Subject: Revolutionary Idea: Mass deployment via UnionFS !
Posted by Alexey Eremenko on Sat, 19 May 2007 23:30:45 GMT

hi all !

Currently this project deploys VPSes via copying templates, but I believe that instead of copying templates we should build a template that uses UnionFS, which can save a LOT of hard disk space.

That is: with this technology all VPSes that are based on a particular template will take very few space, because all of the software will be shared on UnionFS drive.

Like this:
/template (UnionFS-RO)
/vz/101 (UnionFS-RW)

/template (UnionFS-RO)
/vz/102 (UnionFS-RW)

/template (UnionFS-RO)
/vz/103 (UnionFS-RW)

All the standard packages will be shared among the VPSes in a template directory, so they will be viewable but all the *difference* vs. the template will go to the VPSes.

As a bonus, the VPS creation time will be lowered from several seconds to under 1 second ! Because creating a VPS will mean just Union-linking vs. the template and create few directories with configuration files.

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Since this technology already requires massive kernel changes and root privileges, adding UnionFS to the stack is cake-walk easy.

Not only it will enable to save disk space, but it will enable to build full-OS VPSes, that include KDE and GNOME with NX access for graphical remote administration. (Something I like!)

More about UnionFS here: Knoppix 3.8 and UnionFS. Wow. Just Wow.
 http://www.oreillynet.com/sysadmin/blog/2005/03/knoppix_38_a nd_unionfs_wow_jus.html