

Failure to open sound /dev/dsp problem ...



[mingus](#) 9 posts since

Apr 14, 2006 There have been a lot of posts with this particular problem, with a variety of causes. I have discovered something on my system that I haven't seen referred to in any other post, perhaps there is a clue here that can help others besides myself . . .

Error msg: "Failure to open sound device /dev/dsp. Device or resource busy" Most suggestions are that the problem is either with (a) arts or esd, or (b) a conflicting application tying up /dev/dsp.

What I have discovered is that the problem is somehow connected to something that is happening running KDE as a user but not as root. If I open a single session as root, there is no error running vmpayer. If I open two root sessions, there is no conflict. However, if I open a session as the user, then a second session as root and run the player in the root session, I encounter the error. Or if in the user session I run vmpayer with root priviledge, I also get the error.

So it looks as if something is running under the user session that ties up /dev/dsp, right? But I can't find what it is . . .

#fuser /dev/dsp* shows no process using the device

#lsdf | grep dsp shows no process opening the file

changing all KDE sound settings incl turning audio I/O or sound system off - no effect

assigning user to all groups, including giving the user root priviledge - no effect

changing the .vmdk and related file permissions - no effect

changing the .vmx file sound statements - no effect

changing permissions to /dev/dsp - no effect

I killed every user process, except the minimum required by KDE (kdeinit, kded, kwin, kdesud, kicker, kdesktop, ksmsserver, startkde & kwrapper [under kdm], dbus, dcopserver) - no effect

I should add that when I first installed the player on SuSE 10.0 with KDE 3.4, worked fine. Also works fine on my other box, SuSE 10.0 and KDE 3.5.1 (although not the smp kernel). I just updated my primary box to 3.5.2, no help.

I did not try the vmwaredsp-1.3.tar.gz fix because (a) I saw anothe post indicating it does not work with KDE 3.5 and (b) I don't know how to back it out if it borks something.

I'm stuck. Can any of you experts help???

Thanks in advance.

mingus

VMWare Player (build 19317), SuSE 10.0, KDE 3.5.2, 2.6.13-15.8-smp



[nick.couchman](#) 4,969 posts since

Jan 13, 2006 **1. Re: Failure to open sound /dev/dsp problem (new mystery with old problem)** Apr 17, 2006 6:17 AM

Does the sound device actually work in KDE with a non-root account - that is, can you play sound with something like XMMS?

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Apr 14, 2006 **2. Re: Failure to open sound /dev/dsp problem (new mystery with old problem)** Apr 17, 2006 6:45 AM

in response to: [nick.couchman](#) Sure. Sorry if that wasn't clear - no problem with sound on the KDE host running as user.

Message was edited by:

mingus



[Keith_Reed](#) 1 posts since

Apr 28, 2006 **3. Re: Failure to open sound /dev/dsp problem (new mystery with old problem)** Apr 28, 2006 9:37 PM

in response to: [mingus](#) Mingus,

Did you ever find a resolution for this. My SUSE10/Workstation 5.5 system is exhibiting the exact same behavior.



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Apr 14, 2006 **4. Re: Failure to open sound /dev/dsp problem (new mystery with old problem)** May 4, 2006 7:21 AM

in response to: [Keith_Reed](#) No. As indicated above, unable to replicate the problem on my other box (primary sw diff being the default kernel, whereas this box uses the smp). I had a backup SuSE install on my main box hdb; I blew that away yesterday and reinstalled SuSE fresh, which means back to unpatched kernel and KDE 3.4. This time I didn't install arts. I'm gonna install the VMWare and try a controlled restoration to the state on hda, and see if I can trap what change is locking up dsp.

Can you associate when the problem began with any other change to your system?



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Apr 14, 2006 **5. Re: Failure to open sound /dev/dsp problem (solved)** May 9, 2006 10:16 PM

I finally resolved the problem, and it had nothing to do with the VMWare Player. Actually there were a number of overlapping issues; if you are a Linux user getting /dev/dsp errors, look for my post at one of the SuSE user forums. You may need to do more than just the following, as I did:

Basically, use `#lsof /dev/snd/*` and `#fuser /dev/snd/*` to determine what programs have *these* sound files open. In my case, because I had turned on KDE's desktop icon preview feature for audio files, the kdesktop program had opened these files; it pipes its preview back through /dev/dsp. Other processes can do the same. They need to be killed to free /dev/dsp. There is a good chance that simply executing as root - `#!/etc/init.d/alsasound restart` - will take care of it for you.

Message was edited by:

mingus