



Product Bulletin 72

Product	All StorNext® releases
Summary	Using EMC PowerPath or other third-party multipath drivers may require configuring cvpaths
Date	December 2011

Problem

Using EMC PowerPath requires configuring the cvpaths file. Using other third-party multipath drivers may also require configuring the cvpaths file.

If the cvpaths file is not configured properly, it is possible that EMC PowerPath and other third-party multipath drivers will not be appropriately inserted into the device stack and will not be able to intervene in the event of a path failure.

This issue potentially applies to all platforms except Windows.

Note: This issue does not apply to the Linux DM Multipath driver because StorNext scans the appropriate device locations automatically.

Symptoms

Under normal operation, the only symptom is the logging of raw devices as opposed to the multipath devices.

When cvpaths is not configured, cvlabel output shows the raw devices:

```
/dev/sdaq [ADIC FS4500 331N] SNFS-EFI "CvfsDisk_jbod0406" Sectors:  
489682911. Sector Size: 512. Maximum sectors: 489682911.
```

```
/dev/sdar [ADIC FS4500 331N] SNFS-EFI "CvfsDisk_jbod0407" Sectors:  
489682911. Sector Size: 512. Maximum sectors: 489682911.
```

```
/dev/sdas [ADIC FS4500 331N] SNFS-EFI "CvfsDisk_jbod0406" Sectors:  
489682911. Sector Size: 512. Maximum sectors: 489682911.
```

```
/dev/sdat [ADIC FS4500 331N] SNFS-EFI "CvfsDisk_jbod0407" Sectors:  
489682911. Sector Size: 512. Maximum sectors: 489682911.
```

Solution

Third-party multipath software which creates multipath devices needs an associated cvpaths file to direct StorNext to the multipath devices. The cvpaths file is located in /usr/cvfs/config. Refer to the cvpaths man page for more information.

EMC PowerPath users should create a cvpaths file with the appropriate entry for the multipath software devices.

Linux users would specify a wildcard for **/dev/emcpower***. If this is omitted, it is possible that EMC PowerPath will not be appropriately inserted into the device stack and will not be able to intervene in the event of a path failure.

For Linux EMC PowerPath users, the cvpaths file should contain the following:

wildcard=/dev/emcpower*

Refer to the EMC PowerPath documentation to determine the platform-specific multipath device names.

Using a cvpaths file changes the output to the PowerPath devices:

```
/dev/emcpowera [ADIC FS4500 331N] SNFS-EFI "CvfsDisk_jbod0406" Sectors:  
489682911. Sector Size: 512. Maximum sectors: 489682911.
```

```
/dev/emcpowerb [ADIC FS4500 331N] SNFS-EFI "CvfsDisk_jbod0407" Sectors:  
489682911. Sector Size: 512. Maximum sectors: 489682911.
```

Other third-party multipath drivers may require a similar configuration for the cvpaths file where the wildcard refers to the location of the third-party multipath devices.

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