Difference in space usage displayed by a quota report and a UNIX client

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Difference in space usage displayed by a quota report and a UNIX client

Difference in space usage displayed by a quota report and a UNIX client overview

The value of used disk space that is displayed in a quota report for a FlexVol volume or qtree can be different from the value displayed by a UNIX client for the same volume or qtree. The difference in usage values is because of the difference in methods followed by the quota report and the UNIX commands for calculating the data blocks in the volume or qtree.

For example, if a volume contains a file that has empty data blocks (to which data is not written), the quota report for the volume does not count the empty data blocks while reporting the space usage. However, when the volume is mounted on a UNIX client and the file is shown as the output of the `ls` command, the empty data blocks are also included in the space usage. Therefore, the `ls` command displays a higher file size when compared to the space usage displayed by the quota report.

Similarly, the space usage values shown in a quota report can also differ from the values shown as a result of UNIX commands such as `df` and `du`.

How a quota report accounts for disk space and file usage

The number of files used and the amount of disk space specified in a quota report for a FlexVol volume or a qtree depend on the count of the used data blocks corresponding to every inode in the volume or the qtree.

The block count includes both direct and indirect blocks used for regular and stream files. The blocks used for directories, Access Control Lists (ACLs), stream directories, and metafiles do not get accounted for in the quota report. In case of UNIX sparse files, empty data blocks are not included in the quota report.

How the ls command accounts for space usage

When you use the `ls` command to view the contents of a FlexVol volume mounted on a UNIX client, the file sizes displayed in the output could be lesser or more than the space usage displayed in the quota report for the volume depending on the type of data blocks for the file.

The output of the `ls` command displays only the size of a file and does not include indirect blocks used by the file. Any empty blocks of the file also get included in the output of the command.

Therefore, if a file does not have empty blocks, the size displayed by the `ls` command might be less than the disk usage specified by a quota report because of the inclusion of indirect blocks in the quota report. Conversely, if the file has empty blocks, then the size displayed by the `ls` command might be more than the disk usage specified by the quota report.

The output of the `ls` command displays only the size of a file and does not include indirect blocks used by the

file. Any empty blocks of the file also get included in the output of the command.

Example of the difference between space usage accounted by the ls command and a quota report

The following quota report shows a limit of 10 MB for a qtree q1:

```
                                      ----Disk----  ----Files-----   Quota
  Volume   Tree      Type    ID        Used  Limit    Used   Limit
Specifier
  -------  --------  ------  -------  -----  -----  ------  ------
---------
  vol1     q1          tree    user1   10MB  10MB        1       -   q1

...
```

A file present in the same qtree can have a size exceeding the quota limit when viewed from a UNIX client by using the `ls` command, as shown in the following example:

```
[user1@lin-sys1 q1]$ ls -lh
-rwxr-xr-x  1 user1 nfsuser  **27M** Apr 09  2013 file1
```

How the df command accounts for file size

The way in which in the `df` command reports the space usage depends on two conditions: whether the quotas are enabled or disabled for the volume that contains the qtree, and if quota usage within the qtree is tracked.

When quotas are enabled for the volume that contains the qtree and quota usage within the qtree is tracked, the space usage reported by the `df` command equals the value specified by the quota report. In this situation, quota usage excludes blocks used by directories, ACLs, stream directories, and metafiles.

When quotas are not enabled on the volume, or when the qtree does not have a quota rule configured, the reported space usage includes blocks used by directories, ACLs, stream directories, and metafiles for the entire volume, including other qtrees within the volume. In this situation, the space usage reported by the `df` command is greater than the expected value reported when quotas are tracked.

When you run the `df` command from the mount point of a qtree for which quota usage is tracked, the command output shows the same space usage as the value specified by the quota report. In most cases, when the tree quota rule has a hard disk-limit, the total size reported by the `df` command equals the disk limit and the space available equals the difference between the quota disk limit and quota usage.

However, in some cases, the space available reported by the `df` command might equal the space available in the volume as a whole. This can occur when there is no hard disk limit configured for the qtree. Beginning with ONTAP 9.9.1, it can also occur when the space available in the volume as a whole is less than the remaining tree quota space. When either of these conditions occur, the total size reported by the `df` command is a synthesized number equal to the quota used within the qtree plus the space available in the FlexVol volume.

This total size is neither the qtree disk limit nor the volume configured size. It can also vary based on your write activity within other qtrees or on your background storage efficiency activity.

Example of space usage accounted by the `df` command and a quota report

The following quota report shows a disk limit of 1 GB for qtree alice, 2 GB for qtree bob, and no limit for qtree project1:

```
C1_vsim1::> quota report -vserver vs0
Vserver: vs0
                                    ----Disk----  ----Files-----   Quota
Volume   Tree      Type    ID        Used  Limit    Used   Limit
Specifier
-------  --------  ------  -------  -----  -----  ------  ------
---------
vol2     alice     tree    1
                                   502.0MB    1GB       2       -   alice
vol2     bob       tree    2
                                    1003MB    2GB       2       -   bob
vol2     project1  tree    3
                                   200.8MB      -       2       -
project1
vol2               tree    *           0B      -       0       -   *
4 entries were displayed.
```

In the following example, the output of the `df` command on qtrees alice and bob reports the same used space as the quota report, and the same total size (in terms of 1M blocks) as the disk limit. This is because the quota rules for qtrees alice and bob have a defined disk limit and the volume available space (1211 MB) is greater than the tree quota space remaining for qtree alice (523 MB) and qtree bob (1045 MB).

```
linux-client1 [~]$ df -m /mnt/vol2/alice
Filesystem          1M-blocks  Used Available Use% Mounted on
172.21.76.153:/vol2      1024   502       523  50% /mnt/vol2

linux-client1 [~]$ df -m /mnt/vol2/bob
Filesystem          1M-blocks  Used Available Use% Mounted on
172.21.76.153:/vol2      2048  1004      1045  50% /mnt/vol2
```

In the following example, the output of the `df` command on qtree project1 reports the same used space as the quota report, but the total size is synthesized by adding the available space in the volume as a whole (1211 MB) to the quota usage of qtree project1 (201 MB) to give a total of 1412 MB. This is because the quota rule for qtree project1 has no disk limit.

```
linux-client1 [~]$ df -m /mnt/vol2/project1
Filesystem          1M-blocks  Used Available Use% Mounted on
172.21.76.153:/vol2      1412   201      1211  15% /mnt/vol2
```

The following example shows how the output of the `df` command on the volume as a whole reports the same available space as project1.

```
linux-client1 [~]$ df -m /mnt/vol2
Filesystem          1M-blocks  Used Available Use% Mounted on
172.21.76.153:/vol2      2919  1709      1211  59% /mnt/vol2
```

How the du command accounts for space usage

When you run the `du` command to check the disk space usage for a qtree or FlexVol volume mounted on a UNIX client, the usage value might be higher than the value displayed by a quota report for the qtree or volume.

The output of the `du` command contains the combined space usage of all the files through the directory tree beginning at the level of the directory where the command is issued. Because the usage value displayed by the `du` command also includes the data blocks for directories, it is higher than the value displayed by a quota report.

Example of the difference between space usage accounted by the du command and a quota report

The following quota report shows a limit of 10 MB for a qtree q1:

```
                                      ----Disk----  ----Files-----   Quota
  Volume   Tree      Type    ID        Used  Limit    Used   Limit
Specifier
  -------  --------  ------  -------  -----  -----  ------  ------
---------
  vol1     q1          tree    user1   10MB   10MB       1       -   q1

...
```

In the following example, the disk space usage as the output of the `du` command shows a higher value that exceeds the quota limit:

```
[user1@lin-sys1 q1]$ du -sh
**11M**     q1
```

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