RHCSA
BOOT CAMP

Kernel Features

IMPORTANT KERNEL DIRECTORIES

- `/boot`   contains the `vmlinuz` and `initrd` required to boot the system

- `/proc`   virtual file system for seeing "into" the kernel

/PROC/*

- The `/proc` folder contains copious amounts of information useful for troubleshooting. Some examples:

    - `/proc/meminfo`   Memory utilization breakdown

    - `/proc/devices`   Mapping major numbers to drivers

    - `/proc/dma`   dma channel assignments

    - `/proc/ioports`   io port assignments

    - See the manpage for `proc` for more information and descriptions

/PROC/*

- Also in the `/proc` folder is detailed information on every process on the system.

    - Details on process status, environment, commandline, and more can be obtained

- Read the `proc` manpage - tons of information available through `/proc`

SYSCTL

- `sysctl`: Get/set kernel parameters

  - `sysctl -w kernel.pid_max=65535`

  - `sysctl -a`

  - `sysctl -w vm.swappiness=100`

- Also, you can view/edit runtime values under `/proc/sys`

- To make changes permanent, edit `/etc/sysctl.conf`

LAB

1. Configure your server to have an open file limit of `524288` files.

2. Configure your server to refuse any ping requests.

3. Configure your server to forward ipv4 packets.

4. Make all of these changes persistent across reboots.

LVM

- The Logical Volume Manager

    - Abstracts the physical hardware into logical drive spaces which can be dynamically grown/shrunk and span disparate physical devices

    - Simplifies hard drive management as it abstracts away the details of the underlying storage devices.

    - Adds a small amount of overhead to the VFS layer, slightly reducing performance.

LVM TERMINOLOGY

- **Physical Volume (pv)** — A physical volume is simply the partition/RAID device for the LVM space.

- **Physical Extent (pe)** — A physical extent in a chunk of disk space. Can be any size, but default to 4M.

- **Volume Group (vg)** — A volume group is a collection of physical volumes.

- **Logical Volume (lv)** — A logical volume is a grouping of physical extents from your physical volumes. This logical volume is where you can format a file system.

LVM BASIC IDEA

- To create a space suitable for `mkfs`, three steps must occur:

  - `pvcreate`: Create a physical volume

  - `vgcreate`: Create a volume group on PV

  - `lvcreate`: Create a logical volume on VG

- See also `pvdisplay`, `vgdisplay`, `lvdisplay`

PVCREATE

- Easiest of the LVM tools:

- `pvcreate /dev/sda4`

VGCREATE

- In basic form, you need to provide a name:

- `vgcreate VolGroup00 /dev/sda4`

- Note that `/dev/sda4` is actually a physical volume created with `pvcreate` - not just a device

- To set physical extent size, use the `-s` option.

LVCREATE

- `lvcreate -n myvol -L 10G VolGroup00`

- Creates a new logical volume called `myvol`, 10 gigs in size pulled from the `VolGroup00` Volume Group.

RESIZING LV'S

- `vgextend <volume group name> <new PV path>`

  - Add a new physical volume to a volume group

- `lvextend {-l <+extents>| -L <+size>} <lv>`

  - Grow a logical volume

  - NOTE: Use the + to give the amount of additional space added, otherwise specify the total desired size to end up with.

RESIZING LV'S

- `resize2fs <logical volume>`

  - Once the lv has been extended, you will need to extend the file system

  - You can grow the file system while it is mounted, but before shrinking it must first be unmounted.

- `lvresize -r {-l <+extents>| -L <+size>} <lv>`

  - Resizes logical volume **and** filesystem at same time!

  - Works like a champ in RHEL 6

LAB

1.   Add logical volume management on top of a new partition. Use a physical extent size of 16MB.

2.   Use half the available space for a logical volume formatted with ext4 and mounted persistently across reboots.

3.   Take a snapshot of this logical volume and check the file system for errors.

4.   Assuming none are found, reset the counter for days and mounts until a check is forced on the original file system.

5.   Copy some data onto the LV, then expand it and the filesystem by 50MB. `fsck`, then re-mount the filesystem and verify it's contents. Also try reducing by 50MB.

SWAP SPACE

- Swap space allows the kernel to better manage limited system memory by copying segments of memory onto disk

  - Performance gains

  - "Expanded" memory space

- `mkswap`   Create a new swap space for use by the kernel

- `swapon/swapoff`   Enable/disable a swap area

- `/proc/swaps`   Lists current swap areas

LAB

1. Add 500MB of swap space to your system using a device.

2. Add 500MB of swap space to your system using a swap file.

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