Tails - Feature #5760
tails-greeter: feedback when repairing damaged persistent filesystem

07/18/2013 07:45 AM - Tails

Status: Confirmed
Priority: Low
Assignee: 
Category: Persistence
Target version: 
Feature Branch: 
Type of work: Test
Blueprint: 

Start date: 
Due date: 
% Done: 0%
Estimated time: 0.00 hour
Spent time: 0.00 hour
Starter: Yes
Affected tool: Welcome Screen

Description
When one enables persistence with a persistent FS whose state is inconsistent state, tails-greeter appears to hang, while it's actually waiting for the fsck/recovery process to finish. Some people will interpret this as a system crash, because it takes longer than normal.

On a 14GB test persistent volume, the recovery took more than a minute. It continued booting fine after recovery.

Relevant kernel messages:
bc. kjournald starting. Commit interval 5 seconds
EXT3-fs (dm-0): using internal journal
EXT3-fs (dm-0): recovery complete
EXT3-fs (dm-0): mounted filesystem with ordered data mode

History
#1 - 07/19/2013 08:46 AM - intrigeri
- Category set to 165

#2 - 07/19/2013 09:06 AM - intrigeri
- Starter set to Yes

#3 - 06/09/2014 10:11 AM - BitingBird
- Subject changed from tails-greeter: feedback when repairing damaged persistent filesystem to Tails-greeter: feedback when repairing damaged persistent filesystem

#4 - 06/09/2014 01:50 PM - BitingBird
- Subject changed from Tails-greeter: feedback when repairing damaged persistent filesystem to tails-greeter: feedback when repairing damaged persistent filesystem

#5 - 07/05/2014 04:29 PM - alant
Greeter code lives at [http://git.tails.boum.org/greeter/](http://git.tails.boum.org/greeter/). We should then add some backend code in a new module in the tailsgreeter package (Python) and integrate it in the GUI (new window?)

#6 - 01/07/2015 04:51 PM - BitingBird
- Category set to Persistence

#7 - 06/05/2015 03:34 PM - intrigeri
- Type of work changed from Code to Test

05/15/2020 1/2
This was the case back when the persistent volume used ext3, but we've moved to ext4 a while ago => next step is to check if the problem is still as important in current Tails. Hint: better use a large (16GB or more) and slow (USB flash media) backing device.

#8 - 06/28/2017 11:03 AM - Anonymous
- Priority changed from Elevated to Normal

We now ship the new greeter in Tails 3.0.

Does this problem still persist with this new greeter and ext4?

Dear @helpdesk, did you receive any bug reports about a hanging boot while the system is doing an fsck?

This ticket has seen no activity since 2 years, and many changes have been made since then which suggest that we can lower the priority to normal.

#9 - 06/28/2017 11:28 AM - intrigeri

Does this problem still persist with this new greeter and ext4?

Guessing with the tech knowledge I have, not tested: the behavior is probably a little better with the new Greeter as there's feedback (hourglass icon) while unlocking the persistent volume. I'm not sure if it's good enough, or if it'll still take so much more time than usual that users may believe the unlocking has failed.

#10 - 01/18/2018 04:15 PM - Anonymous
- Priority changed from Normal to Low

I'm lowering priority of this ticket as it is unclear how much this actually affects users.

#11 - 01/18/2018 04:43 PM - emmapeel

I have experienced this as a user: when my session crashes involuntarily, like when I kick the usb stick, I restart and it takes a little more.

But I haven't heard complains of users about this, or if I did I don't remember.

#12 - 04/15/2020 06:05 AM - intrigeri
- Affected tool changed from Greeter to Welcome Screen