Subject: Traffic Accounting (patch)
Posted by Julian on Sun, 09 Apr 2006 03:14:06 GMT
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Hello,

today I played alot with openvz. It's really nice, but I needed a way to do traffic accounting on the VPSs.
There are two different ways to do it which can be looked up in this forum:

1. <do it with iptables>
I don't really like this solution, because it's higher administration effort and i don't have a VEID => traffic translation, but IP => traffic translation

2. <Use the script from Eric 'phpfreak' Rosebrock>
Might be nice, if you've got only trusted VPSs.
The script calls "X=`/usr/sbin/vzctl exec $i "grep venet0 /proc/net/dev"`" which means that "grep" is actually called from inside the VPS. An evil customer could just change his grep implementation and fool the whole accounting system.

I looked at the /proc/vz/* files and wondered why the statistic values of the venet devices had not been included in /proc/vz/vestat. I just added the RX and TX bytes field, so you can easily parse them on the master system.

A patch is attached to this post.
Please don't use this on a productive system. It works for me, but i haven't tested it enough. Perhaps it's breaking the one or other openvz tool.
Any feedback is highly appreciated.

Best regards,

Julian Haupt

File Attachments

1) vecalls.diff, downloaded 837 times

Subject: Re: Traffic Accounting (patch)
Posted by dev on Sun, 09 Apr 2006 06:31:16 GMT
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Julian,

in general it is fine. Some comments:
1. changing existing /proc output is bad usually as can break exisitng users. better create a

separate proc file for such things. On the other hand, if you know what you are doing...))
2. such approach doesn't account trafic through network devices delegated to VPS.
3. on VPS restart counters are reset, so maliscous user can use it somehow, if values are read quite rarely. maybe it is not a problem for many people though.

Thanks!

Subject: Re: Traffic Accounting (patch)
Posted by Julian on Sun, 09 Apr 2006 09:39:15 GMT
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Hello,

thank you for your comments.

1. As I said: just don't use it if you don't know what you're doing. It can break existing vz tools! (All standard tools work for me though)

2. Then dedicated network devices should be monitored using your favourite conventional way...

3. I think people who restart their VPS every three minutes to bypass traffic accounting are just idiots, as their VPS would become quite useless. But one should keep in mind that this is possible.
(Perhaps one could just check the uptime value in order to log resets)

Is there any chance to get this patch into the offizial vz kernel? I guess a lot users might find this useful. I would then even patch it to use a seperate /proc file.

Best regards,

Julian Haupt

Subject: Re: Traffic Accounting (patch)
Posted by dev on Mon, 10 Apr 2006 06:49:58 GMT
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Julian,

can we switch to devel@openvz.org as this is a better place for discussing and inline commenting patches?

I see no problems including this to official kernels after small polishing. Taking into account another comment I made to you about 'disable_net', I see the following content for this new proc file:
rx tx bytes rx tx pkts disabled
