First of all,

thanks for the replies.

Mhmm, meanwhile i deleted everything. I was using the latest debian packages for vzctl (which are AFAIK recent), the latest python versions of the tools not available as debain packages, and kernels 2.6.9 as well as 2.6.16.

BTW, the VIA C3 is a ia32 CPU, the C7 as well (different floating point unit, smaller dye)

I might give it another try using ext3 file systems (although i like SGI's file system better) on a fresh installation within the next days.

Different question: are there any guidelines of the specifics needed to extend a working non-virtualizing kernel configuration tuned for a given machine (static, no modules) to include openvz ?

Is there anything in addition to the obvious parameters which has to be considered?