Subject: Duplicating working VPS with tar/cp
Posted by dranch on Sat, 19 Apr 2008 00:34:41 GMT
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Hello Everyone,

I've had good luck with OpenVZ for my lab environment but I have a question on creating new VEs from existing ones. Specifically, say I have /vz/private/100 that has various levels of customization, etc. I realize that the proper way to do customizations is via modifying the VZ OS template and it's post-install script but that can be very time consuming.

As an experiment, I tared up /vz/private/100 and put it into /vz/private/101 with maintaining all the various permissions, etc. I then modified the various VZ and VPS config files and the new 101 VPS comes up fine.

What are the drawbacks to adding new VEs this way? As I understand it, the hardlinking isn't maintained so is this just a matter of disk use for the VE's files? Is there a way to get my cake and eat it too?

Subject: Re: Duplicating working VPS with tar/cp
Posted by ugob on Sat, 19 Apr 2008 02:41:06 GMT
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It may now answer your question directly, but I use vzdump for that,http://download.openvz.org/contrib/utils/vzdump/. Very flexible, works very well.

Subject: Re: Duplicating working VPS with tar/cp
Posted by dranch on Sat, 19 Apr 2008 14:23:53 GMT
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Vzdump, that's good to know though I'm still curious on the negatives (if any) on this approach. I know that with OpenVZ, 10s let alone 100s of VEs can literally take up little to no disk space due to how it utilizes file system hard links. I assume that the tar/cp/vzdump approach looses this efficiency. Correct? Is there any thing else that I would loose when using vzdump vs. "vzctl create"?

--David

Subject: Re: Duplicating working VPS with tar/cp
Posted by swindmill on Sun, 20 Apr 2008 16:08:31 GMT
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I think you are confusing virtuozzo's filesystem and openvz's.

OpenVZ doesn't do any optimization of disk space between VEs. Only hard links that exist in a distro for one purpose or another save space, and that is only within a single VE.