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Subject: Re: openvz naming conventions; numeric vs symbolic

Posted by [kir](#) on Wed, 15 Aug 2007 21:27:40 GMT

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Steve Wray wrote:

> Kir Kolyshkin wrote:

>> Steve Wray wrote:

>>

>>> Kir Kolyshkin wrote:

>>>

>>>> See vzctl set --name

>>>>

>>> Well thats a nice start.

>>>

>>> Now, to follow on from that great progress, how do I get it so that

>>> the directory where the root filesystem lives corresponds to the name

>>> I set instead of the numeric VEID?

>>>

>> No standard way.

>>

>> I guess you can create a symlink; something like this:

>> vzctl set \$VEID --name \$VENAME --save

>> (cd /vz/root && ln -s \$VEID \$VENAME)

>>

>> Same for /vz/private if you need it.

>>

> I did find that after one has created a virtual machine configuration

> one can edit its config file and add:

>

> VE\_ROOT="/var/lib/vz/root/vz1"

> VE\_PRIVATE="/var/lib/vz/private/vz1"

>

> for example.

Both VE\_ROOT and VE\_PRIVATE can be set in vzctl create (--root and --private options). If you want to change those values later (either by using vzctl set or by editing a configuration file) you also have to move the existing directories (otherwise it won't make sense) -- something like this:

```
vzctl stop $VE
```

```
vzctl umount $VE
```

```
mv /vz/private/$VE $NEW_VE_PRIVATE
```

```
rmdir /vz/root/$VEID
```

```
mkdir $NEW_VE_ROOT
```

```
vzctl set $VE --root $NEW_VE_ROOT --private $NEW_VE_PRIVATE
```

Now, if you need those symlinks, move them as well. vzlist -oname \$VEID should tell you the name of your VE if you want to script this operation.

> I have yet to figure out the 'vzctl create' commands though; they  
> appear to require an OS template tarball.  
Yep. There are a lot of such tarballs available from  
<http://download.openvz.org/template/precreated/>  
<http://download.openvz.org/template/precreated/contrib/>  
> While I dropped a root filesystem tarball into the required place,  
> vzctl create didn't like it.  
Well, it should be a normal root filesystem tar.gz file, better having  
Linux distro at the beginning of a filename (this is how vzctl guesses  
which distro is it -- for distro-dependent operations like IP  
configuration). So you'd better name your tarball like  
debian-4-`{whatever}`.tar.gz

Other problems that may be with your tarball are:

- it's tar.bz2 tarball
- it's missing some really required stuff like system libs or /sbin/init
- it's not a root filesystem, for example all the filenames are  
prefixed with /root or smth.

Finally, in some cases you need to do some modifications; those should  
be described in [http://wiki.openvz.org/Physical\\_to\\_VE](http://wiki.openvz.org/Physical_to_VE).

> I'll keep plugging away.

>

> OpenVZ looks pretty good for performance scalability but what I'd  
> love to see is better management scalability.

>

> If there are any tools which abstract away some of the detail for  
> management of multiple virtual machines I'd like to know. I did try  
> easyvz (<http://sourceforge.net/projects/easyvz>) but there were  
> problems with the python dependencies. I run Debian Etch; when I tried  
> to run the gui there were issues with strange characters in the python  
> script.

>

OpenVZ is more of a virtualization technology with good CLI. If you are  
looking for a high-level GUI, you'll have to develop one, or join some  
other team developing GUI for OpenVZ (those should be listed at  
[http://wiki.openvz.org/Control\\_panels](http://wiki.openvz.org/Control_panels)), or use Virtuozzo which comes  
with a few GUIs.