

Re: [opensuse] XVNC Activating itself -- sign of scurity breach?

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- *From:* David SMITH <dave.smith@xxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Thu, 31 May 2007 09:25:38 +0100
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On Wed, May 30, 2007 at 10:00:35PM -0400, Patrick Shanahan wrote:

* David McMillan <skyefire@xxxxxxxxxxxxx> [05-30-07 21:36]:

Patrick Shanahan wrote:

* David McMillan <skyefire@xxxxxxxxxxxxx> [05-30-07 20:56]:

In the past two months, I've had two incidents where, when I ran 'top,' I found XVNC running (and taking up a good 75% of my CPU), for no apparent reason on my 10.2 system. Now, I have "Remote Desktop Sharing" turned on on this machine (though I've never been able to get VNC to connect across the LAN from my WXP laptop -- only browsing to <http://host:5801> works so far), but at neither of these incidents had I been using, or even attempting to use, a VNC or RD connection to the 10.2 machine, at any time in the recent past.

You *are* using vnc, <http://host:5801> is a vnc connection.

Yes, I know -- what I meant was, *at the time of the incidents,* I hadn't made any VNC connection attempts, via HTTP or otherwise, in *days,* if not weeks. There were definitely no VNC connections being made from any of *my* machines on my LAN. That's what's puzzling (and worrying me) about seeing XVNC active, and eating up so much CPU.

My guess...

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Xvnc is the VNC server process. It has to be running for you to be able to connect on <http://host:5801> (unless you use some inetd magic to get it to auto-start). Basically, you have Xvnc running ready to accept connections on <http://host:5801>.

Why is it using so much CPU? I'd guess that you've got a screensaver configured. The screensaver program isn't intelligent enough to realise that it's a VNC session and therefore doesn't need a screensaver, so it detects that there has been no keyboard or mouse activity for a while (unsurprising, since there are no connected clients), and starts running the screensaver. The Xvnc process has to respond to the screensaver program's commands to draw things on its X desktop, and this is what is taking all the CPU.

It could be other things, but this is my best guess.

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