

Re: Backup mirror machine

Source: <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/Debian/2005-05/0610.html>

From: Bill Moseley (moseley_at_hank.org)

Date: 05/06/05

Date: Thu, 5 May 2005 22:44:34 -0700

To: debian-user@lists.debian.org

On Thu, May 05, 2005 at 03:30:46PM -0700, Alvin Oga wrote:

> *one script ... change-me-from-slave-to-master.sh and symlinked to "N"*

But that system turns out to be harder to keep in sync.

> > *What I'd like to do, I think, is have a system that ran as a separate*
> > *machine, but I could reboot and at the LILO prompt select another*
> > *configuration that makes it boot with the other machines IPs and*
> > *config settings.*

>

> *you cannot tell lilo to boot a remote machine*

No, I'm not asking that. I was thinking I could use lilo to boot a different configuration. I suppose I could use the init scripts to setup symlinks for /etc/network/interfaces and for all the services I run. That's basically what I have now -- but I've found it hard to manage.

So, I was thinking more of a system that uses rsync to keep a copy of the files that make "master" what it is (a machine with specific IPs, and a collection of services configured a specific way, and data) on the "slave" machine. And then have a way to reboot the slave machine and have it start using the backup data making it act as the master.

```
if ( running_as("slave") )
  ln -s /slave.etc /etc
  ln -s /slave.var /var
  [...]
else
  ln -s /master.etc /etc
  ln -s /master.var /var
  [...]
```

Or maybe mount the dirs instead.

Considering /etc/fstab is needed at boot, it's not that easy to place /etc on a separate partiton (initrd would be one solution, I

Debian-User: Re: Backup mirror machine

suppose), or to symlink late in the boot process.

Perhaps dual-boot would be a good way to go. Boot normally in "slave" mode and mount partition(s) under /backup and rsync from the master machine to the slave's /backup/etc, /backup/var, etc. dirs.

Then when there's a failure in master, power down master, and reboot the slave machine into "master" mode which then mounts that partition or partitions at /etc, /var, etc.

But, I still don't see that working since the backup of master onto slave will contain hardware dependent settings that don't work on slave -- like /etc/fstab. I'm not sure what else (/etc/modules, perhaps).

I often wonder why there's not two /etc directories -- one for machine specific settings and another for application settings that don't really depend on a specific hardware configuration.

> > *Any Suggestions?*
>
> *gazillion ways to do it*

Thanks, but I was only looking for one or two.

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