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Subject: Re: Problems with Debian sid VE  
Posted by [rmello](#) on Sat, 19 Apr 2008 17:23:55 GMT  
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On Thu, Apr 17, 2008 at 2:54 PM, Marcin Owsiany <[marcin@owsiany.pl](mailto:marcin@owsiany.pl)> wrote:

>  
> However it's clearly enabled in userspace in the VE, as it tries to  
> mount /selinux. Possibly the UID problems are related to that.

That's what I think too, but the hard thing is disabling the thing.

> My gut feeling is that selinux is to blame. I would try to disable  
> selinux in the VE.  
>  
> As one of my colleagues say "If weird shit happens, check selinux."  
> Root not being able to read /etc/passwd is a fine example of "weird  
> shit" :)

No kidding. The only thing I can find under /etc about selinux is  
under init.d/mtab.sh:

```
init.d/mtab.sh: if selinux_enabled && which restorecon >/dev/null 2>&1  
&& [ -r /etc/mtab ]
```

mtab.sh includes /lib/lsb/init-functions and /lib/init/mount-functions.sh

This latter file checks for selinux being enabled:

```
selinux_enabled () {  
    which selinuxenabled >/dev/null 2>&1 && selinuxenabled  
}
```

selinuxenabled is provided the selinux-utils package. I've created an  
/etc/selinux/config disabling selinux, and symlinked to it from  
/etc/default/selinux, which is where selinux was enabled/disabled on  
etch.

But it still doesnt seem to resolve the issue. Sometimes I can only  
get "proper" root after attempting a dpkg -l (which fails) and reading  
the contents of /var/lib/dpkg/updates/.

When I run selinuxenabled I get a 1 exit code. And then there's this  
(also provided in the selinux-utils package):

```
I have no name!@o2:/# getsebool  
getsebool: SELinux is disabled
```

But still no go. Anyone who knows SELinux knows what I need to do to

really disable it in a VE?

Thanks,

Roberto

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