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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