Subject: Troubleshooting VE start failure
Posted by mperkel on Fri, 15 Aug 2008 15:44:04 GMT
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All of a sudden I'm having problems starting VEs. I'm not sure what changed but here's what I'm seeing,

Warning: distribution not specified default used /etc/vz/dists/default
Starting VE ...
VE is mounted
VE start failed
VE is unmounted

The VEs are 64bit Fedora 8.

What I'm wondering is - how do I get more information to track this down? I haven't rebooted or restarted the VZ process because I have some critical VEs running that I don't want to risk the possibility that they won't restart.

Subject: Re: Troubleshooting VE start failure
Posted by kenjy on Fri, 15 Aug 2008 18:09:19 GMT
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Use umount to unlock it:

umount /vz/root/VEID

then try to start it again.

Subject: Re: Troubleshooting VE start failure
Posted by kir on Sat, 16 Aug 2008 04:44:01 GMT
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There are a lot of approaches...

First of all, check dmesg | tail for any erorrs. Then run vzctl start with --verbose.

Check VE config (/etc/vz/conf/$VEID.conf) -- there should be a usual set of parameters. From what I see you do not have OSTEMPLATE parameter specified -- not a problem since vzctl falls to default which happen to be RedHat/Fedora and this is what you're actually running but for the sake of completeness set it to fedora-8 or smth.

If that won't help, issue vzctl mount $VEID and cd to /vz/root/$VEID. There you can see the VE

filesystem. It should look like a normal Linux/UNIX filesystem, i.e. stuff like /bin /lib /sbin /usr /proc etc.

Now you can chroot into it and run some checks:
chroot /vz/root/$VEID
check all RPM packages, there should be a number of warnings but not too much
rpm -Va
(if rpm won't start that something really bad happened to your VE)
check /dev, there should be some basic stuff
ls -l /dev
check logs, they might give you a clue what happened
less /var/log/messages
check /sbin/init
ls -l /sbin/init
ldd /sbin/init # see that all libraries are resolved
check /etc/inittab
less /etc/inittab

Subject: Re: Troubleshooting VE start failure
Posted by pva0xd on Sat, 23 Aug 2008 07:40:41 GMT
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And while we are on topic. Is it possible to see messages from initscripts? How? If not, how do you guys debug initsystems? I have some troubles with openrc (system to manages the services, startup and shutdown of a host) and I'm sure it prints me correct error message but I don't see it...

Subject: Re: Troubleshooting VE start failure
Posted by mperkel on Sat, 23 Aug 2008 11:38:21 GMT
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I have to agree. I would like a vzctl option where I can start a VE and watch the init script run.

Subject: Re: Troubleshooting VE start failure
Posted by piavlo on Sat, 23 Aug 2008 21:37:29 GMT
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IMHO ,in general ,each distribution should support logging the init boot process to some file.
With openrc you can set rc_logger="YES" and it should log the init boot output to /var/log/rc.log
(Similar to baselayout-1* with RC_BOOTLOG="yes" in /etc/rc.conf
and app-admin/showconsole installed.)
However it looks like (at least for me) setting rc_logger="YES" does not work with openrc and openvz combination. I'd be glad
if you can check it /var/log/rc.log is created then you set rc_logger="YES in /etc/rc.conf in VE with openrc installed, so that i could report this bug in openrc as a common problem for all

openvz+openrc users.