Tech Info Library

A/UX 3.0: scn_open request for write Error & Wrkaround (6/96)

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Security:       Everyone
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A/UX 3.0: "scn_open request for write" Error & Wrkaround (6/96)

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TOPIC ---

I recently attempted to launch A/UX 3.0, the boot process halted with the screen
displaying, in the upper left hand corner, scn_open : request for write. What
happened? How I can get A/UX to launch properly?

DISCUSSION --

We searched for the "scn_open : request for write" error message, and this bug
was reported in an A/UX bug report. Here is the description of this bug and
workaround:

After running newconfig/autoconfig and moving the root disk to another machine,
the error message "scn_open: write failed" may occur, and the toolbox will not
startup.

The problem is that if "launch" detects that autoconfig needs to run, it will
boot /newunix instead of /unix. /newunix's major device numbers in this case no
longer match the major device numbers of the root file system. This causes the
toolbox "startmac -o minimal..." to bail as the major number for the uinter
driver doesn't match the entry position in the device switch table. Instead, it
now matches the scanners entry point, and scn_open() is being called instead of
ui_open()!

The correct solution is to hard-code the major device numbers within the
master.d files, but as this solution is not viable at this time, a quicker hack
is to have "launch" from Startup set the verbose flag "-v" when it detects that
it must do an autoconfig. This is very simple, and will fix most cases. There
may be cases where other devices have "moved" with respect to /unix vs.
/newunix, which may be catastrophic, but not sure at this point.

Other scenario has also been found to produce the same problem, like Ctrl C out

of newconfig debugger after asking for IP address information. The workaround to
this is to run "launch" from A/UX Startup with the verbose "-v" flag.

Article Change History:
28 Jun 1996 - Corrected wording in article.

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