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Subject: Re: Red Hat Linux 8 Template or Metadata?

Posted by [kir](#) on Fri, 24 Mar 2006 08:27:36 GMT

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Yes, it is possible to create a template or a VPS from any Linux distro. Basically, the only requirements are it should be compatible with kernel 2.6, and boot scripts should work without console (say, in SUSE you have to comment out one line in /sbin/rc script). Some distros (SUSE again) also require sysfs support (networking won't start without /sys); as sysfs is quite resource hungry, it is currently only turned on for suse unconditionally.

A template can be created from a VPS by just tarring its private area, like that:

```
vzctl stop 456
cd /vz/private/456
tar czf /vz/template/distrname-version-arch.tar.gz .
```

Note that vzctl has a number of configs scripts to support different distros (in /etc/sysconfig/vz-scripts/dists) -- this is mostly for networking configuration inside a VPS. Thus, vzctl has to know what distro it is; so you should name your template cache file (the tarball) accordingly (say, "slackware-..."). In case you use a distro with quite a different networking setup inside, you have to create your own script (or file a bug).

Speaking of metadata, now it can be created only for distros that have yum-enabled repository of packages. So, you are unlucky with RHL8; still if you put all the packages to some place and run createrepo on that, you already have a repository and thus can try to create metadata for RHL8. There is no much documentation on it -- so just look at the metadata for some other distro and use it as a template/example. It is not that complex as it seems to be, if you know yum a bit and some shell scripting (there a a few small scripts in metadata, to do some little pre- and post-install tricks).

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