Subject: Physical server to OpenVZ
Posted by Stefan Kok on Fri, 14 Sep 2007 15:41:07 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Hi List

I am brand new to OpenVZ. I will get straight to the point.

I want to backup physical servers on remote sites with tar/dump and restore them at our central office to virtual machine. Once disaster strikes move the virtual server to a new physical server and transport it to the remote office.

My question:

1) Is this possible (backup physical server and restore to virtual) ?
2) If so is there any documentation / HOWTO's or pointers that you could give please ?

Thanks in advance.

Regards
Stefan.

Subject: Re: Physical server to OpenVZ
Posted by Gregor Mosheh on Fri, 14 Sep 2007 16:41:21 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Stefan Kok wrote:
> 1) Is this possible (backup physical server and restore to virtual) ?
> 2) If so is there any documentation / HOWTO's or pointers that you could
> give please ?

The basic OS would survive a tar/untar process. But there're some items typically missing from a VPS setting which would be vital to running on a physical server. The first that come to mind are module utilities (modprobe et al) and the modules themselves, some daemons (klogd, udevd), and then a few fundamental config files (fstab, lilo.conf or /boot).

I think that you probably *could* do it with a lot of effort (90% of it being adding new packages to the VPS after you're untarred it), but that if your goal is fast and reliable recovery, you'd be best off restoring the VPS into a VPS setting. It's not difficult or time-consuming to install the OpenVZ system, and they could easily have it installed by the time the backup drive arrived at the new office.

If the new HN already had OpenVZ, then it's trivially simple to run
vzctl create to generate the VPS, then replace the content under
/vz/private/X with the tar content.

--
Gregor Mosheh / Greg Allensworth
System Administrator, HostGIS cartographic development & hosting services
http://www.HostGIS.com/

"Remember that no one cares if you can back up,
only if you can restore." - AMANDA

Subject: Re: Physical server to OpenVZ
Posted by kir on Sat, 15 Sep 2007 09:44:47 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

P2V migration is described in http://wiki.openvz.org/Physical_to_VE,
that involves some manual tuning.

V2P is also possible but don't make much sense to me -- it's way better
to use VE than a real server.

Stefan Kok wrote:
> Hi List
>
> I am brand new to OpenVZ. I will get straight to the point.
>
> I want to backup physical servers on remote sites with tar/dump and
> restore them at our central office to virtual machine. Once disaster
> strikes move the virtual server to a new physical server and transport
> it to the remote office.
>
>
> My question:
>
> 1) Is this possible (backup physical server and restore to virtual) ?
> 2) If so is there any documentation / HOWTO's or pointers that you could
> give please ?
>
> Thanks in advance.
>
> Regards
> Stefan.
>

Subject: Re: Physical server to OpenVZ
Posted by Stefan Kok on Mon, 17 Sep 2007 11:20:49 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Thanks for the replies. Its helped a lot.

Stefan.

On Sat, 2007-09-15 at 13:44 +0400, Kir Kolyshkin wrote:
> P2V migration is described in http://wiki.openvz.org/Physical_to_VE,
> that involves some manual tuning.
>
> V2P is also possible but don't make much sense to me -- it's way better
> to use VE than a real server.
>
> Stefan Kok wrote:
> > Hi List
> >
> > I am brand new to OpenVZ. I will get straight to the point.
> >
> > I want to backup physical servers on remote sites with tar/dump and
> > restore them at our central office to virtual machine. Once disaster
> > strikes move the virtual server to a new physical server and transport
> > it to the remote office.
> >
> >
> > My question:
> >
> > 1) Is this possible (backup physical server and restore to virtual) ?
> > 2) If so is there any documentation / HOWTO's or pointers that you could
> > give please ?
> >
> > Thanks in advance.
> >
> > Regards
> > Stefan.
> >