Subject: I have made a Busybox/uClibc OpenVZ template
Posted by samiam on Mon, 15 Aug 2011 15:49:09 GMT
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One annoyance I have had with OpenVZ is that there is not a small template based on Busybox out there. So, in the spirit of open source, I solved this problem by making my own tiny OpenVZ template based on Busybox and uClibc.

This OpenVZ template is fully GPL compliant. Not only does it include the source code, but I spent all weekend burning the midnight oil to make the system self-hosting: It is possible to compile every program that makes up the system inside of the container. I even have a script that will (given enough time) compile all of the bits and clone the entire TinyVZ tree in a subdirectory.

This is a work in progress. Right now, the system is for hard core UNIX/Linux gurus: The only editor is a miniature version of vi included with Busybox (actually, I also compiled in Busybox's version of the "ed" editor, for those who feel vi pampers the user too much); all configuration is done by editing text files. In addition, the compiler can only compile C programs, and can not compile C++ programs.

While things currently have not been set up to allow the vzctl program can not make this container reset its IP or hostname, it is possible to edit the file /etc/sysinit.sh to have it use the IP assigned to it by OpenVZ. For example:

```
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#!/bin/sh

IP=192.168.1.163
HOSTNAME=nightfly
hostname $HOSTNAME

mkdir /proc
mount /proc
mount /dev/pts

PATH=/bin:/sbin:/usr/bin:/usr/sbin:/usr/local/bin
export PATH

ifconfig lo 127.0.0.1
ifconfig venet0 $IP
route add -net 127.0.0.0 dev lo
route add -net 0.0.0.0 dev venet0
```

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This script is one that I am using on a tiny little DNS "toaster" OpenVZ container. By getting rid of the entire compiler toolchain (all of /usr/lib, the binutils in /usr/bin, the header files in /usr/include and /usr/src, the gcc library in /lib, the source code in /build, etc.), I was able to get this container to use under two megabytes of space.

A tarball of this template can be looked at here:

http://samiam.org/TinyVZ/

I hope people find this template useful.

- Sam
