire server. After a couple days of fine-tuning work the problem appeared to stop.

Well, it's back. We're having a drive error causing a fatal kernel crash a few times per day. Server reboots fine and all services come back online with the exception of the tunnel I run for avatar and signatures. That's why those don't work.

I do believe I have a way to start the tunnel on boot as well as run it as a continued and monitored daemon. So I may opt to get that running.

But the problem with the drive is much harder to deal with. I don't have the time right now unfortunately to fix this but I suppose I'll have to do something. Grr...

Happy Valentines day everyone and if server is offline for 10-20 minutes just wait for it to boot back up. Really sorry for the inconvenience this is causing to all of us.

SoulZeh - February 14, 2017, 10:31 am

Damn man, I remember you posting the thread about the crash, sucks you may have to spend valentines day doing this, fuck it, go out and have fun. Leave us loners to moap around feeling sorry for ourselves, but good luck man.

Cammy - February 14, 2017, 10:33 am

(Feb 14, 2017 11:31 AM)SoulZeh Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Damn man, I remember you posting the thread about the crash, sucks you may have to spend valentines day doing this, fuck it, go out and have fun. Leave us loners to moap around feeling sorry for ourselves, but good luck man.

I agree, sucks that it happens but don't waste valentines day over it (if that was your intention). I'm sure we could do without an avatar change for a little while lol, you can still set signature images by manually setting its width and height

LastSession - February 14, 2017, 10:35 am

I remember that day, HF was offline for over 10 hours if I remember correctly. Hopefully you don't have to spend the whole day with the server problems. Happy Valentines day

Cammy - February 14, 2017, 10:38 am

(Feb 14, 2017 11:35 AM)LastSession Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I remember that day, HF was offline for over 10 hours if I remember correctly. Hopefully you don't have to spend the whole day with the server problems. Happy Valentines day

Nah that was last month: <http://hackforums.net/showthread.php?tid=5524036>

J. McCarthy - February 14, 2017, 10:39 am

(Feb 14, 2017 11:38 AM)Cammy Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Nah that was last month:

<https://hackforums.net/showthread.php?tid=5524036>

lol I was gonna say I thought we went off for a couple days one time but maybe that was something else I can't remember

M?xim - February 14, 2017, 10:47 am

Sorry that you have to deal with that, but glad that you are trying to fix it even if you don't have time.

Hopefully things turn around.

Omniscient - February 14, 2017, 11:07 am

I may just wait it out and plan to do a full server upgrade in a couple weeks. Really sucks because I was hoping this one would last at least 4-5 years and it's only been about 19 months. It's a lot of work to only last 2 years. Very time consuming.

I can get the datacenter to swap out the drives but I fear it will cause more problems because of the RAID configuration. Lots can go wrong. I'm probably better off with new hardware entirely. I also want to do a new configuration because I'm having some conflicts between services I run which cause other problems which I won't divulge. Being sysadmin does take a lot of my time. It's just work that rarely goes noticed.

I'm sure for now we'll be fine with a few crashes a day. Sucks but honestly, nothing I can do about this immediately.

phunted - February 14, 2017, 11:10 am

(Feb 14, 2017 12:07 PM)Omniscient Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I may just wait it out and plan to do a full server upgrade in a couple weeks. Really sucks because I was hoping this one would last at least 4-5 years and it's only been about 19 months. It's a lot of work to only last 2 years. Very time consuming.

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I'm sure most, if not all your work is appreciated regardless if anyone mentions anything.

Hence the reason so many people are dedicated & use HF daily.

Enjoy yourself mate, go relax or something.

Korvo - February 14, 2017, 11:17 am

Well thanks for keep us up to date on the issue. It really dose suck when hardware starts to mess up. If it's not one thing it's another. Hopefully if you do a full server upgrade it will last much longer this time around, keep up the awesome work & Have a Happy Valentines Day man.

SIM-1166170 - February 14, 2017, 11:21 am

You do a ton of work for this site- and you always seem to have some sort of problem. We're more than fine just dealing with reboots for the time being- just plan on either getting a new raid configuration or a new server in the next few months.

Darvis2112 - February 14, 2017, 11:57 am

It's all good man. I've been browsing HF on and off all day while I'm at work, and no problems so far. Maybe I'm just getting lucky and missing them?

Oh well, haha.

Good luck with everything, I hope it works out for you!

Zexo - February 14, 2017, 12:18 pm

Hf is like a car you fix it and then something else breaks a couple of weeks later xd.

Thanks for all you do Omni have a good Valentine's Day I assume your going to make a nice dinner tonight.

FiftyTwo - February 14, 2017, 12:21 pm

I'm pretty sure not everybody's life would depend on HackForums, so I'm sure if there was even a couple hours of downtime, it shouldn't impact users too much. That's how I look at it at least.

It's great that you're dedicated to fixing as much issues as possible though, to give us all a good experience.

Enjoy your valentine's day.

Honey Singh - February 14, 2017, 12:24 pm

Well thanks for keep us up to date boss, Really appreciate for your time.

Happy valentines day boss :)

Phire - February 14, 2017, 12:46 pm

Thanks for letting us know, Happy Valentines Day.

Leroy Jethro Gibbs - February 14, 2017, 1:06 pm

(Feb 14, 2017 12:07 PM)Omniscient Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I may just wait it out and plan to do a full server upgrade in a couple weeks. Really sucks because I was hoping this one would last at least 4-5 years and it's only been about 19 months. It's a lot of work to only last 2 years. Very time consuming.

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I'm sure for now we'll be fine with a few crashes a day. Sucks but honestly, nothing I can do about this immediately.

Hell I don't mind the occasional crashes. Honestly I know how you feel being bitched to about the site fucking up. The IT of my hosting company deals with it all the time lol. Mostly from me but I've learned to understand the shit is very complex and super easy to fuck up.

LePotato - February 14, 2017, 1:14 pm

Don't worry, I love you really! Happy Valentines bby <3

RepForums - February 14, 2017, 1:17 pm

it did go offline for me alittle while ago for around 10mins, but not problem after that, hope you have a good valentines day, barring this., plus its going to happen with such a big forum, don't sweat it my dude.

Nyxuo - February 14, 2017, 1:21 pm

I'm sure I can only speak for myself but I really enjoy the availability and speed of HF daily. I'm sure it requires more work then I personally take into consideration. Hopefully you find the time to sort it

all out with as minimal headache as possible. Thanks for updating us and thanks for all the work you put into the site.

Patzan - February 14, 2017, 1:35 pm

(Feb 14, 2017 11:38 AM)Cammy Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Nah that was last month:

<https://hackforums.net/showthread.php?tid=5524036>

Lol.

And Omni just let us wait some time, I know you love HF and care about it but go and live the day.

Omniscient - February 14, 2017, 1:36 pm

Reviewing this very carefully. I'm in an odd position.

1. Hope it resolves after running tools in SU mode to mark/fix bad sectors.
2. Try to disable the raid configuration and go with the single drive.
3. Attempt to replace the bad drive and rebuild the RAID.
4. Build a new server.

The entire morning I'm working on this. The good news is that I'm sort of caught up to where I was in knowledge when this happened initially. I can't claim to be a pro at RAID configurations. It's more of learn-as-you-go situation. RAID normally is a set-it-and-forget-it type of deal. You just pray nothing goes wrong. Sadly, we run a software RAID configuration which isn't nearly as easy to replace a single drive as it is with a hardware RAID config. There are risks to removing a drive, replacing it, then rebuilding from the one good drive that wasn't replaced. If anything goes wrong, I'm immediately forced to build a whole new server from scratch at that very moment. We would be down for maybe 18-48 hours and I'd be frantically working. That's less than ideal.

Likely in the next couple days I'll reboot server into SU mode from IPMI console and see what I can do to mark the bad sectors if I can find them. You can't run test well while actually being online. That may require 2-3 hours of actual downtime though.

If option 1 fails then I may attempt to do option 2 and disable the drive entirely. If only drive one in the RAID config is failing then I assume that by removing it from the server or just disabling it in the RAID configuration may fix our problems. Of course we'll lose redundancy but I do keep backups regularly and on a different drive and partition. This may be a good solution actually.

Option 3 scares me greatly. Really just don't have the balls to try that. So much can go wrong.

And in the end I may just go with option 4 and rent another server and rebuild it from scratch and then move services over. It's less painful than #3, something I've done multiple times, and we do get a hardware upgrade.

What I don't like is being forced to deal with this now. Just didn't want to stop doing what I was doing, which was finally finishing off the automation of paid stickies.

SoulZeh - February 14, 2017, 1:42 pm

(Feb 14, 2017 02:36 PM)Omniscient Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Reviewing this very carefully. I'm in an odd position.

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Hope it works out for you (US), I mean you've gotta think for the long run we'd be much better off, Maybe.. Hoping that a new server doesn't have the same issue or even worse while doing the transfer.

DLT. - February 14, 2017, 1:42 pm

Sucks that this pops up when you were on the brink of finishing the automation, sounds like my luck. Well I hope all goes well buddy, thanks for keeping us notified.

Dredd - February 14, 2017, 3:31 pm

Thanks for keeping us posted, at least you have a rough idea what it is.

(Feb 14, 2017 02:36 PM)Omniscient Wrote: [CITE](#) Reviewing this very carefully. I'm in an odd position.

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What I don't like is being forced to deal with this now. Just didn't want to stop doing what I was doing, which was finally finishing off the automation of paid stickies.
Just out of curiosity do you run the main HF server at your home?

Vitani's Mate - February 14, 2017, 4:17 pm

It is cool.

Thanks for the heads up.

You always seem to have hf in tip top shape.

Omniscient - February 14, 2017, 5:09 pm

Quote:Just out of curiosity do you run the main HF server at your home?

Of course not. I actually use multiple datacenters behind many firewall layers.

AlphaIndustries - February 14, 2017, 5:13 pm

Thanks for letting us know and trying to do the best for hf, I'm sure you find a way to fix this. Happy valentines day boss.

Dredd - February 14, 2017, 5:24 pm

(Feb 14, 2017 06:09 PM)Omniscient Wrote: [CITE](#) Of course not. I actually use multiple datacenters behind many firewall layers.

Would've been surprised if you did, it's just that you said you was going to rebuild the server, I presumed you had access to it, maybe you use a shared rack somewhere?

Evanescence - February 15, 2017, 12:34 am

It is always online when I visit HF.

Omniscient - February 15, 2017, 8:16 am

(Feb 14, 2017 06:24 PM)Dredd Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Would've been surprised if you did, it's just that you said you was going to rebuild the server, I presumed you had access to it, maybe you use a shared rack somewhere?

Rebuild as in the OS and all the services. You can do that from scratch with IPMI which is remote console access to the server as-if you're there. I literally install the OS, firewall, services, and do all the module changes myself. I even do a custom kernel to match my hardware exactly and remove most other drivers. Takes a lot of time to do it 100% correct and test everything. It's ultra-important that it's secured before HF uses it.

Mr. WAVES - February 15, 2017, 12:56 pm

I hope you won't find my shell and transfer it to the new server. I always use it to check if the services are doing well.. /shell.php

Evanescient - February 16, 2017, 9:53 am

(Feb 15, 2017 01:56 PM)YOLOnline Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I hope you won't find my shell and transfer it to the new server. I always use it to check if the services are doing well.. /shell.php
I felt like shit being skid.

Dredd - February 16, 2017, 10:45 am

(Feb 15, 2017 09:16 AM)Omniscient Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Rebuild as in the OS and all the services. You can do that from scratch with IPMI which is remote console access to the server as-if you're there. I literally install the OS, firewall, services, and do all the module changes myself. I even do a custom kernel to match my hardware exactly and remove most other drivers. Takes a lot of time to do it 100% correct and test everything. It's ultra-important that it's secured before HF uses it.

That's an awesome insight didn't even know you went that in depth into securing HackForums.

Cheers for that.

??e rando? d??c? g?y - February 16, 2017, 4:34 pm

(Feb 15, 2017 09:16 AM)Omniscient Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Rebuild as in the OS and all the services. You can do that from scratch with IPMI which is remote console access to the server as-if you're there. I literally install the OS, firewall, services, and do all the module changes myself. I even do a custom kernel to match my hardware exactly and remove most other drivers. Takes a lot of time to do it 100% correct and test everything. It's ultra-important that it's secured before HF uses it.

What kind of storage do you use for HF? Everything inside a single dedi with a HW raid controller or something like CEPH? Really interested in how HF does its data storage.

SIM-2015410 - February 17, 2017, 1:17 am

(Feb 16, 2017 05:34 PM)??e rando? d??c? g?y Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) What kind of storage do you use for HF? Everything inside a single dedi with a HW raid controller or something like CEPH? Really interested in how HF does its data storage.

He already said it wasn't HW raid:

(Feb 14, 2017 02:36 PM)Omniscient Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Sadly, we run a software RAID configuration which isn't nearly as easy to replace a single drive as it is with a hardware RAID config.

fapninja - February 17, 2017, 1:27 am

Do eeeeeeeeit, replace the drive. You know you want to.

Omniscient - February 17, 2017, 10:00 am

Actually seems like the work I did has helped stabilize the drive. Hopefully it will buy me more time before I have to replace it. I'd love to wait at least another year before I upgrade this server.

debug - February 17, 2017, 10:20 am

(Feb 17, 2017 11:00 AM)Omniscient Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Actually seems like the work I did has helped stabilize the drive. Hopefully it will buy me more time before I have to replace it. I'd love to wait at least another year before I upgrade this server.What's holding you back from replacing the drive? Time?

Phire - February 17, 2017, 10:37 am

(Feb 17, 2017 11:20 AM)debug Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) What's holding you back from replacing the drive? Time?

He just wanted his hardware to last longer.

Quote:Really sucks because I was hoping this one would last at least 4-5 years and it's only been about 19 months

He B TeMy - February 17, 2017, 12:25 pm

(Feb 14, 2017 12:07 PM)Omniscient Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I can get the datacenter to swap out the drives but I fear it will cause more problems because of the RAID configuration. Lots can go wrong. I'm probably better off with new hardware entirely. I also want to do a new configuration because I'm having some conflicts between services I run which cause other problems which I won't divulge. Being sysadmin does take a lot of my time. It's just work that rarely goes noticed.

I'm sure for now we'll be fine with a few crashes a day. Sucks but honestly, nothing I can do about this immediately.

(Feb 17, 2017 11:20 AM)debug Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) What's holding you back from replacing the drive? Time?

Are you dense or just can't read? He literally stated the same thing in multiple posts and you read none of them?