Tails - Bug #10856
Nautilus Properties are lying about the size of /
01/05/2016 11:39 AM - goupille

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<th>Rejected</th>
<th>Start date:</th>
<th>01/05/2016</th>
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<td>Due date:</td>
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<td>goupille</td>
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<td>Type of work:</td>
<td>Research</td>
<td>Affected tool:</td>
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Description
steps to reproduce the error:
in Tails 2.0, open nautilus, click on 'computer', right click -> properties

the size given on the 'Contents' line is bigger than the real size of / (i.e. the Tails partition of the device). so the question is what it is counting?

History
#1 - 01/05/2016 01:21 PM - intrigeri
- Assignee set to goupille

the size given on the 'Contents' line is bigger than the real size of / (i.e. the Tails partition of the device).

This may be right from a UX perspective, but it is technically incorrect.

so the question is what it is counting?

I'm glad you're asking! I'll explain the technical bits, and then I'll let you digest it and discuss it with other support/doc/UX people.

So, what we mount on / in Tails (and in most live systems) is not the system partition. Instead, we mount a "union filesystem" (currently using aufs, some day with overlayfs) that presents to the rest of the OS a merged view of:

1. a read-only branch, that comes from the SquashFS:es found on the system partition (possibly several of them, stacked using aufs as well, if one has applied automatic upgrades);
2. a read-write branch, that is a tmpfs. This is how Tails can be amnesic :)

The actual system partition is mounted on /lib/live/mount/medium/. One can see how much space is used/available in there at least with df, I'll let you check if it can be done from Nautilus. Perhaps that last bit is what needs to be documented?

Cheers!
The actual system partition is mounted on /lib/live/mount/medium/. One can see how much space is used/available in there at least with df, I'll let you check if it can be done from Nautilus.

Perhaps that last bit is what needs to be documented?

it seems to me that what the users would ask is 'why Nautilus say that / is that big ?' and not 'what is the size of / ?'

maybe an entry of the FAQ could explain that, but I don't see where exactly we could add it, and I don't think it is really a 'frequently asked question'... so maybe we can just close that ticket and point to it if a user ever ask that again ?

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- Status changed from Confirmed to Rejected

it seems to me that what the users would ask is 'why Nautilus say that / is that big ?' and not 'what is the size of / ?'

Maybe:

- They would not ask 'why Nautilus say that / is that big ?' if they hadn't noticed that fact.
- They would not have noticed that / is that big if they hadn't looked at the size of /.
- If they looked at the size of /, maybe what they really wanted to know is the size of their system partition?

But I don't know, really.

maybe an entry of the FAQ could explain that, but I don't see where exactly we could add it, and I don't think it is really a 'frequently asked question'... so maybe we can just close that ticket and point to it if a user ever ask that again ?

Sure, works for me.