
Subject: Re: Scientific Linux 5.7 OS Templates in contrib
Posted by [Kelvin Raywood](#) on Wed, 14 Sep 2011 20:55:17 GMT
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Scott Dowdle wrote:

> ...

> The final products are a i386 and an x86_64 contributed SL 5.7 OS Template.

Thanks very much for these Scott. This is much appreciated.

I just wanted to mention one thing that I got bitten by recently with a template from contrib.

In the official templates, /etc/shadow has * in the encrypted-password field for root so that you can't login as root using a password.

In April, an early SL-6.0 template was contributed (scientificlinux-6.0-x86.tar.gz Apr-11-2011) which has an encrypted password string for root.

We normally disable password access to root in /etc/ssh/sshd_config via "PermitRootLogin without-password" and use ssh keys or "vzctl enter" to get root access so didn't notice that the machine had a root password enabled. Also, since it was our first SL-6 container, we didn't have our deployment procedure sorted out properly and this was the sshd_config part.

It didn't take long for some spider to find the machine and guess the password. An IRC robot was installed and /root/.ssh/authorized_keys was overwritten. We noticed fairly quickly and then cracked the password string.

Anyway, we learned our lesson but I think it would also be good practice for contributors to check that their template does not have a root password.

Oh yeah - the cracked password ... password

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