
Subject: Veth mac generation

Posted by [dietmar](#) on Wed, 11 Jun 2008 10:46:31 GMT

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Hi all,

The code to generate mac addresses for veth (generate_mac in veth.c) uses the Constant SW_OUI for upper 3 bytes, and random values for lower 3 bytes. Thus giving 2^24 possible values.

Isn't it better to use random numbers for all 6 bytes, like the code in the linux kernel:

```
static inline void random_ether_addr(u8 *addr)
{
    get_random_bytes (addr, ETH_ALEN);
    addr [0] &= 0xfe;    /* clear multicast bit */
    addr [0] |= 0x02;    /* set local assignment bit (IEEE802) */
}
```

That would make conflict less likely.

- Dietmar

Subject: Re: Veth mac generation

Posted by [Kirill Korotaev](#) on Wed, 11 Jun 2008 13:46:49 GMT

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and yes and no.

These upper 3 bytes are reserved for our company, so selecting them you will never conflict with other devices in network infrastructure. i.e. the worst what can happen 2 veths will conflict.

On the other hand - you are right, 6 bytes are better :)

Kirill

Dietmar Maurer wrote:

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> - Dietmar
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Subject: AW: Veth mac generation
Posted by [dietmar](#) on Thu, 12 Jun 2008 05:40:03 GMT
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Why I asked is because of that bridge problem:

http://forum.openvz.org/index.php?t=msg&th=5291&#msg_26576

A bridge always select the lowest mac address.

This patch solves the problem, but i am not sure if there are side effects.

<https://lists.linux-foundation.org/pipermail/bridge/2008-June/005895.html>

The SWSOFT OID is quite 'low', so the problem occurs frequently.

- Dietmar

> Von: users-bounces@openvz.org
> [mailto:users-bounces@openvz.org] Im Auftrag von Kirill Korotaev
> Gesendet: Mittwoch, 11. Juni 2008 15:47
> An: users@openvz.org
> Betreff: Re: [Users] Veth mac generation
>
> and yes and no.
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> network infrastructure.
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Subject: Re: AW: Veth mac generation
Posted by [Kirill Korotaev](#) on Fri, 13 Jun 2008 00:21:19 GMT
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Do I understand correctly that you actually experience the following problem:
1. veth MAC address is lower then your ethX MAC.
2. so brX is assigned min(vethX-MAC, ethX-MAC) which is vethX-MAC.
3. and what is the your problem with that? that host system MAC changes dynamically and networking breaks or what?

I just can't see how fully random 6 bytes MAC can help. Because sometimes it will be "low" enough as well
and you will hit the problem anyway.

If I got your problem right then I can advise you a possible solution - in RHEL5 kernel we have a functionality called
"via_phys_dev" (triggered by BRCTL_SET_VIA_ORIG_DEV ioctl). This forces kernel to work with original
interface ethX (first added to bridge) and pass the traffic to it. This allows to add ethX to bridge
w/o need
to propagate it's netfilter rules and other settings to brX.

Thanks,
Kirill

Dietmar Maurer wrote:

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Subject: AW: AW: Veth mac generation
Posted by [dietmar](#) on Fri, 13 Jun 2008 06:52:34 GMT
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> 2. so brX is assigned min(vethX-MAC, ethX-MAC) which is vethX-MAC.
> 3. and what is the your problem with that? that host system
> MAC changes dynamically and networking breaks or what?

The host gets unreachable for about 20 seconds (because ARP mappings are wrong now)

> I just can't see how fully random 6 bytes MAC can help.
> Because sometimes it will be "low" enough as well and you
> will hit the problem anyway.

Well one idea was to assign macs starting with 'fe' - but ist not a good idea anyways.

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> solution - in RHEL5 kernel we have a functionality called
> "via_phys_dev" (triggered by BRCTL_SET_VIA_ORIG_DEV ioctl).
> This forces kernel to work with original interface ethX
> (first added to bridge) and pass the traffic to it. This
> allows to add ethX to bridge w/o need to propogate it's
> netfilter rules and other settings to brX.

Interesting - thanks for that hint.

- Dietmar

Subject: AW: AW: Veth mac generation
Posted by [dietmar](#) on Fri, 13 Jun 2008 09:43:33 GMT
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Looking at the openvz-2.6.24 sources that via_phys_dev is
already there. I just wonder how to use it:

```
brctl addbr vmbr0  
echo 1 > /sys/class/net/vmbr0/bridge/via_phys_dev  
brctl addif eth0
```

But looks like ip setting of eth0 gets lost (or what is
meant by 'and other settings?'). Maybe you have further info
How to use that feature?

- Dietmar

Subject: Re: AW: AW: Veth mac generation
Posted by [Kirill Korotaev](#) on Fri, 13 Jun 2008 17:03:38 GMT
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Dietmar Maurer wrote:

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> brctl addif eth0
>
> But looks like ip setting of eth0 gets lost (or what is
> meant by 'and other settings?'). Maybe you have further info
> How to use that feature?
```

Sorry, I can't check right now. So can only say what I remember.
The idea was really to make traffic going through original ethX device
so you don't need to reconfigure anything in the host after bridge creation.

in general command look right. I guess you also need to make vmbr0 interface up before adding
eth0.
plz check.

Thanks,
Kirill
