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Subject: [SOLVED]: CentOS 5.2 HN and VPS - man and less problems in VPS  
Posted by [\\_sgb\\_](#) on Tue, 10 Feb 2009 11:18:14 GMT

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Hi all,

I can't run man or less inside a VPS. Piping the results of any command into less just returns to the command line, however 'more' works. Using the command 'man' returns the following error:

Quote:

```
# man bash
```

```
Error executing formatting or display command.
```

```
System command (cd /usr/share/man && (echo ".ll 13.9i"; echo ".nr LL 13.9i"; echo ".pl 1100i";  
/usr/bin/gunzip -c '/usr/share/man/man1/bash.1.gz'; echo ".\\\\""; echo ".pl \n(nlu+10)" | /usr/bin/gtbl  
| /usr/bin/nroff -c --legacy ISO-8859-1 -mandoc 2>/dev/null | /usr/bin/less -is) exited with status  
256.
```

```
No manual entry for bash
```

Something that I suspect is related to the same problem; the -p switch on the mysql client does not prompt for a password:

Quote:

```
# mysql -hlocalhost -uroot -p
```

```
ERROR 1045 (28000): Access denied for user 'root'@'localhost' (using password: NO)
```

However, specifying it on the command line works fine:

Quote:

```
# mysql -hlocalhost -uroot -pMYSQLPASSWORD
```

```
Welcome to the MySQL monitor. Commands end with ; or \g.
```

```
Your MySQL connection id is 49
```

```
Server version: 5.0.45 Source distribution
```

```
Type 'help;' or '\h' for help. Type '\c' to clear the buffer.
```

```
mysql>
```

I'm not entirely sure what will be relevant to the issue, so here's the background.

I am running CentOS 5.2 with kernel version 2.6.18-92.1.13.el5.028stab059.6PAE. I created my own CentOS 5.2 minimal template and followed the recommendations to disable the udev start in /etc/rc.d/rc.sysinit

I have made the dev files for null,ptmx,random,urandom, tty and pty and there seems to be no trouble there.

Networking is fine, updates and installs work fine from inside the VPS, websites are fine...

I would expect this to be something small that I have missed, and it's more of an annoyance than

a problem. Has anyone any ideas?

Regards,

SGB

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Subject: [SOLVED]: CentOS 5.2 HN and VPS - man and less problems in VPS  
Posted by [\\_sgb\\_](#) on Tue, 10 Feb 2009 15:31:26 GMT

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Using

strace less filename

I was able to figure out that there was an issue with the tty it was trying to use. Sure enough, an invalid tty existed:

```
-bash-3.2# ll /dev/tty
```

```
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 16 Feb 10 15:15 /dev/tty
```

Removing this tty solved the problem with man and less, but it returned after a short time while I was using the VPS. I've since worked out where it came from. The mysql client creates it.

Quote:

```
-bash-3.2# rm /dev/tty
```

```
-bash-3.2# ls -l /dev/tty
```

```
ls: /dev/tty: No such file or directory
```

```
-bash-3.2# mysql -uroot -hlocalhost -p
```

```
ERROR 1045 (28000): Access denied for user 'root'@'localhost' (using password: NO)
```

```
-bash-3.2# ls -l /dev/tty
```

```
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 16 Feb 10 15:19 /dev/tty
```

To prevent this issue from occurring, you need to create the /dev/tty node

Quote:

```
-bash-3.2# mknod -m 666 /dev/tty c 5 0
```

```
-bash-3.2# ll /dev/tty
```

```
crw-rw-rw- 1 root root 5, 0 Feb 10 15:23 /dev/tty
```

I've checked through the various template creation howtos, and this step is only mentioned in the Arch linux template creation page. In all honesty, I wouldn't be certain that it is required on other systems, as I have not run any other OS as a VPS.

Regards,

sgb

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Subject: Re: [SOLVED]: CentOS 5.2 HN and VPS - man and less problems in VPS  
Posted by [Peter Machell](#) on Sun, 15 Mar 2009 05:22:32 GMT

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Had exactly the same problem on Debian 4, after following the migration guide from P2V.

Luckily found your post. Removing and re-creating /dev/tty has also fixed this for me - thanks!

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Subject: Re: [SOLVED]: CentOS 5.2 HN and VPS - man and less problems in VPS  
Posted by [renders](#) on Fri, 28 May 2010 19:02:15 GMT

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This saved my sanity as well.. I have a debian etch image that suddenly started giving me strange errors when running utilities such as mc, or man. I did the search on 'openvz command exited with status 256' and came across this posting. When I checked the dev folder, the tty node was totally different from the others nodes. I reset it using your suggestion and now on my problems have gone away. I can once again use mc, a favourite.

Thanks for the solution..

Rob

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