Linux on System z

How to Improve Performance with PAV

Development stream (Kernel 2.6.35)

SC33-8414-01

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Note

Before using this information and the product it supports, read the information in “Notices” on page 7.

This edition applies to the Linux on System z Development stream for kernel 2.6.35, and to all subsequent releases and modifications until otherwise indicated in new editions.

Contents

Summary of changes

This revision reflects changes to the Development stream for kernel 2.6.35.

Updates for kernel 2.6.35

This revision contains changes related to the kernel 2.6.35 release.

New Information

- The DASD device driver now tolerates dynamic PAV changes for base PAV.

Changed Information

- None.

This revision also includes maintenance and editorial changes. Technical changes or additions to the text and illustrations are indicated by a vertical line to the left of the change.

Deleted Information

- None.

Updates for the May 7th 2008 software drop

This book is the equivalent to SC33-8292, which applies to Linux® on System z®, October 2005 stream.

Changes compared to SC33-8292 are as follows:

- The DASD device driver now handles aliases for block devices for you. A multipath setup is no longer required for PAV.
- The DASD device driver supports PAV and HyperPAV.

This revision also includes maintenance and editorial changes.

About this document

This document describes how to set up DASD volumes as parallel access volumes (PAV) or for HyperPAV in z/VM® or LPAR and how to use PAV and HyperPAV from Linux.

In this document, System z is taken to include zSeries® in 64- and 31-bit mode.

Unless stated otherwise, all z/VM related information in this document assumes a current z/VM version, see `www.ibm.com/vm/techinfo/`.

You can find the latest version of this document on developerWorks® at `www.ibm.com/developerworks/linux/linux390/documentation_dev.html`.

Where to get more information

This section points to more information about the DASD device driver and the storage systems that support PAV.

For more information about the DASD device driver see *Device Drivers, Features, and Commands*, SC33-8411. You can obtain the latest version of this book on developerWorks at `www.ibm.com/developerworks/linux/linux390/documentation_dev.html`.

For information about PAV, HyperPAV, and IBM System Storage DS8000® series (DS8000) see the DS8000 Information Center at `publib.boulder.ibm.com/infocenter/dsichelp/ds8000ic/index.jsp`.

For information about PAV and IBM System Storage DS6000™ series (DS6000) see the DS6000 Information Center at `publib.boulder.ibm.com/infocenter/dsichelp/ds6000ic/index.jsp`.

For information about PAV and IBM TotalStorage® Enterprise Storage Server® see the *IBM TotalStorage Enterprise Storage Server Web Interface User's Guide*, SC26-7448, SC26-7448.

For information about z/VM, see the documentation for your z/VM version at `www.ibm.com/systems/z/os/zos/bkserv/zvmpdf/`.

Other Linux on System z publications

Several Linux on System z publications are available on developerWorks.

You can find the latest versions of these publications at `www.ibm.com/developerworks/linux/linux390/documentation_dev.html`.

- *Device Drivers, Features, and Commands*, SC33-8411
- *Using the Dump Tools*, SC33-8412
- *How to Improve Performance with PAV*, SC33-8414
- *How to use FC-attached SCSI devices with Linux on System z*, SC33-8413
- *How to use Execute-in-Place Technology with Linux on z/VM*, SC34-2594
- *How to Set up a Terminal Server Environment on z/VM*, SC34-2596
- *Kernel Messages*

- *libica Programmer's Reference*, SC34-2602

Chapter 1. Introduction to PAV

Linux on System z can use the parallel access volume (PAV) feature of enterprise storage systems to perform multiple concurrent data transfer operations to or from the same DASD volume.

The storage control units of present-day IBM® enterprise storage systems can use large caches and RAID 5 arrays to perform I/O operations in parallel. Multiple users or processes on a Linux instance can concurrently issue channel programs to volumes that are configured as PAV.

Reads can be satisfied simultaneously, as well as writes to different domains. The domain of an I/O consists of the specified extents to which the I/O operation applies. Writes to the same domain are serialized to maintain data integrity.

Base and alias devices

Through the PAV feature, storage systems can present the same physical disk space as a base device and one or more alias devices. On the System z mainframe, the base device and the aliases are all configured with a separate device number.

On a Linux system that has access to a base device and its aliases, the DASD device driver initially senses the base device and each alias as a different, independent DASD and assigns a different device name to each.

When the devices are set online, the DASD device driver can distinguish between base devices and aliases. The DASD device driver then creates device nodes for the base devices but not for the aliases. The aliases can lead to gaps in the naming scheme for device nodes. For example, if `dasda` and `dasdd` are base devices and `dasdb` and `dasdc` the names for alias devices, there will be device nodes `/dev/dasda`, and `/dev/dasdd` but no nodes `/dev/dasdb` and `/dev/dasdc`. User space processes exclusively access PAV though the device node for the base device.

If multiple user space processes concurrently access a base device, the device driver uses the aliases to issue multiple channel programs. Apart from assuring that the corresponding aliases for a base device are online, user space processes need no special handling for accessing a PAV.

Dynamic PAV alias changes

Some storage servers can dynamically reassign an alias device to a different base device. The DASD device driver senses such changes and automatically uses the alias device for the new base device.

HyperPAV

With IBM HyperPAV, aliases are not exclusively used for the base device for which they are defined. An alias can be used for any base device within the same logical subsystem on the storage system. When the DASD device driver has to satisfy an I/O request through an alias, it associates an eligible alias with the respective base device. Apart from assuring that the aliases for the logical storage subsystem to which a base device belongs are online, user space processes need no special handling for accessing a volume configured for HyperPAV.

Prerequisites

Before you can use PAV on your Linux instance, the PAV feature must be enabled on your storage system. The PAV feature is available, for example, for the following systems:

- IBM System Storage DS8000 series systems
- IBM System Storage DS6000 series systems
- IBM TotalStorage Enterprise Storage Server (ESS)

The HyperPAV feature is available, for example, for IBM System Storage DS8000 series systems.

Chapter 2. Making PAV available to Linux

PAV base and alias volumes require special IOCDS specifications. This section provides IOCDS sample specifications and describes additional steps you must perform if your Linux instance runs as a z/VM guest operating system.

Before you begin

- You need to know the device numbers of the base devices and their aliases as defined on the storage system.
- If your Linux system runs as a z/VM guest operating system, you need privilege class B authorization.

About this task

Configuring base and alias volumes for PAV or HyperPAV on the storage system is beyond the scope of this description. See your storage system documentation for details.

The IOCDS examples in the following sections apply to mainframe systems with a single subchannel set. For information about IOCDS specifications for multiple subchannel sets see the Input/Output Configuration Program User's Guide for your mainframe system.

Procedure

Perform the following steps to define the base devices and their aliases to the hardware. In the examples, device `0x5680` is a base device and `0x56BF` an alias device for the same physical disk space on the storage system.

1. Define the base devices to the hardware by using UNIT=3390B in the IOCDS IODEVICE statements.

   Example: The following statement defines device number `0x5680` as a base device.

   ```
   IODEVICE ADDRESS=(5680),UNITADD=00,CUNUMBR=(5680),        *
                 STADET=Y,UNIT=3390B
   ```

2. Define the alias devices to the hardware by using UNIT=3390A in the IOCDS IODEVICE statements.

   Example: The following statement defines device `0x56BF` as an alias device. The mapping to the associated base device `0x5680` is given by the storage system configuration.

   ```
   IODEVICE ADDRESS=(56BF),UNITADD=18,CUNUMBR=(5680),        *
                 STADET=Y,UNIT=3390A
   ```

   With HyperPAV activated on the storage system, the alias device is not exclusive to the referenced base device but is an eligible alias device for all base devices in the same logical storage subsystem as the referenced base device.

3. Optional for z/VM: If your Linux system runs as a z/VM guest operating system, you can confirm the mapping of base and alias devices. After the hardware configuration with the base and alias device statements has become active, enter the z/VM QUERY PAV command.

   Example:

```
# CP QUERY PAV
00: Device 5680 is a base Parallel Access Volume with the following aliases: 56BF
00: Device 56BF is an alias Parallel Access Volume device whose base device is 5680
```

4. Required for z/VM: If your Linux system runs as a z/VM guest operating system, use CP ATTACH commands to make the base devices and their aliases accessible to Linux.

   Example: To make a base device `0x5680` and its alias `0x56BF` available to a z/VM guest operating system with ID `LNX1` enter the following commands:

```
# ATTACH 5680 LNX1
# ATTACH 56BF LNX1
```

   See `www.ibm.com/vm/storman/pav/pav3.html` for more information about PAV and HyperPAV with z/VM.

Chapter 3. Using PAV on Linux

You work with PAV or HyperPAV base devices as you would without PAV. To take advantage of PAV, be sure that the corresponding aliases are set online.

Before you begin

- If your Linux instance runs natively in an LPAR, the `nopav` keyword must not have been set for the `dasd=` kernel or module parameter.
- You need to know the device numbers of the base devices and their aliases as defined on the storage system.

Procedure

Perform the following steps to start and confirm your PAV environment. In the examples, device `0x5680` is a base device and `0x56BF` a corresponding alias device.

1. Set your base devices online.

   Example: To set a base device with device number `0x5680` is online, enter the following command in a Linux terminal session:

   ```
   # chccwdev -e 0.0.5680
   ```

   Alias devices might not be represented in sysfs until the base device has been set online.

   Note: If your Linux system runs as a z/VM guest operating, each device has a sysfs attribute `use_diag` that by default is set to `0`. Do not change this attribute to `1` for any of the aliases.
2. Set the alias devices online.
3. Optional: Confirm the mapping of base and alias devices by listing the DASDs with lsdasd and the -u option.

   The uid has several dot-separated sections. The first three sections identify the logical subsystem of the storage system. The forth section identifies a particular volume within the logical subsystem.

   If your Linux instance runs as a z/VM guest operating system, there might be an additional section that identifies individual minidisks on the volume. The presence of this additional section depends on your z/VM version and service level.

   In a basic PAV environment, a base device and all its aliases have the same uid.

   Example:

   ```
   lsdasd -u
   Bus-ID   Name  UID
   ============================================
   0.0.5680 dasdb IBM.75000000092461.2a00.1a
   0.0.56BF alias IBM.75000000092461.2a00.1a
   0.0.5681 dasdf IBM.75000000092461.2a00.1b
   ...
   ```

   In the example, the uid for `0.0.5680`, and `0.0.56BF` match, which confirms that both devices map to the same physical disk space. For alias devices, the command prints “alias” instead of a device name.

In a HyperPAV environment, alias devices are not dedicated to a particular base device but can be used for any base device in the same logical subsystem on the storage system. Instead of a device identifier, alias devices have `xx` as the forth section of their uid. An alias is eligible for a base device if the first three sections of its uid match the first three sections of the uid of the base device.

HyperPAV example:

```
lsdasd -u
Bus-ID   Name  UID
============================================
0.0.5680 dasdb IBM.75000000092461.2a00.1a
0.0.5681 dasdf IBM.75000000092461.2a00.1b
0.0.56BF alias IBM.75000000092461.2a00.xx
...
```

In the example, `0.0.56BF` is an alias that is eligible for base devices `0.0.5680`, and `0.0.5681`.

Results

You are now ready to work with the base devices as you would without PAV. The DASD device driver automatically uses the aliases as the need arises.

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