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Subject: Scientific Linux 5.7 OS Templates in contrib  
Posted by [dowdle](#) on Wed, 14 Sep 2011 20:20:56 GMT  
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Greetings,

As you may have noticed CentOS 5.7 and Scientific Linux 5.7 both came out today... as did updated official OS Templates from the OpenVZ project. Thanks Kir!

I found a short recipe ( <http://scientificlinuxforum.org/index.php?showtopic=13&hl=bold>) for converting a CentOS host to a Scientific Linux host and decided to give it a try. It worked great. I created a CentOS 5.6 container, followed the recipe and when I was done I had a Scientific Linux 5.7 container. I had to add a couple of extra packages that aren't mentioned in the recipe and I was able to ignore those packages needed for a desktop system (mostly desktop logos and branding stuff).

The final products are a i386 and an x86\_64 contributed SL 5.7 OS Template. You can find them in the usual place (<http://download.openvz.org/template/precreated/contrib/>):

scientific-5-i386-default-5.7-20110914.tar.gz	14-Sep-2011 16:15 157M
scientific-5-i386-default-5.7-20110914.tar.gz.asc	14-Sep-2011 16:15 198
scientific-5-x86_64-default-5.7-20110914.tar.gz	14-Sep-2011 16:18 162M
scientific-5-x86_64-default-5.7-20110914.tar.gz.asc	14-Sep-2011 16:18 198

I hope to update my contributed Fedora, CentOS and SL 6 OS Templates soon too.

Enjoy,

--

Scott Dowdle  
704 Church Street  
Belgrade, MT 59714  
(406)388-0827 [home]  
(406)994-3931 [work]

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Subject: Re: Scientific Linux 5.7 OS Templates in contrib  
Posted by [Kelvin Raywood](#) on Wed, 14 Sep 2011 20:55:17 GMT  
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Scott Dowdle wrote:

> ...

> The final products are a i386 and an x86\_64 contributed SL 5.7 OS Template.

Thanks very much for these Scott. This is much appreciated.

I just wanted to mention one thing that I got bitten by recently with a template from contrib.

In the official templates, /etc/shadow has \* in the encrypted-password field for root so that you can't login as root using a password. In April, an early SL-6.0 template was contributed (scientificlinux-6.0-x86.tar.gz Apr-11-2011) which has an encrypted password string for root.

We normally disable password access to root in /etc/ssh/sshd\_config via "PermitRootLogin without-password" and use ssh keys or "vzctl enter" to get root access so didn't notice that the machine had a root password enabled. Also, since it was our first SL-6 container, we didn't have our deployment procedure sorted out properly and this was the sshd\_config part.

It didn't take long for some spider to find the machine and guess the password. An IRC robot was installed and /root/.ssh/authorized\_keys was overwritten. We noticed fairly quickly and then cracked the password string.

Anyway, we learned our lesson but I think it would also be good practice for contributors to check that their template does not have a root password.

Oh yeah - the cracked password ... password

--

Kel Raywood  
TRIUMF  
Vancouver BC

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Subject: Re: Scientific Linux 5.7 OS Templates in contrib  
Posted by [kir](#) on Wed, 14 Sep 2011 21:36:07 GMT  
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Indeed there is a specific set of actions to be performed on a newly created container which is to be used to make a template. This includes:

- log files truncation;
- yum/apt database cleanup;
- adjustments to cron jobs and init.d services;
- making sure ssh keys are unique (this is specific to Debian, maybe Ubuntu -- they generate key pairs on SSH package installation not the first run);
- disabling root login (usermod -L root should be sufficient, although it's always better to check);
- removing getty entries from inittab (or its upstart/systemd analog) — since there are no terminals in CT;
- making sure syslogd don't do sync () for each log line written (this ruins I/O performance if you have tens or hundreds of CTs);
- proper software repository configuration;
- (optional) removal of unneeded packages (like kernel) just for the sake of

disk space savings (this is usually done by creating stub "dummy" packages that virtually provide the stuff required by other packages but not really needed;

- (optional) removal of some extra stuff like locale data;
- linking /etc/mtab to /proc/mounts (although it might not be needed);
- something else I can't remember at the moment.

Then, some things are performed by vzctl's postcreate.sh script which is run during vzctl create. This, among other things, include crontab times randomization, to prevent all CTs to run say cron.daily jobs at the same time.

Hope that helps,  
Kir.

--

Sent from my Android phone

On Sep 15, 2011 12:57 AM, "Kelvin Raywood" <kray@triumf.ca> wrote:

> Scott Dowdle wrote:

>> ...

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> --  
> Kel Raywood  
> TRIUMF  
> Vancouver BC  
>

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Subject: Re: Scientific Linux 5.7 OS Templates in contrib

Posted by [samiam](#) on Thu, 15 Sep 2011 03:24:18 GMT

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What is the procedure for submitting an OpenVZ image to the contributed OpenVZ templates?

- Sam

2011/9/14 Scott Dowdle <dowdle@montanalinux.org>

> Greetings,  
>  
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> Enjoy,  
> --  
> Scott Dowdle  
> 704 Church Street  
> Belgrade, MT 59714  
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Subject: Re: Scientific Linux 5.7 OS Templates in contrib  
Posted by [dowdle](#) on Thu, 15 Sep 2011 15:25:36 GMT  
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Sam,

----- Original Message -----

> What is the procedure for submitting an OpenVZ image to the  
> contributed OpenVZ templates?

You can give me and/or Kir a URL where we can download your OS Template(s)... and some basic information to associate with it (website with info on it if available, email address of creator). Then we can download it and put it in the contrib section.

TYL,

--

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(406)994-3931 [work]

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