
Subject: Re: Debian-style init scripts considered harmful?

Posted by [kir](#) on Fri, 11 Jul 2008 03:18:07 GMT

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Steve Wray wrote:

> Hi there,

>

> Debian uses start-stop-daemon in the init scripts to, for one thing,

> stop services.

>

> From the man page:

>

> Note: unless --pidfile is specified, start-stop-daemon behaves similar
> to killall(1). start-stop-daemon will scan the process table looking
> for any processes which match the process name, uid, and/or gid (if
> specified). Any matching process will prevent --start from starting the
> daemon. All matching processes will be sent the KILL signal if --stop
> is specified. For daemons which have long-lived children which need to
> live through a --stop you must specify a pidfile.

>

> For example, nfs-kernel-server does not use --pidfile. It looks for
> nfsd processes to kill.

>

> Suppose that the Openvz host and one of its guests were running NFS
> and, on the host, one were to run /etc/init.d/nfs-kernel-server stop

>

> As I understand it this would have the side-effect of killing off the
> nfsd processes on the guest.

>

That is right, and this is just one of the reasons why we don't
recommend to run anything (but the needed bare minimum like sshd) on the
host system.

There is a solution and a workaround for the problem. The solution is,
right, to fix bad initscripts. I mean, it's not OpenVZ-specific --
relying on process names is wrong, any user can run a process named nfsd
and it should not be killed.

The workaround is to introduce a feature to hide guests' processes from
the host system. This is implemented in OpenVZ kernels >= 2.6.24 as per
bug #511 (<http://bugzilla.openvz.org/511>).
