Subject: Question About Debian Squeeze OVZ Kernel
Posted by JR Richardson on Tue, 08 Nov 2011 16:21:17 GMT
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Hi All,

I'm in the lab testing debian squeeze and OVZ. The current debian repository is listing this for the OVZ kernel:

root@ovz-test:~# aptitude show linux-image-2.6.32-5-openvz-686
Package: linux-image-2.6.32-5-openvz-686
State: installed
Automatically installed: yes
Version: 2.6.32-38
Priority: optional
Section: kernel
Maintainer: Debian Kernel Team <debian-kernel@lists.debian.org>
Uncompressed Size: 80.6 M

How does the debian kernel version 2.6.32-*[38]* coorespond to the official OVZ release cycle kernels, the current stable release being (vzkernel-2.6.32-042stab040.1.src.rpm)?

Does this indicate the debian kernel is 4 stable releases behind? Is anyone using the squeeze repository OVZ kernel? Any feedback on stability or use would be appriciated.

Thanks.

JR
--
JR Richardson
Engineering for the Masses

Subject: Re: Question About Debian Squeeze OVZ Kernel
Posted by dowdle on Tue, 08 Nov 2011 17:11:26 GMT
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Greetings,

----- Original Message -----
> I'm in the lab testing debian squeeze and OVZ. The current debian
> repository is listing this for the OVZ kernel:
>
> root@ovz-test:~# aptitude show linux-image-2.6.32-5-openvz-686
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> How does the debian kernel version 2.6.32-*[38]* coorespond to the
> official OVZ release cycle kernels, the current stable release being
> (vzkernel-2.6.32-042stab040.1.src.rpm)?
>
> Does this indicate the debian kernel is 4 stable releases behind? Is
> anyone using the squeeze repository OVZ kernel? Any feedback on
> stability or use would be appriciated.

I think I'm going to dance around your questions some but hopefully answer them.

There are currently three stable OpenVZ kernel branches and they are all based on Red Hat Enterprise Linux kernels: RHEL4 2.6.9, RHEL5 2.6.18, and RHEL6 2.6.32. Please note that Red Hat supports their kernels for 7 years and approximately every 6 months they have a new minor release for each major release that includes an updated kernel with backported drivers, bug and security fixes, and some new features. Although a RHEL kernel is based on a specific mainline version, over their lifetime they get a lot of additional patches by Red Hat long after the mainline kernel developers and most everyone else has abandoned that version. The longer the kernel has been out and the more releases it has had from Red Hat, the more divergent it is from the original/last mainline version.

Debian does not use RHEL-based kernels. Why should they? The kernel they have for Debian 6 is 2.6.32 but with various patches they have added to it. Mainline is still supporting 2.6.32 so I'm sure Debian (and Red Hat for that matter) pull in updates from mainline as they are made available.

The mainline 2.6.32 and the RHEL 2.6.32 kernels are a bit different but don't ask me to go into the technical specifics. For one, I'm not knowledgeable enough about difference.

As you cans see the Debian and the RHEL6-based OpenVZ kernels differ such that a particular release from one can not be ahead or behind another measured in releases. They are just different. In fact the Debian 6 kernel lacks a few features that the RHEL6-based OpenVZ kernels have and vice versa. For example, only the RHEL6-based OpenVZ kernel has vswap and cpulimits. To the best of my knowledge, the Debian kernel does not.

They are just different.

Some recommend, including Kir the OpenVZ project lead (or so I've gathered) using the RHEL6-based kernel on Debian. That takes a little work and doesn't really sound fun. Many Debian users seem to be happy with the Debian provided kernels. I myself recommend using RHEL or an EL clone for the host node (because of the kernel version parity and my own personal preferences) but I realize that isn't necessarily right for everyone.

It would be nice to have a wiki page that details all of the differences between the Debian and RHEL-based kernels but there are probably only a handful of people who know both well enough to really compare them... and they are changing / releasing fairly often.

Did I answer your questions?

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

Subject: RE: Question About Debian Squeeze OVZ Kernel
Posted by Martin Maurer on Tue, 08 Nov 2011 17:45:04 GMT
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Hi,

The OpenVZ squeeze kernel misses updates and some important features. If you run on Debian, you can just use our Proxmox VE kernels, they are based on the stable RHEL6 branch from the OpenVZ team.
See http://download.proxmox.com/debian/dists/

And you can also switch completely to Proxmox VE :-)

Martin

> -----Original Message-----
> From: users-bounces@openvz.org [mailto:users-bounces@openvz.org] On
> Behalf Of JR Richardson
> Sent: Dienstag, 08. November 2011 17:21
> To: users@openvz.org
> Subject: [Users] Question About Debian Squeeze OVZ Kernel
>
> Hi All,
>
> I'm in the lab testing debian squeeze and OVZ. The current debian repository is
> listing this for the OVZ kernel:
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> root@ovz-test:~# aptitude show linux-image-2.6.32-5-openvz-686
> Package: linux-image-2.6.32-5-openvz-686
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> How does the debian kernel version 2.6.32-*[38]* coorespond to the official
> OVZ release cycle kernels, the current stable release being (vzkernel-2.6.32-
> 042stab040.1.src.rpm)?
>
> Does this indicate the debian kernel is 4 stable releases behind? Is anyone
> using the squeeze repository OVZ kernel? Any feedback on stability or use
> would be appriciated.
>
> Thanks.
>
> JR
> --
> JR Richardson
> Engineering for the Masses

Subject: Re: Question About Debian Squeeze OVZ Kernel
Posted by U.Mutlu on Tue, 08 Nov 2011 20:07:10 GMT
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JR Richardson wrote, On 2011-11-08 17:21:
>
> I'm in the lab testing debian squeeze and OVZ. The current debian
> repository is listing this for the OVZ kernel:
>
> root@ovz-test:~# aptitude show linux-image-2.6.32-5-openvz-686
> Package: linux-image-2.6.32-5-openvz-686
...
> Is anyone using the squeeze repository OVZ kernel? Any feedback on
> stability or use would be appriciated.

I'm using the amd64bit-version of the said kernel (debian pkg:
linux-image-2.6.32-5-openvz-amd64)
now for about 6 weeks on a stock Debian 6 (squeeze) system
with some packages from the upcoming Debian 7 (wheezy/testing)
under an AMD Opteron 1210 2-core system w/2GB RAM and GbE w/2 IPs
running 24/7 as an Internet server without any problems so far.
On it I can create as many VEs as I like.
As next I'll do a full dist-upgrade to Debian 7.

Of course the machine has several kernels installed, but
the openvz-kernel is now the default one loaded. And of course
no desktop is installed on it since it's a server machine.

At the moment only a WebServer and some test software is running on it,
plus a VE with its own public IP and a Debian 6 32bit,
therein another WebServer and again some test software,
but in a few weeks I'll move everything else also onto this
server machine (Mail server, svn server, DNS server, MySql server etc.).

So my experience with openvz on a stock Debian system is very positive so far.

Subject: Re: Question About Debian Squeeze OVZ Kernel
Posted by JR Richardson on Wed, 09 Nov 2011 23:28:37 GMT
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This was great feedback gentleman. I really appreciate your time. I think
I'm leaning toward using the RH kernel on Debian, checking out proxmox now.

Thanks.

JR

Subject: Re: Re: Question About Debian Squeeze OVZ Kernel
Posted by kir on Thu, 10 Nov 2011 10:52:49 GMT
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On 11/10/2011 03:28 AM, JR Richardson wrote:
> This was great feedback gentleman. I really appreciate your time. I think
> I'm leaning toward using the RH kernel on Debian, checking out proxmox now.
You can use latest RHEL6-based kernel builds on your Debian or Ubuntu
machine. Here's how.

1. Get the latest kernel from either Download/kernel/rhel6-testing or
Download/kernel/rhel6. You need vzkernel and vzkernel-devel packages
only, with the -devel being optional.

2. Install fakeroot and alien:
  apt-get install alien fakeroot

3. Convert these two rpms to debs using alien. This is
  fakeroot alien --to-deb --scripts --keep-version vzkernel-*.rpm

4. Install debs as usual. Reboot. Enjoy.
  dpkg -i vzkernel*.deb

Subject: Re: Re: Question About Debian Squeeze OVZ Kernel
Posted by Benjamin Henrion on Thu, 10 Nov 2011 11:14:52 GMT
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On Thu, Nov 10, 2011 at 11:52 AM, Kir Kolyshkin <kir@openvz.org> wrote:
> On 11/10/2011 03:28 AM, JR Richardson wrote:
>>
>> This was great feedback gentleman. I really appreciate your time. I think
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> Download/kernel/rhel6. You need vzkernel and vzkernel-devel packages only,
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>
> 2. Install fakeroot and alien:
> apt-get install alien fakeroot
>
> 3. Convert these two rpms to debs using alien. This is
> fakeroot alien --to-deb --scripts --keep-version vzkernel-*.rpm

It would be better if the OpenVZ developers contribute patches to the
official debian kernel.

--
Benjamin Henrion <bhenrion at ffii.org>
FFII Brussels - +32-484-566109 - +32-2-4148403
"In July 2005, after several failed attempts to legalise software
patents in Europe, the patent establishment changed its strategy.
Instead of explicitly seeking to sanction the patentability of
software, they are now seeking to create a central European patent
court, which would establish and enforce patentability rules in their
favor, without any possibility of correction by competing courts or
democratically elected legislators."

Subject: Re: Re: Question About Debian Squeeze OVZ Kernel
Posted by MailingListe on Mon, 14 Nov 2011 16:26:52 GMT
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Zitat von Kir Kolyshkin <kir@openvz.org>:

> On 11/10/2011 03:28 AM, JR Richardson wrote:
>> This was great feedback gentleman. I really appreciate your time. I think

>> I'm leaning toward using the RH kernel on Debian, checking out proxmox now.
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> dpkg -i vzkernel*.deb

Hm,

in contrast to the standard Debian Kernel the OpenVZ kernel looks like
missing the gdth driver for the older ICP Vortex RAID Controller?
When trying to steps above all i get is a system which cannot access
its boot device any more :-(
Any reason why gdth is exluded in your kernels?

Regards

Andreas

File Attachments

1) smime.p7s, downloaded 567 times

Subject: RE: Re: Question About Debian Squeeze OVZ Kernel
Posted by Martin Maurer on Mon, 14 Nov 2011 18:07:00 GMT
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>
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>
> Regards

>
> Andreas

If you are on Debian, you can think of using the Proxmox VE kernels. They are based on the stable RHEL6 OpenVZ kernels but we include and update some drivers, e.g. we got the gdth enabled.

Martin

Subject: RE: Re: Question About Debian Squeeze OVZ Kernel
Posted by MailingListe on Tue, 15 Nov 2011 14:46:07 GMT
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Zitat von Martin Maurer <martin@proxmox.com>:

> Hi,
>
>> Hm,
>>
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>> like missing
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> They are based on the stable RHEL6 OpenVZ kernels but we include
> and update some drivers, e.g. we got the gdth enabled.
>
> Martin

Ok, we will try out the Proxmox setup.

Thanks

Andreas

File Attachments

1) smime.p7s, downloaded 546 times
