
Subject: Re: OpenVZ and Virtuozzo
Posted by [kir](#) on Fri, 07 Apr 2006 23:23:27 GMT
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Martin Braun wrote:

> Kirill Korotaev wrote:

>

>> w/o 99% of the tools, SDKs, APIs, documentation, support and so on

>> and so forth.

>

>

> The question is, will SWSoft stop their engagement to OVZ if

> it gets too close to the VZ feature list to avoid a loss of

> customers. The main developers are mostly SWSoft people at the

> moment. So if SWSoft stops supporting OVZ the project may be

> at risk.

Martin,

That is great that you have the concerns and do care about the future of OpenVZ project -- I do as well. Let me share some thoughts on the topic.

First, this *is* free software, means that nobody really owns controls it, even the original creators and current maintainers of the code -- SWsoft. This is the beauty of free software, this is why we love it.

Free software nature of the code in question makes a big difference from the (hypothetical) situation like, say, "VMware realizes that their free-as-in-beer "Player" (or "Server") product ruins the market for them and considering to discontinue it". That would be the problem indeed.

Second, I believe SWsoft has a strong vision and high level of commitment towards OpenVZ. As I have noticed in my recent email, opening up a live migration feature demonstrates their good will and overall direction. I think they are quite happy with the fact more people use OpenVZ, or Linux-VServer, or Xen, for that matter -- because that means more people are seeing what "light-weight" virtualization can do for them, in what ways it can be helpful and why it is needed at all. And this is actually how things are working -- over time, technology itself becomes commoditized: consider, for example, big and pricey UNIX vendors shifted by Linux, or big and pricey RDBMS vendors shifted by open-source solutions such as MySQL and Postgres. Still, all those big companies (or most of them) are still alive and happy, because it's not just the technology, but a handful of other factors involved in doing business in IT. Licensing, support, features, high-level tools, strategic partnerships and all that stuff.

Third, speaking of competition of OpenVZ and Virtuozzo -- OpenVZ is actually ahead of Virtuozzo for some areas, it is not like "step-child" or "Cinderella" of SWsoft/Virtuozzo. Here are a couple of examples.

- Fedora Core 5 templates are not there in Virtuozzo yet. Gentoo templates are not there (and will probably never be).
- OpenVZ was the first to get that OS template management tools based on yum (so people who used both OpenVZ and Virtuozzo says "wow! template management is much better in OpenVZ!").
- OpenVZ offers 2.6.16-based kernels, and kernels based on FC5 and SUSE10 kernels -- you can't get it from Virtuozzo.

You might think it is a green and easy world as I take it. But this is just the way I see it -- and I do care as much for the future of OpenVZ as for my own children.

Regards,
Kir, OpenVZ project lead.
