Recovery from Console Error 89B52AA5 in AIX 3.2

Special Notices

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> **Note:** The information in this document has **not** been verified for AIX 4.1.

Explanation of Console Error 89B52AA5

This document explains the usual reason for an error log entry similar to the following:

```
ERROR LABEL:   CONSOLE
ERROR ID:  89B52AA5

Date/Time:       Fri Aug 20 14:45:53
Sequence Number: 20660
Machine Id:      000044144100
Node Id:         mst3000
Class:           S
Type:            PERM
Resource Name:    console

Error Description
SOFTWARE PROGRAM ERROR

Probable Causes
SOFTWARE PROGRAM

Failure Causes
SOFTWARE PROGRAM

  Recommended Actions
  REVIEW DETAILED DATA

Detail Data
DETECTING MODULE
```

```
conwrite
FAILING MODULE
UIO_WRITE
RETURN CODE
   538976309        8224

ERROR CODE
   538976304     2105344
```

This error is typically caused by an application that is started automatically during bootup in one of the /etc/rc* or /etc/inittab files. Many applications open the console device to report errors or status. When the application writes to the console after bootup has completed, the write() call will return EIO due to POSIX Std 1003.1 section 6.4.2.4:

> The implementation supports job control, the process is in a background process group and is attempting to write to its controlling terminal, TOSTOP is set, the process is neither ignoring nor blocking SIGTTOU signals, and the process group of the process is orphaned."

When the console device driver senses that the write() call has failed, it logs an error to indicate that some program has attempted to notify you and has failed. It is not important to understand the reason that you are getting this entry in the error log; instead, it is important to find exactly which program is causing this error. The best way to do this is to put the following line into your /etc/inittab file immediately after the line that begins with "powerfail":

```
swcons:2:wait:/etc/swcons /tmp/cons.out > /dev/console 2>&1
```

Then enter the following command (as root):

```
swcons /tmp/cons.out
```

Periodically check the file /tmp/cons.out for error messages that should be recognizable as coming from an application that is started during bootup. You may have to reboot your system to see these messages. Please be aware that messages that you used to see on your console (including bootup messages) will no longer appear there; they will now appear in /tmp/cons.out. You should monitor the size of this file, so that it does not fill the /tmp file system. To make the file empty, enter "> /tmp/cons.out".

Once you have determined exactly which program is causing these errors you can do one of the following:

- Contact your application vendor and explain the situation to them. They can change their source code to eliminate this problem.
- Leave the "swcons" command in your /etc/inittab file.
- Start the offending program from the command line.

Reader's Comments

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Name: Fax Number:

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