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Subject: Debian-style init scripts considered harmful?  
Posted by [Steve Wray](#) on Fri, 11 Jul 2008 01:23:48 GMT  
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Hi there,

Debian uses start-stop-daemon in the init scripts to, for one thing, stop services.

From the man page:

Note: unless --pidfile is specified, start-stop-daemon behaves similar to killall(1). start-stop-daemon will scan the process table looking for any processes which match the process name, uid, and/or gid (if specified). Any matching process will prevent --start from starting the daemon. All matching processes will be sent the KILL signal if --stop is specified. For daemons which have long-lived children which need to live through a --stop you must specify a pidfile.

For example, nfs-kernel-server does not use --pidfile. It looks for nfsd processes to kill.

Suppose that the Openvz host and one of its guests were running NFS and, on the host, one were to run /etc/init.d/nfs-kernel-server stop

As I understand it this would have the side-effect of killing off the nfsd processes on the guest.

If true, this would seem somewhat... harsh?

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Subject: Re: Debian-style init scripts considered harmful?  
Posted by [kir](#) on Fri, 11 Jul 2008 03:18:07 GMT  
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Steve Wray wrote:

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> nfsd processes on the guest.  
>  
That is right, and this is just one of the reasons why we don't  
recommend to run anything (but the needed bare minimum like sshd) on the  
host system.

There is a solution and a workaround for the problem. The solution is,  
right, to fix bad initscripts. I mean, it's not OpenVZ-specific --  
relying on process names is wrong, any user can run a process named nfsd  
and it should not be killed.

The workaround is to introduce a feature to hide guests' processes from  
the host system. This is implemented in OpenVZ kernels >= 2.6.24 as per  
bug #511 (<http://bugzilla.openvz.org/511>).

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Subject: Re: Debian-style init scripts considered harmful?

Posted by [Oliver Heinz](#) on Fri, 11 Jul 2008 09:29:06 GMT

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Am Freitag 11 Juli 2008 05:18:07 schrieb Kir Kolyshkin:

....

> The workaround is to introduce a feature to hide guests' processes from  
> the host system. This is implemented in OpenVZ kernels >= 2.6.24 as per  
> bug #511 (<http://bugzilla.openvz.org/511>).

That is great news, I don't consider it a workaround, seems like a great  
feature to me :-)

I preferred vservers behaviour on that. You have a special context (1) where  
you see all processes and in the root context (0) you see just those that  
belong to the root server. And you may change to context 1 if you really want  
to operate on the whole process list.

So thanks for creating this "workaround"! Will it still be possible to see the  
complete processlist including those hidden guests if you want to do it on  
purpose?

[ups, am i hijacking this thread? I hope it's still of relevance to the original poster]

Oliver

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Subject: Re: Debian-style init scripts considered harmful?  
Posted by [Steve Wray](#) on Thu, 17 Jul 2008 01:41:24 GMT  
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Kir Kolyshkin wrote:

> Steve Wray wrote:

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>> nfsd processes on the guest.

>>

> That is right, and this is just one of the reasons why we don't  
> recommend to run anything (but the needed bare minimum like sshd) on the  
> host system.

In my case, this isn't practical; I use cfengine to manage and maintain  
virtually all of our servers. We have a lot of servers.

In fact, it was cfengine which brought this to my attention; I restarted  
it on the openvz host and then started to get nagios alerts about  
cfengine not running on any of the guests.

It was at this point that I realised that openvz isn't a virtualisation environment; its a very \*very\* sophisticated chroot.

- > There is a solution and a workaround for the problem. The solution is,
- > right, to fix bad initscripts. I mean, it's not OpenVZ-specific --
- > relying on process names is wrong, any user can run a process named nfsd
- > and it should not be killed.
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- > The workaround is to introduce a feature to hide guests' processes from
- > the host system. This is implemented in OpenVZ kernels >= 2.6.24 as per
- > bug #511 (<http://bugzilla.openvz.org/511>).

Well I look forward to trying this out some time!

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