

---

Subject: namespaces compatibility list

Posted by [Pavel Emelianov](#) on Tue, 06 Nov 2007 10:51:21 GMT

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Hi guys!

As you might have seen, recently there was some spontaneous discussion about the namespaces-working-together problems.

Ted T'so proposed to create some document that describes what problems user may have when he/she creates some new namespace, but keeps others shared. I like this idea, so here's the draft with the problems I currently have in mind and can describe somewhat audibly - the "namespaces compatibility list".

The Documentation/namespaces/ dir is about to contain more docs about the namespaces stuff (e.g. I'm going to prepare a doc about the pid namespaces, maybe Serge will want to write something about the user namespaces development, Eric may want to put some notes about the netns API and so on), but currently there will be only one file.

What would you say about it?

Signed-off-by: Pavel Emelyanov <xemul@openvz.org>

---

```
diff --git a/Documentation/namespaces/compatibility-list.txt
b/Documentation/namespaces/compatibility-list.txt
new file mode 100644
index 0000000..4be4a3c
--- /dev/null
+++ b/Documentation/namespaces/compatibility-list.txt
@@ -0,0 +1,32 @@
+ Namespaces compatibility list
+
+This document contains the information about the problems user
+may have when creating tasks living in different namespaces.
+
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+occur when tasks share some namespace (the columns) while living
+in different other namespaces (the rows):
+
+ UTS IPC VFS PID User Net
+UTS
+IPC 1
+VFS
```

+PID 1 1  
+User 2  
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+ object inside the kernel. E.g. semaphore with ipcid or  
+ process group with pid.  
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+ In both cases, tasks shouldn't try telling this id to some  
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+ within the namespace it was obtained in and may refer to some  
+ other object in another namespace.  
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+2. Intentionally, two equal user ids in different user namespaces  
+ should not be equal from the VFS point of view. In other  
+ words, user 10 in one user namespace shouldn't have the same  
+ access permissions to files, belonging to user 10 in another  
+ namespace. But currently this is not so.

---

Containers mailing list  
Containers@lists.linux-foundation.org  
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Subject: Re: namespaces compatibility list  
Posted by [dev](#) on Tue, 06 Nov 2007 12:33:15 GMT  
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imho very good idea and we'll have more and more docs there...  
(the only issue I see - it would be nice to have cgroups docs in the same place,  
though cgroups are not about namespaces directly.)

Acked-By: Kirill Korotaev <[dev@sw.ru](mailto:dev@sw.ru)>

Pavel Emelyanov wrote:

> Hi guys!  
>  
> As you might have seen, recently there was some spontaneous  
> discussion about the namespaces-working-together problems.  
>  
> Ted T'so proposed to create some document that describes what  
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> Signed-off-by: Pavel Emelyanov <xemul@openvz.org>
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```

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---

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> https://lists.linux-foundation.org/mailman/listinfo/containers  
>

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Subject: Re: namespaces compatibility list  
Posted by [Cedric Le Goater](#) on Tue, 06 Nov 2007 12:54:37 GMT  
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Pavel Emelyanov wrote:

> Hi guys!

>

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>

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that compatibility list could be encoded in the way we check  
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> What would you say about it?

well, as this is user space issues, I'd say that we should

help building a good man page. What's in Documentation/ could help to do that but I don't trust documentation when it's maintained in 2 places.

So a check\_flags() routine for namespaces with all the required comments would probably be more helpful for the manpage maintainer.

I was thinking of merging some clone flags together also and keep only 3, NS, PID and NET.

```
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> Signed-off-by: Pavel Emelyanov <xemul@openvz.org>
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> + UTS IPC VFS PID User Net
> +UTS
> +IPC 1
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> +PID 1 1
> +User 2
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```

funny, I had just started doing :

```
depends on VFS PID IPC NET UTS MQ
VFS *
PID **
IPC **
NET **
```

UTS \*  
MQ \*\* ? \*\*

I kept VFS out for the moment.

I would rather build a matrix giving the dependencies. nop ? which is a way to enforce the clone flags.

C.

> +1. Both the IPC and the PID namespaces provide IDs to address  
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---

Subject: Re: namespaces compatibility list  
Posted by [Pavel Emelianov](#) on Tue, 06 Nov 2007 13:00:12 GMT  
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Cedric Le Goater wrote:  
> Pavel Emelyanov wrote:  
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How can we insure, that a new task will not share the files  
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interaction? There's no way to do it. We can only keep them in  
one IPC namespace...

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>  
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Subject: Re: namespaces compatibility list  
Posted by [Cedric Le Goater](#) on Tue, 06 Nov 2007 16:01:31 GMT  
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---

Pavel Emelyanov wrote:  
> Cedric Le Goater wrote:  
>> Pavel Emelyanov wrote:  
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C.

---

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Subject: Re: namespaces compatibility list  
Posted by [Pavel Emelianov](#) on Tue, 06 Nov 2007 16:10:33 GMT  
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---

Cedric Le Goater wrote:

> Pavel Emelyanov wrote:

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in the copy\_process()/sys\_unshare() and return -EINVAL for the cases  
we consider to be unsafe. E.g. when a user wants to clone new pid  
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But my point is that this check is not enough - user may kill himself  
by cloning a pid namespace and sharing the pids via the filesystem  
(like with the example with futexes) and there's no way to check for  
this situation in the copy\_process()/sys\_unshare.

I mean that this list cannot be encoded. But we can warn user, that  
some stuff will stop working if he violates some rules.

> C.

>

---

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---

Subject: Re: namespaces compatibility list

Posted by [ebiederm](#) on Tue, 06 Nov 2007 16:36:26 GMT

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---

Pavel Emelyanov <xemul@openvz.org> writes:

> +2. Intentionnaly, two equal user ids in different user namespaces  
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> + namespace. But currently this is not so.

I don't know where this is going to land for a final call.  
But if the pid namespace has a chance of landing under CONFIG\_BROKEN  
for the final stable release.

We seriously want to consider the user namespace for the same treatment.  
We all seem to agree that it is incomplete.

Eric

---

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Subject: Re: namespaces compatibility list

Posted by [Cedric Le Goater](#) on Tue, 06 Nov 2007 16:46:09 GMT

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Pavel Emelyanov wrote:

> Cedric Le Goater wrote:

>> Pavel Emelyanov wrote:

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yes.

> But my point is that this check is not enough - user may kill himself  
> by cloning a pid namespace and sharing the pids via the filesystem  
> (like with the example with futexes) and there's no way to check for  
> this situation in the copy\_process()/sys\_unshare.

right. I think we can address Ulrich concerns first because we have  
a solution for it (which looks like unsharing all namespaces at once,  
here comes back the container object story :)

> I mean that this list cannot be encoded. But we can warn user, that  
> some stuff will stop working if he violates some rules.

and then do that for the futexes, which are a real difficult case.

thanks,

C.

---

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Containers@lists.linux-foundation.org

<https://lists.linux-foundation.org/mailman/listinfo/containers>

---

---

Subject: Re: namespaces compatibility list

Posted by [Cedric Le Goater](#) on Tue, 06 Nov 2007 16:48:32 GMT

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---

Eric W. Biederman wrote:

> Pavel Emelyanov <xemul@openvz.org> writes:

>

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> I don't know where this is going to land for a final call.  
> But if the pid namespace has a chance of landing under CONFIG\_BROKEN  
> for the final stable release.

I preferred immature but he, any config name would do, just to make sure it doesn't get shipped by default in distros

> We seriously want to consider the user namespace for the same treatment.  
> We all seem to agree that it is incomplete.

yes.

C.

---

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---

---

Subject: Re: namespaces compatibility list  
Posted by [ebiederm](#) on Tue, 06 Nov 2007 17:00:27 GMT  
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---

Cedric Le Goater <[clg@fr.ibm.com](mailto:clg@fr.ibm.com)> writes:  
> right. I think we can address Ulrich concerns first because we have  
> a solution for it (which looks like unsharing all namespaces at once,  
> here comes back the container object story :)

It doesn't work because we can't create a fresh mount namespace.

We need to create all new mounts (and deny access to the old ones)  
if we want to prevent all possibility of user space goof ups.

While that is easy enough to build an application to do we can't  
easily enforce that in the kernel. Currently this is all  
CAP\_SYS\_ADMIN so only root can do this anyway. So we can easily  
say don't do that then.

Clone flag consistency checking should only be used to enforce  
cases where the kernel side cannot support correctly. Currently  
the kernel has no problems with the current mix and match possibilities  
short of implementation deficiencies. So I do not see us  
addressing Ulrich's concerns with clone flags.

Eric

---

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Subject: Re: namespaces compatibility list  
Posted by [Pavel Emelianov](#) on Tue, 06 Nov 2007 17:09:01 GMT  
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Eric W. Biederman wrote:

> Cedric Le Goater <clg@fr.ibm.com> writes:  
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ACK :) Since this all is CAP\_SYS\_ADMIN-ed we can do with just a warning.

> Eric  
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<https://lists.linux-foundation.org/mailman/listinfo/containers>

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Subject: Re: namespaces compatibility list  
Posted by [ebiederm](#) on Tue, 06 Nov 2007 17:46:23 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Pavel Emelyanov <xemul@openvz.org> writes:

> Eric W. Biederman wrote:  
>> Cedric Le Goater <clg@fr.ibm.com> writes:  
>>> right. I think we can address Ulrich concerns first because we have  
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>> short of implementation deficiencies. So I do not see us  
>> addressing Ulrich's concerns with clone flags.  
>  
> ACK :) Since this all is CAP\_SYS\_ADMIN-ed we can do with just a warning.

So to restate.

clone flags consistency checks are for things the kernel can't do or  
for things that the kernel can't do securely.

If all we do is confuse user space if used improperly it's simply  
a don't do that then.

CAP\_SYS\_ADMIN keeps us untrusted applications from confusing suid  
executables, which is the only case where confusion counts as a  
security hole.

Eric

---

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---

---

Subject: Re: namespaces compatibility list  
Posted by [Cedric Le Goater](#) on Wed, 07 Nov 2007 08:14:04 GMT  
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Eric W. Biederman wrote:

> Cedric Le Goater <clg@fr.ibm.com> writes:  
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> It doesn't work because we can't create a fresh mount namespace.  
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> We need to create all new mounts (and deny access to the old ones)  
> if we want to prevent all possibility of user space goof ups.

arg. yes, I keep on forgetting this one.

C.

> While that is easy enough to build an application to do we can't  
> easily enforce that in the kernel. Currently this is all  
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> Eric

---

Containers mailing list  
Containers@lists.linux-foundation.org  
<https://lists.linux-foundation.org/mailman/listinfo/containers>

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Subject: Re: namespaces compatibility list  
Posted by [Cedric Le Goater](#) on Wed, 07 Nov 2007 08:20:58 GMT  
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Pavel Emelyanov wrote:

> Eric W. Biederman wrote:  
>> Cedric Le Goater <clg@fr.ibm.com> writes:  
>>> right. I think we can address Ulrich concerns first because we have  
>>> a solution for it (which looks like unsharing all namespaces at once,  
>>> here comes back the container object story :)  
>> It doesn't work because we can't create a fresh mount namespace.  
>>  
>> We need to create all new mounts (and deny access to the old ones)  
>> if we want to prevent all possibility of user space goof ups.  
>>



>> While that is easy enough to build an application to do we can't  
>> easily enforce that in the kernel. Currently this is all  
>> CAP\_SYS\_ADMIN so only root can do this anyway. So we can easily  
>> say don't do that then.  
>>  
>> Clone flag consistency checking should only be used to enforce  
>> cases where the kernel side cannot support correctly. Currently  
>> the kernel has no problems with the current mix and match possibilities  
>> short of implementation deficiencies. So I do not see us  
>> addressing Ulrich's concerns with clone flags.  
>  
> ACK :) Since this all is CAP\_SYS\_ADMIN-ed we can do with just a warning.

Fine with me.

Let's come back to the document, then.

C.

---

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Subject: Re: namespaces compatibility list  
Posted by [Pavel Emelianov](#) on Wed, 07 Nov 2007 09:29:04 GMT  
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Cedric Le Goater wrote:  
> Pavel Emelianov wrote:  
>> Eric W. Biederman wrote:  
>>> Cedric Le Goater <[clg@fr.ibm.com](mailto:clg@fr.ibm.com)> writes:  
>>>> right. I think we can address Ulrich concerns first because we have  
>>>> a solution for it (which looks like unsharing all namespaces at once,  
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>>> short of implementation deficiencies. So I do not see us  
>>> addressing Ulrich's concerns with clone flags.  
>> ACK :) Since this all is CAP\_SYS\_ADMIN-ed we can do with just a warning.  
>  
> Fine with me.  
>  
> Let's come back to the document, then.

:) Let's. Does anybody have any comments about the current text? :)

> C.  
>

---

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Subject: Re: namespaces compatibility list  
Posted by [Cedric Le Goater](#) on Wed, 07 Nov 2007 13:49:03 GMT  
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There's also a Documentation/unshare.txt. Should we update it also ?

> --- /dev/null  
> +++ b/Documentation/namespaces/compatibility-list.txt  
> @@ -0,0 +1,32 @@  
> + Namespaces compatibility list  
> +  
> +This document contains the information about the problems user  
> +may have when creating tasks living in different namespaces.  
> +  
> +Here's the summary. This matrix shows the known problems, that  
> +occur when tasks share some namespace (the columns) while living  
> +in different other namespaces (the rows):

s/raws/rows/

> +  
> + UTS IPC VFS PID User Net  
> +UTS  
> +IPC 1  
> +VFS  
> +PID 1 1  
> +User 2  
> +Net

This is dense but I can't think of a better representation.

- > +1. Both the IPC and the PID namespaces provide IDs to address
- > + object inside the kernel. E.g. semaphore with ipcid or
- > + process group with pid.
- > +
- > + In both cases, tasks shouldn't try telling this id to some

s/telling/exposing/ ?

- > + other task living in different namespace via shared filesystem

.. in a different namespace via a shared filesystem

- > + or IPC shmem/message. The fact is that this ID is only valid
- > + within the namespace it was obtained in and may refer to some
- > + other object in another namespace.
- > +
- > +2. Intentionally, two equal user ids in different user namespaces
- > + should not be equal from the VFS point of view. In other
- > + words, user 10 in one user namespace shouldn't have the same
- > + access permissions to files, belonging to user 10 in another
- > + namespace. But currently this is not so.
- >
- >

Thanks Pavel,

C.

---

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