Running KVM for Dynamic Infrastructure Creation

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Agenda

KVM Review

Virtualizing Networks with KVM Virtualizing Disk with KVM







KVM Review

- Hopefully you attended Mark Post's 'KVM for z Systems' session ?
- QEMU Virtualizes the Processor and Memory resources of a Server using the KVM resources provided by a Linux Kernel assisted by whatever hardware instructions the processor supports
- QEMU Virtualizes the IO of a server using a mix of paravirtualization and good ole trap and translate.
- From an administrators point of view a virtual machine is contained within the qemu process running on the KVM host

KVM Review









Agenda

KVM Review

Virtualizing Networks with KVM

Virtualizing Disk with KVM







Virtualizing Networks with KVM

- KVM offers several methods to virtualize the host's network connectivity, each with their own plusses and minuses
 - Ethernet Routing with NAT
 - Ethernet Routing without NAT
 - Ethernet Bridging
 - MacVTap
 - Open vSwitch



KVM – Ethernet Routing with NAT

• +++

- Relatively straightforward to set up
- Does not require additional IP addresses from the network
- MAC addresses local to KVM host
- Inbound connections require additional setup for each mapped port on each guest
- KVM host is performing packet forwarding
- Otherwise, there is no inbound connectivity
- Provides a good starting point for gaining familiarity with KVM

Host definition



KVM – Ethernet Routing without NAT

• +++

- Relatively straightforward to set up
- Does not require additional IP addresses from the network
- MAC addresses local to KVM host
- Inbound connections require a route for the private network in the external network
- KVM host is performing packet forwarding
- Provides a good starting point for gaining familiarity with KVM

Host definition





KVM – Ethernet Bridging

• +++

- Relatively straightforward to set up
- Very common KVM networking for production environments
- No external routing changes required
- KVM host is performing packet forwarding
- MAC address management required since MACs travel to the external network
- More or less the defacto network standard for KVM until recently

Host definition

KVM – MacVTap

- +++
 - Higher performance than Bridging or Routing or NAT
 - Compatible with the Network teams management tools and processes
 - Supports VEPA, 802.1Qbg
 - No external routing changes required
 - MAC address management required since MACs travel to the external network
 - New Technology is new
- Fast, but requires kernels 2.6.34 or newer (not in RHEL 6)

Host definition

KVM – Open vSwitch

• +++

- Relatively straightforward to set up
- Compatible with the Network teams management tools and processes
 - Supports VEPA, 802.1Qbg, VLAN, and more!
- No external routing changes required
- KVM host is performing packet forwarding
- MAC address management required since MACs travel to the external network
- Requires Open vSwitch package compatible with running Kernel

<pre><network></network></pre>	<pre><interface type="network"></interface></pre>

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Virtualizing Disk with KVM

- KVM offers several methods to virtualize the host's disk, each with their own plusses and minuses
 - Files
 - Raw
 - QCOW2
 - Block Devices
 - Entire devices
 - Partitions
 - Logical Volumes
 - Directories & Network services

KVM – Virtualizing Disk with Raw Files

• +++

- Relatively straightforward to set up and work with
- No need to ask the storage group to clone disks for you
- Less overhead than QCOW2
- Thick provisioning (lots of 0x0000 on disk)
- Not as fast as block devices
- Provides a good starting point for gaining familiarity with KVM

KVM – Virtualizing Disk with QCOW2 Files

• +++

- Thin Provisioning
- Snapshots and Base Images
- No need to ask the storage group to clone disks for you
- Overhead
- Base Images introduce the possibility for data loss if the base is written to
- Not nearly as fast as block devices
- Provides extensive possibilities for cloning and extending OS images and moving them to production

KVM – Virtualizing Disk with entire Block Devices

• +++

- Fast
- Flashcopy et all do exactly what we want them to do
- Compatible with existing DR processes
- Thick provisioning (lots of 0x0000 on disk)
- Requires interaction with Storage admins
- Put Databases here

KVM – Virtualizing Disk with Partitions

- +++
 - Fast
 - Flashcopy et all do mostly what we want them to do
 - Compatible with existing DR processes
 - Thick provisioning (lots of 0x0000 on disk)
 - Requires interaction with Storage admins
 - Partition table maintenance can be tricky and require a boot to refresh
- Make efficient use of very large storage volumes

KVM – Virtualizing Disk with Logical Volumes

• +++

- Fast
- Linux LVM has its own snapshot function
- Very Flexible and Dynamic, managable from within libvirt
- Thick provisioning (lots of 0x0000 on disk)
- LVM snapshots are kinda slow and drive lots of host IO
- Most flexible and performant disk management approach

KVM – Virtualizing Disk with Directories and Services

- +++
 - Flexible
 - Diskless Guests
 - ??

```
<disk type='network' device='lun'>
      <driver name='qemu' type='raw'/>
      <source protocol='iscsi' name='iqn.2013-07.com.example:iscsi-nopool/1'>
        <host name='example.com' port='3260'/>
      </source>
      <auth username='myuser'>
        <secret type='iscsi' usage='libvirtiscsi'/>
      </auth>
      <target dev='sdb' bus='scsi'/>
</disk>
<filesystem type='mount' accessmode='passthrough'>
      <driver type='path' wrpolicy='immediate'/>
      <source dir='/export/to/quest'/>
      <target dir='/import/from/host'/>
      <readonlv/>
</filesystem>
```


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Virtualizing Networks with KVM

Virtualizing Disk with KVM

Questions?

