

Conquer your EXT partition

How to get "free" space on EXT filesystem without deleting anything?

I've always aware of reserved blocks on an EXT filesystem (and on NTFS as well) - probably this is one reason for newcomers to choose ReiserFS instead. For them, I'd recommend btrfs^[1], but for those of stability junkies and EXT lovers: on every non-system disk this is truly safe to do, and you'll not regret it.

When you format a partition to EXT, the filesystem reserves some space to store system things inside it. It's also a kind of stability issue, an inside swap if it pleases - but there's no need for it on non-system disk. This usually takes 5% of the formatted disk capacity - as for 1 TB disk it's 50GBs !!

Now, to reduce it:

```
sudo tune2fs -m 1 /dev/[your device]
```

```
bash
```

This sets the reserved blocks to 1%, therefore on a TB disk to 10GB. It's still much, I know, and in some cases it's safe to reduce it to 0, but just to make sure everything is working fine, I left it on 1%.

See what you gained:

```
df -h
```

```
bash
```

As for Truecrypt devices: When you mount a truecrypt partition (or full disk) there's going to be a `/dev/mapper/truecryptX`, where X is a number. Use this instead of `/dev/[your device]`

Links

1. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Btrfs>

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