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Subject: How does the clock work in OpenVZ?

Posted by [Wolfgang Schnerring](#) on Fri, 09 Mar 2007 09:30:22 GMT

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Hello,

I'm trying to understand whether OpenVZ does anything special about time, and thus whether I need to take care to somehow synchronize the clocks of HN and VEs. For example, can `gettimeofday(2)` return different things in the HN and in a VE?

Thanks for your help,  
Wolfgang

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Subject: Re: How does the clock work in OpenVZ?

Posted by [dev](#) on Fri, 09 Mar 2007 09:51:26 GMT

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Wolfgang,

> I'm trying to understand whether OpenVZ does anything special about  
> time, and thus whether I need to take care to somehow synchronize the  
> clocks of HN and VEs.

no. system time is global for the whole node and its VEs.

By default, VE can not change system time (it requires `CAP_SYS_TIME`)

> For example, can `gettimeofday(2)` return

> different things in the HN and in a VE?

it can :) but only if different timezones are selected in VEs.

So you can setup `ntpd` on the host node and that's all.

Thanks,  
Kirill

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Subject: Re: How does the clock work in OpenVZ?

Posted by [Wolfgang Schnerring](#) on Fri, 09 Mar 2007 10:27:48 GMT

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Hello Kirill,

\* Kirill Korotaev <[dev@sw.ru](mailto:dev@sw.ru)> [2007-03-09 13:04]:

> > I'm trying to understand whether OpenVZ does anything special about

> > time, and thus whether I need to take care to somehow synchronize the

> > clocks of HN and VEs.

> no. system time is global for the whole node and its VEs.

> By default, VE can not change system time (it requires CAP\_SYS\_TIME)  
>  
>> For example, can gettimeofday(2) return  
>> different things in the HN and in a VE?  
> it can :) but only if different timezones are selected in VEs.  
> So you can setup ntpd on the host node and that's all.

Thanks for your quick response! Now I don't need to fear asynchrony anymore. 8-)

Wolfgang

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Subject: Re: How does the clock work in OpenVZ?  
Posted by [Mike Holloway](#) on Fri, 09 Mar 2007 16:44:20 GMT  
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On Mar 9, 2007, at 4:04 AM, Kirill Korotaev wrote:

> Wolfgang,  
>  
>> I'm trying to understand whether OpenVZ does anything special about  
>> time, and thus whether I need to take care to somehow synchronize the  
>> clocks of HN and VEs.  
> no. system time is global for the whole node and its VEs.  
> By default, VE can not change system time (it requires CAP\_SYS\_TIME)  
>  
>> For example, can gettimeofday(2) return  
>> different things in the HN and in a VE?  
> it can :) but only if different timezones are selected in VEs.  
> So you can setup ntpd on the host node and that's all.  
>  
> Thanks,  
> Kirill

Or even better, set up ntpd inside a VE that has CAP\_SYS\_TIME.

```
vzctl set 101 --capability sys_time:on --save
```

-mike

>  
>

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