Subject: *SOLVED* Easy way to create templates from iso packages
Posted by mdes on Thu, 28 Jun 2007 03:44:12 GMT
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I am trying to install liveCD based packages into VEs. Simplest
solution seems to be to create a template use the iso pacakge
but there does not seem to a standard way to do it. I could always
create a VE using the OS template corresponding to the liveCD but
the problem is the package in question is a little flaky when installed via the component RPMs.

So I trying to figure out if I can create a template with the OS
and application package metadata. This seems a common enough requirement if someone wants to virtualize an appliance for openVZ.
Would be glad to work with someone if an utility needs to be written. I have been hacking UNIX and BSD for about 22 years now ! But I am a openVZ newbie, so I do need help there (Back in the 80s we only had chroot).

Thanks
Mdes

Subject: Re: Easy way to create templates from iso packages
Posted by Vasily Tarasov on Thu, 28 Jun 2007 12:19:03 GMT
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Hello,

Sorry, I slightly dont' undestand your question...

Can you describe the problem a bit more precisely, step by step?

Thanks,
Vasily.

Subject: Re: Easy way to create templates from iso packages
Posted by mdes on Thu, 28 Jun 2007 13:59:49 GMT
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I guess I was not clear enough.

I have a liveCD of a PBX appliance running fedora 7.

I need to run this inside a VE.

Std procedure would be

1. Create a VE with fedora 7 template

2. Enter the VE

3. Install the application RPMs

The problem is that the install procedure is broken, so just installing the RPMs is not installing the application correctly.

So I trying to see if I can create a template from the liveCD
of the appliance. Along with the OS Metadata, I am trying to
copy all the major directories so that the appliance's metadata
is also copied along with the OS metadata.

So the steps would be

1. Extract OS metadata
2. Extract appliance metadata
3. create template from the metadata extracted from the above 2 steps.

Please note that this procedure is needed only because the install procedure of the PBX appliance is broken.

Thanks

Subject: Re: Easy way to create templates from iso packages
Posted by Vasily Tarasov on Thu, 28 Jun 2007 14:59:54 GMT
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Sorry, what do you call metadata? This term is used in OpenVZ as
http://wiki.openvz.org/OS_template_metadata

I guess you mean something else under metadata?

Subject: Re: Easy way to create templates from iso packages
Posted by mdes on Thu, 28 Jun 2007 15:14:14 GMT
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I guess metadata is an overloaded word.

I am referring to all the stuff that the installed program
installs in the systems directories (/usr/lib, /var, ..). As opposed to the stuff it installs in its private directories.

The appliance I have seems to have created a fair amount of files
across the various systems directories (would be nice if applications kept most stuff in their private directories).
This is one of the reasons we want to use VZ. The application
is not able to co-exist with other apps, due to library
and other app. dependencies.

The only way to recreate this environment is to copy all the
extra files in the various systems directories. Since this
has to be repeated for every release, I am trying to automate
the process.

Subject: Re: Easy way to create templates from iso packages
Posted by rickb on Fri, 29 Jun 2007 11:56:46 GMT
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Hi. The easiest way to achieve this, from my experience, is to simply boot into the OS you want to create a template of, stop all the software you can, and create a tar file of the entire OS. You now have a precreated template image which you can use on 'vzctl create'. This method will not get you a nice rpm by rpm installation procedure for upgrading a single package later, but just a huge collection of files which make up your OS. Depending on your situation, this may be easier or less convenient. If you need to change the OS template, such as update a package, what I do is deploy it, enter it, update it, stop it, and tar it back up.

Subject: [Issue closed]Re: Easy way to create templates from iso packages
Posted by mdes on Fri, 29 Jun 2007 20:22:21 GMT
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Thanks,
that was precisely the answer I was looking for. Wasn't sure if
doing that would work. I know it is messy but as I said in my posting, I have no way of creating a working installation by installing a set of RPMs.

But I do wish, packages would stick to a minimal set of directories
when they install themselves. It makes package removal easy. Think it is time a nice XML based package manger was written with journalled install . We could also do with a database/LDAP based OS config data.

Thanks

Subject: Re: *SOLVED* Easy way to create templates from iso packages
Posted by SoftDux on Tue, 06 Nov 2007 06:58:21 GMT
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How do I create an OpenVZ template from a Linux installation CD / DVD, without installing it to another PC first?

Subject: Re: *SOLVED* Easy way to create templates from iso packages
Posted by alticon-brian on Wed, 07 Nov 2007 15:20:15 GMT
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SoftDux,

That was kindof their point. AFAIK... You don't. As mdes said:

I have no way of creating a working installation by installing a set of RPMs.

The RPMs must be installed somehow. Possibly this is done through actually installing and then tar-ing up the filesystem. Possibly this is done through vzpkgcache (which is a cleaner way of doing the exact same thing).

--Brian

Subject: Re: *SOLVED* Easy way to create templates from iso packages
Posted by SoftDux on Wed, 07 Nov 2007 15:30:08 GMT
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ok, fair enought. I'm new to OpenVZ (as you can see)

So, if I have all the CD's / DVD's that I want to make templates from, but I don't want to format the HDD every time to "make a new template", how do I install directly off the DVD / CD?

Subject: Re: *SOLVED* Easy way to create templates from iso packages
Posted by DreamVPS_Joe on Wed, 07 Nov 2007 18:02:27 GMT
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SoftDux wrote on Wed, 07 November 2007 07:30

So, if I have all the CD's / DVD's that I want to make templates from, but I don't want to format the HDD every time to "make a new template", how do I install directly off the DVD / CD?
Use VMware and install each OS as a VM. From there, you can tar up the entire root fs and make your image like that. Put it on your ovz node, and then you will have to do some additional steps, such as disabling some services, fixing mtab and fstab. If you look through the openvz wiki, you'll find more info on this, like the centos guide:
http://wiki.openvz.org/Creating_a_CentOS_5.0_Template

Joe

Subject: Re: *SOLVED* Easy way to create templates from iso packages
Posted by SoftDux on Wed, 07 Nov 2007 18:16:04 GMT
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ok, that's worth a shot I'll give it a go, thanx
