Subject: Difference between root and private, what to take in backup?
Posted by ugob on Tue, 24 Apr 2007 02:57:44 GMT
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Hi,

I've started playing with vzdump and it reminded me that I have one question about OpenVZ: What is the difference between root and the private area?

What do I need to take in backup?

With vzdump, you have several options for taking the backup.

(without argument) -> no snapshot, just archive the VE private area and configuration files to the default dump directory

--stop   (stop/start VPS if running)
--suspend (suspend/resume VPS when running)
--snapshot (Use LVM snapshot when running)

Which one is better for what kind of environment?

For example, I think that the without any arguments is ok for my VE running only SSH.

However, for my RT VE (httpd/mysql), I guess I should use --suspend or --stop to make sure the mysql data is consistent...

What is the big difference between --snapshot and --stop? The time needed for the VE to stop and boot?

Regards,
Ugo

Subject: Re: Difference between root and private, what to take in backup?
Posted by Vasily Tarasov on Tue, 24 Apr 2007 07:59:13 GMT
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Quote:I've started playing with vzdump and it reminded me that I have one question about OpenVZ: What is the difference between root and the private area?

When VE is stopped you have contents only in private/<veid> directory. When VE starts simfs filesystem is mounted on root/<veid>. Simfs is a mirror-like filesystem: it mirrors the contents of private/<veid> to root/<veid>. The reason to use simfs is to isolate VE's filesystem from HN's one.

As concerns vzdump - I've never used it. So the question is mainly to its author.

Vasily.

Subject: Re: Difference between root and private, what to take in backup?
Posted by ugob on Tue, 24 Apr 2007 10:38:13 GMT
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Vasily Tarasov wrote on Tue, 24 April 2007 03:59Quote:I've started playing with vzdump and it reminded me that I have one question about OpenVZ: What is the difference between root and the private area?

When VE is stopped you have contents only in private/<veid> directory. When VE starts simfs filesystem is mounted on root/<veid>. Simfs is a mirror-like filesystem: it mirrors the contents of private/<veid> to root/<veid>. The reason to use simfs is to isolate VE's filesystem from HN's one.

Ok, so I guess one should never edit files directly in the root?

If, for example, I want to make a backup of my VE that is only an ftp server, should I do a rsync of /home in the root or private?

Thanks

Subject: Re: Difference between root and private, what to take in backup?
Posted by Vasily Tarasov on Tue, 24 Apr 2007 11:56:32 GMT
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The best way is to stop VE and then do a backup of private area, otherwise inconsistent backup can be performed.

Vasily.

Subject: Re: Difference between root and private, what to take in backup?
Posted by ugob on Tue, 24 Apr 2007 12:01:33 GMT
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Vasily Tarasov wrote on Tue, 24 April 2007 07:56The best way is to stop VE and then do a backup of private area, otherwise inconsistent backup can be performed.

Even if we use --suspend?

Ugo

Subject: Re: Difference between root and private, what to take in backup?
Posted by Vasily Tarasov on Tue, 24 Apr 2007 14:57:14 GMT
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And what is "--suspend"? If it is an option of vzdump - then I don't know, I've never looked at its internal design

Vasily.

Subject: Re: Difference between root and private, what to take in backup?
Posted by ugob on Tue, 24 Apr 2007 15:04:12 GMT
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Vasily Tarasov wrote on Tue, 24 April 2007 10:57And what is "--suspend"? If it is an option of vzdump - then I don't know, I've never looked at its internal design

Vasily.

I guess it uses the same mechanism as

vzctl chkpnt VEID --suspend

Ugo

Subject: Re: Difference between root and private, what to take in backup?
Posted by Vasily Tarasov on Tue, 24 Apr 2007 15:24:39 GMT
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Then vzdump also saves checkpointing file (contents all VE processes state and alike information), does it? If so, then it's rather good method for live-backup on my mind.

Vasily.

Subject: Re: Difference between root and private, what to take in backup?
Posted by mgiammarco on Tue, 01 May 2007 19:38:54 GMT
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I am interested too in this thread. I have one lvm partition with all my virtual machines. I would like to backup them with backuppc.

It would be a nice thing that I can restore the virtual machine several times in several directories as a sort of "homemade" template. With backuppc is easy to do so.

I would like to be sure to backup the right thing: home or private?

And I suppose I do not need to suspend virtual machines because I backup with snapshots.

Thanks for help and for this interesting thread.

Mario

Subject: Re: Difference between root and private, what to take in backup?
Posted by dev on Fri, 04 May 2007 12:59:16 GMT
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regardless of vzdump let me explain how it works and what should be backuped.

root/VEID is a directory where everything is mounted, it is a filesystem how VE sees it. It has /proc and /sysfs mounted inside and can have other filesystems mounted or bind mounted by the user inside.

private/VEID is actually a storage for VE files. It is how it really looks like on the disk. In the simplest case it looks pretty much the same as root.
So this is the directory which should be backuped and restored if needed. i.e. private, not root.
Even if VE is started, private - not root should be backup.

Hope this helps!

Subject: Re: Difference between root and private, what to take in backup?
Posted by ugob on Sat, 05 May 2007 00:17:47 GMT
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Thanks, it is a lot clearer now