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Creating a FreeNAS Volume

There are many different ways to organise the storage of your FreeNAS server. I can't tell you what is best for you because it depends on various factors, how many vdevs and Zpools you want, how many data storage drives you have available, etc. Review cyberjock's guide to ZFS for newbies if you aren't thoroughly familiar with it.

Whatever way you decide to arrange things make sure you build in some sort of redundancy. This goes for the vdevs as well.

Remember, if one vdev fails in a Zpool it takes the whole Zpool with it.

This is how I arranged mine.

Go to the "Storage" page.

Account Sys	a stem	D Tasks	Network	Storage	Directory	(interview) Sharing	Services	Plugins	Jails	Reporting	T Wizard
System											
information	General	Boot	Advanced	Email	System Data	aset Tunable	es Update	CAs	Certificates	Support	
System Info	ormatior	n Con									
Hostname		Ed	lit								
Build	FreeNA	S-9.10-RE	ELEASE (2def	9c8)							
Platform	Intel(R) Xeon(R)	CPU E5-2620	v3 @ 2.40	OGHz						
Memory	16248	мв									
System Time											
Uptime											
Load Averag	e 0.00, 0	.06, 0.13									

Now click on the "Volumes" button (1) if it is not already selected.

Then click on the "Volume Manager" button (2). This will open up another smaller window.

You have two options at this point.

You can stay in this window and supply some details to the FreeNAS OS and it will suggest a redundancy option which you can accept or change.

The other option is to use manual setup (Fester always uses manual setup, it's just my preference).

Now click on the "Manual setup" button (3).

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Account	System	D Tasks	Network	Storage	Directory	Constant Sharing	Services	Plugins	Jails	Reporting	S Wizard
Storage Volumes Volume Ma 2 Name No entry ha	Periodic Sn	apshot Task nport Disk	S Volume	e Name e Name e to extend cryption lable disks							Com
			+ Volu 0x Ca Ad	1 - 4.0 TB ime layout (I 1x0 B pacity: 0 B d Extra Devic Add Volume g data will be	(8 drives, sho Estimated cap	ow) Dacity: 0 B) – Dra ancel	4 5 6 7 ag and drop	8 9 10 1 this to resize	1 12 13 14	15 setup	

Give your volume a name in the "Volume name" text box (1). If you cannot think of anything then "Tank" seems to be popular amongst FreeNAS users (I don't know why?).

If you want the Zpool to use encryption then tick the "Encryption" box (2). But only do this if your processor supports AES-NI encryption and you have enabled it in the BIOS, otherwise don't use it. Remember to save a recovery key.

Now select the storage drives you want to form part of the Zpool in the "Member disks" selection box (3). To select all available disks click on the first drive, hold down the "Shift" key and with the key held down click on the last disk.

Leave "Deduplication" set to **off** (4) (unless you understand deduplication and have plenty of RAM in your system).

If you did not select all the available storage drives in the "Member disks" section then you will have the option of choosing the function of the unused disks in the "ZFS Extra" section. This is where you can designate a disk/s as a spare device that will immediately be utilised when one of your disks fail, or as an extra cache or log for ZFS and the FreeNAS OS. I always use all the available drives so this section has disappeared by this point.

If you selected all available drives in the "Member disk" section then you will see a section entitled "Group Type". In the "Group Type" section, select with the appropriate radio button the type of redundancy you wish to utilise in the Zpool (5) (Fester likes Raid-Z2 as this allows two devices to fail and the zpool is still operable. If a third device fails the zpool is trashed).

Now click the "Add Volume" button (6).



When the operation completes often the FreeNAS GUI may not update to reflect the change, so you don't see your newly created volume listed under "Volumes".

If this happens to you just navigate away from the page and then navigate back to it and the page will be forced to update. You should now see the volume listed.

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Account	System	Tasks	Network	Storage	Directory	Snaring	Services	Plugins	Jails	Reporting	wizard
Storage											
Volumes	Periodic Sn	apshot Tasl	ks Replication	Tasks S	crubs Snap	shots VMw	are-Snapshot				
Volume Ma	Inager	nport Disk	Import Volur	view	Disks						
Name			Used		ŀ	Available		Со	mpression		Comp
Tank1			1.2 MiB (0%)			29.0 TiB					-
Tank1			665.4 KiB (0%)			20.0 TiB			Iz4		

If all goes well you should get something like this.

That's the FreeNAS storage volume created.

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