Subject: Re: [patch] util-linux-ng: unprivileged mounts support Posted by Miklos Szeredi on Wed, 16 Jan 2008 20:33:30 GMT

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- > > This is an experimental patch for supporing unprivileged mounts and
- >> umounts. The following features are added:

>

- > same feedback as last time ... the cap stuff needs to be made optional and
- > proper header checks added to configure ...

Later, sure. For now, I'm concentrating on the actual functionality.

>> 1) If mount/umount are suid, first try without privileges.

> >

- > > This is done by forking, dropping privileges in child, and redirecting
- > > stderr to /dev/null. If this succeeds, then parent exits with zero
- > > exit code. Otherwise parent continues normally (with privileges).
- > > This isn't perfect, because the wrong error message will be printed if
- > > mount/umount failed not because of insufficient privileges, but some
- > > other error (e.g. mountpoint busy).

>

- > this normalization of error information does kind of suck ... but i
- > think the way it's written, the end user will still get the real
- > answer the second time around when the mount is attempted with root
- > privs and not stderr sent to /dev/null?

No, for example the user will get: "only root can umount foo" instead of "foo is busy", which is very misleading, if the user _can_ umount foo.

Miklos

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