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Subject: OS template creation

Posted by [jmelyn](#) on Thu, 21 Jun 2007 07:51:46 GMT

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Hi there,

I've discovered OpenVZ and I've just tested it. Well, not yet confident in the way to make it working. I have few questions, surely obvious for most of you:

\* At the present moment, is it better to have a host OS limited to 32 bit or 64 bit OS works fine?

\* In case of 32 bit host OS, can I have VEs using 64 bit templates? And the other way: 64 bit host OS with 32 bit VEs?

\* I'd like to have VEs using SLC4 (Scientific Linux CERN 4) based on RHEL4 (working with RPM and YUM). There is of course no template created yet, so I have to create one. Did not found any good explanation of what and how to do that job, just tricks and recipes. Maybe I'm a bit limited .

For the last point, can someone give me the way to create a template from scratch? Maybe just the address of a good paper. If there is no and I succeed in setting everything up and running, I can write some wiki for newbies (OpenVZ for dummies )

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Subject: Re: OS template creation

Posted by [kir](#) on Thu, 21 Jun 2007 10:08:28 GMT

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jmelyn wrote on Thu, 21 June 2007 11:51\* At the present moment, is it better to have a host OS limited to 32 bit or 64 bit OS works fine?

64 bit OS works fine, but template tools are limited to 32-bit. That means you have to create 64-bit template in a more manual fashion.

Quote:\* In case of 32 bit host OS, can I have VEs using 64 bit templates? And the other way: 64 bit host OS with 32 bit VEs?

64 bit host OS handles 32 bit VEs just fine -- but not the other way!

Quote:\* I'd like to have VEs using SLC4 (Scientific Linux CERN 4) based on RHEL4 (working with RPM and YUM). There is of course no template created yet, so I have to create one. Did not found any good explanation of what and how to do that job, just tricks and recipes. Maybe I'm a bit limited .

If for 32 bit, start from learning what vztmpl-centos-4 consists of (that all should be pretty straightforward), then modify it to use SLC repositories, then run vzpkgcache to create SLC templates. Any questions -- ask here.

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Subject: Re: OS template creation  
Posted by [jmelyn](#) on Thu, 21 Jun 2007 14:54:55 GMT  
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Fine! Thank you for your comments, kir . Now just three specific questions about dir and files:

- \* Are the files \*.list in config dir just the list returned by rpm -qa on the OS that has to become a VE?
  - \* Are the names of the different \*.list files used as <os\_name> when creating a new VE: vzctl create 101 --ostemplate <os\_name> ...?
  - \* Do I need a vz-addons dir? What is it used for?
- 

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Subject: Re: OS template creation  
Posted by [sspt](#) on Thu, 21 Jun 2007 15:04:53 GMT  
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jmelyn

- \* Are the files \*.list in config dir just the list returned by rpm -qa on the OS that has to become a VE?

Those files are the 'base' rpms you want to install  
Yum will install these packages and it's dependencies

jmelyn

- \* Are the names of the different \*.list files used as <os\_name> when creating a new VE: vzctl create --ostemplate <os\_name> ...?

```
/vz/template/$os/$ver/$arch/config/$xxxx.list  
vzctl create 10001 --ostemplate $os-$ver-$arch-$xxxx
```

E.g.

```
/vz/template/cern/4/i386/config/minimal.list  
vzctl create 10001 --ostemplate cern-4-i386-minimal
```

jmelyn

- \* Do I need a vz-addons dir? What is it used for?
- Yes, you'll need the makedev, vzdev since it'll create your vps devices /dev/ (udev don't work inside a VE)
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Subject: Re: OS template creation

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Posted by [sspt](#) on Thu, 21 Jun 2007 15:06:25 GMT

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For cern 4.5 you can use CentOS 4 metadata with the following yum.conf based on centOS 4 yum.conf

```
[main]
cachedir=/vz/template/cern/4/i386/yum-cache/
# Ugly hack to make yum disregard /etc/yum.repos.d/*repo files
# from both the host system and from inside VPS
reposdir=/dev/null
# Fix for bug #78 - we do not want to install dummy,
# we want to upgrade it.
installonlypkgs=""
```

```
[cern4-vz-addons]
name=OpenVZ add-ons for Cern 4 - i386
baseurl=file:///vz/template/cern/4/i386/vz-addons/
enabled=1
gpgcheck=0
```

```
[cern4-base]
name=Cern 4 - i386 - Base
baseurl=ftp://linuxsoft.cern.ch/cern/slc44/i386/yum/os
enabled=1
gpgcheck=1
```

```
[cern4-updates-released]
name=Cern 4 - i386 - Released Updates
baseurl=ftp://linuxsoft.cern.ch/cern/slc44/i386/yum/updates
enabled=1
gpgcheck=1
```

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Subject: Re: OS template creation

Posted by [jmelyn](#) on Fri, 22 Jun 2007 07:06:43 GMT

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Thanx for the information, sspt.

\* \*.list in config dir: If I want to create my own template of Scientific Linux, I should put only the base package list (.rpm) so that I get all of them at the end of VE's installation. But I don't know how to get them (only the base ones), so I suppose providing all (about 1000!) won't be an error.

\* yum.conf: I modified the file from the centos-4 template and got roughly the one you gave me. I'm in the right direction .

\* vz-addons: I don't understand yet the use of those files, but you told me that to access its own private files, a VE needs them. In order to create the Scientific Linux template from CentOS, should I change them or just make a simple copy? Because there is a dummy-centos-4-1.0-3.swsoft.i386.rpm file that must be specific to CentOS... Maybe I can change the name to dummy-SLC4.swsoft.i386.rpm?

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Subject: Re: OS template creation  
Posted by [kir](#) on Fri, 22 Jun 2007 11:26:03 GMT  
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No need to change the name -- dummy-centos4 should be fine.

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