Subject: Migrating to OpenVZ from BSD jails
Posted by Phil Lello on Fri, 01 Jul 2011 15:39:45 GMT

Hi all,

I'm currently using a development environment using multiple bsd jails, and would like to migrate to openvz.

The jails need to emulate Ubuntu 10.04 (kernel 2.6.32), however I believe the patches for this kernel are still experimental.

Is this true? If so, are the known issues to do with stability or security?

My needs could probably be met by a simple chroot, but binding IP addresses to a container means I can keep this environment much closer to production (which uses real hardware nodes instead of jails). I don't hugely need a separate pid space (provided all my start/stop scripts use pidfiles instead of polling running processes - something I wouldn't want to make assumptions about).

The only other option I can think of would be full/para virtualisation, but I've currently got about 30 BSD jails, so this makes memory requirements excessive (unless I'm using a bubble memory driver). Full virtualisation is also not ideal, because at some point my dev environment will move to a VM, and nested virtualisation carries it's own set of headaches.

Thanks for any help or advice you can offer,

Phil

Subject: Re: Migrating to OpenVZ from BSD jails
Posted by dowdle on Fri, 01 Jul 2011 17:40:46 GMT

Greetings,

----- Original Message -----
> The jails need to emulate Ubuntu 10.04 (kernel 2.6.32), however I
> believe the patches for this kernel are still experimental.
>
> Is this true? If so, are the known issues to do with stability or
> security?

Depends.

There are two branches based on 2.6.32... the generic one and the RHEL6-based one. Both are

still marked as "Development" here:

http://wiki.openvz.org/Download/kernel

There is also a 2.6.32-based kernel that Debian has in their repos for Debian 6. I believe it uses the OpenVZ 2.6.32 generic patch but of course Debian's kernel isn't the stock kernel.org kernel.

I've heard of a few differences in functionality between the RHEL6-based kernel and that shipped by Debian. Ubuntu does not offer an OpenVZ kernel that I'm aware of.

I've been using the RHEL6-based kernel on RHEL 6.1 and it seems to work fine but it isn't a production machine and I haven't done a whole lot of testing. The OpenVZ Project has been updating the RHEL6-based kernel frequently both to keep up with RHEL kernel updates as well as fix OpenVZ-related bugs that are reported.

So, what host node distro are you planning on using? I'd recommend using the RHEL6-based OpenVZ kernel if at all possible. If you haven't done so already, I strongly recommend you setup a system and give it a try for yourself... and do some testing. If you find any bugs report them to bugzilla.openvz.org.

TYL,
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