Subject: Sharing between VPS
Posted by starfry on Mon, 16 Mar 2009 12:24:20 GMT
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Hello, I've just joined up. I have been evaluating OpenVZ for a week now and it seems really good. I'm on Ubuntu Hardy and I have some "newby" questions.

I have found the easiest way to move files between VPS is to copy them on the HE between subdirectories at /vs/private. Is this a safe and acceptable thing to do ?

Taking this one step further, is it safe to create "shared" folders by symlinking folders within VPS, for example

on HE /srv/database
on HE /vz/private/101/srv/database -> /srv/database
on HE /vz/private/102/srv/database -> /srv/database
VPS 101 and 102 would then both see /srv/database

I presume if I do this then the shared kernel will handle any contention issues in the same way as it would if everything was running directly in the HE. However, some confirmation would be nice

Second question relates to mounting devices. I was trying out devnodes to access a USB stick from a VPS.

```
# vzctl set 247 --devices b:8:33:rw
# vzctl exec 247 mknod /dev/sdc1 b 8 33
```

However, I can't mount it in the VPS:

```
root@vz247:~# mount /dev/sdc1 /mnt
mount: you must specify the filesystem type
root@vz247:~# mount -t vfat /dev/sdc1 /mnt
mount: unknown filesystem type 'vfat'
root@vz247:~# mount -t msdos /dev/sdc1 /mnt
mount: unknown filesystem type 'msdos'
root@vz247:~#
```

But I can mount it in the HE:

```
root@he240:~# mount /dev/sdc1 /mnt
root@he240:~#
```

I am running on Ubuntu Hardy with the 2.6.24-24-openvz kernel. My VPS is built using the ubuntu-minimal-8.04 from http://download.openvz.org/template/precreated/old/ubuntu-8.04-i386-minimal.tar.gz

I guess the install does not know about or can not access the kernel modules for fat and vfat (the format of the flash drive).

I've heard bind mounting may be a better way to do this but I have not tried it yet. For example:

HE# mount -n -o bind /media/usb0 /vz/private/247/media/usb0

That's it for now, if anyone can help I'd really appreciate it!

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Subject: Re: Sharing between VPS
Posted by maratrus on Mon, 16 Mar 2009 15:25:39 GMT
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Hello,

Quote:
Taking this one step further, is it safe to create "shared" folders by symlinking folders within VPS, for example

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on HE /vz/private/102/srv/database -> /srv/database
VPS 101 and 102 would then both see /srv/database

This scenario must not be success.
Symlink will always point to "/srv/database" but "/srv/database" inside VE is not the same as it is on the HN.
Use bind mounts in such situations.

Quote:
root@vz247:~# mount /dev/sdc1 /mnt
mount: you must specify the filesystem type
root@vz247:~# mount -t vfat /dev/sdc1 /mnt
mount: unknown filesystem type 'vfat'
root@vz247:~# mount -t msdos /dev/sdc1 /mnt
mount: unknown filesystem type 'msdos'
root@vz247:~#

That's mean that vfat is not firtualized and as you've mentioned the bind mounts also should help you in this situation.
By the way, here is a useful wiki page

http://wiki.openvz.org/Bind_mounts

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Subject: Re: Sharing between VPS
Posted by starfry on Tue, 17 Mar 2009 07:06:26 GMT
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Thank you for this!

I now have my HE set up to automount my USB flash drive in a VPS. Sweet!