systemd

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Administration de systèmes, réseaux et applications à base de logiciels libres



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Init system

- First process started by the kernel (pid 1)
- Responsible for bringing up the rest of userspace
 - Mounting filesystems
 - Starting services
 - **♦** ...
- Also the parent for orphan processes
- Traditional init system on Linux: sysVinit
 - Inherited from Unix System V
 - With additional tools (insserv, startpar) to handle dependencies and parallel initialization

systemd

- Written (since 2010) by Lennart Poettering (Red Hat) and others
- Now the default on most Linux distributions
- Shifts the scope from starting all services (sysVinit) to managing the system and all services
- Key features:
 - Relies on cgroups for
 - ★ Services supervision
 - ★ Control of services execution environment

 - Socket activation for parallel services startup
 - Nicer user interface (systemctl & friends)
- Additional features: logging, timer units (cron-like), user sessions handling, containers management

Behind the scenes: cgroups

- Abbreviated from control groups
- Linux kernel feature
- Limit, account for and isolate processes and their resource usage (CPU, memory, disk I/O, network, etc.)
- ► Related to namespace isolation:
 - Isolate processes from the rest of the system
 - Chroots on steroids
 - PID, network, UTS, mount, user, etc.
- ► LXC, Docker ≈ cgroups + namespaces (+ management tools)

cgroups and systemd

- ► Each service runs in its own cgroup
- Enables:
 - Tracking and killing all processes created by each service
 - Per-service accounting and resources allocation/limitation
- Previously, with sysVinit:
 - No tracking of which service started which processes
 - ★ PID files, or hacks in init scripts: pidof / killall / pgrep
 - Hard to completely terminate a service (left-over CGI scripts when killing Apache)
 - No resources limitation (or using setrlimit (= ulimit), which is per-process, not per-service)
- ► Also isolate user sessions ~ kill all user processes (not by default)
- More information: Control Groups vs. Control Groups and Which Service Owns Which Processes?

systemd-cgls: visualizing the cgroups hierarchy

```
├-1 /sbin/init
-svstem slice
  -apache2.service
    .
<del>-</del>1242 /usr/sbin/apache2 -k start
    —9880 /usr/sbin/apache2 -k start
    L-9881 /usr/sbin/apache2 -k start
   -system-getty.slice
    -getty@tty1 service
     └-1190 /sbin/agetty --noclear tty1 linux
   L-getty@tty2 service
     -24696 /sbin/agetty --noclear tty2 linux
   -svstem-postaresal slice
   —postgresgl@9.4-main service
      ├─1218 /usr/lib/postgresgl/9.4/bin/postgres -D /var/lib/postgresgl/9.4/main -
     -1356 postgres: checkpointer process
      -1357 postgres: writer process
      -1358 postgres: wal writer process
      -1359 postgres: autovacuum launcher process
      └-1360 postgres: stats collector process
   adm service
    -1209 /usr/sbin/gdm3
    lue{} 1238 /usr/bin/Xorg :0 -novtswitch -background none -noreset -verbose 3 -auth
-user slice
 Luser-1000 slice
    —session-1.scope
     — 1908 gdm-session-worker [pam/gdm-password]

→ 1917 /usr/bin/gnome-keyring-daemon --daemonize --login

        1920 gnome-session
        1966 /usr/bin/dbus-launch --exit-with-session gnome-session
```

systemd-cgtop: per-service resources usage

Path	Tasks	%CPU	Memory	Input/s	Output/s
	92	68.8	-	0B	243.91
'system.slice	-	65.8	-	-	
system.slice/ModemManager.service	1	-	-	-	
'system.slice/NetworkManager.service	2	-	-	-	
system.slice/accounts-daemon.service	1	-	-	-	
system.slice/apache2.service	3	0.1	-	-	
system.slice/atd.service	1	-	-	-	
system.slice/avahi-daemon.service	2	0.0	-	-	
system.slice/colord.service	1	-	-	-	
'system.slice/system-postgresql.slice	8	66.0	-	340.4K	112.4
system.slice/system-postgresql.slice/postgresql@9.4-main.service	8	-	-	-	
'system.slice/systemd-journald.service	1	-	-	-	
'system.slice/systemd-logind.service	1	0.0	-	-	
user.slice	13	1.6	-	-	
user.slice/user-1001.slice	-	1.6	-	-	
user.slice/user-1001.slice/session-2.scope	4	-	-	-	
user slice/user-1001 slice/session-4 scope	6	1.6	-	-	
user.slice/user-1001.slice/session-6.scope	5	-	-	-	

Requires enabling CPUAccounting, BlockIOAccounting, MemoryAccounting

Managing services with systemct1

- What is being manipulated is called a unit: services (.service), mount points (.mount), devices (.device), sockets (.socket), etc.
- Basic commands:

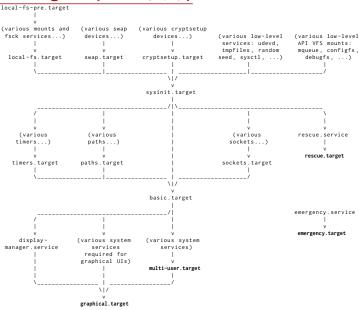
sysVinit	systemd	notes
service foo start	systemctl start foo	
service foo stop	systemctl stop foo	
service foo restart	systemctl restart foo	
service foo reload	systemctl reload foo	
service foo condrestart	systemctl condrestart foo	restart if already running
update-rc.d foo enable	systemctl enable foo	auto-start at next boot
update-rc.d foo disable	systemctl disable foo	disable auto-start
	systemctl is-enabled foo	

- ► There's auto-completion (apache2 and apache2.service work)
- Several services can be specified: systemctl restart apache2 postgresql

systemd and runlevels

- With sysVinit, runlevels control which services are started automatically
 - 0 = halt; 1 = single-user / minimal mode; 6 = reboot
 - ♦ Debian: no difference by default between levels 2, 3, 4, 5
 - ♦ RHEL: 3 = multi-user text, 5 = multi-user graphical
- systemd replaces runlevels with targets:
 - Configured using symlinks farms in /etc/systemd/system/target.wants/
 - systemctl enable/disable manipule those symlinks
 - systemct1 mask disables the service and prevents it from being started manually
 - The default target can be configured with systemctl get-default/set-default
 - More information: The Three Levels of "Off"

Default targets (bootup(7))



Analyzing startup performance

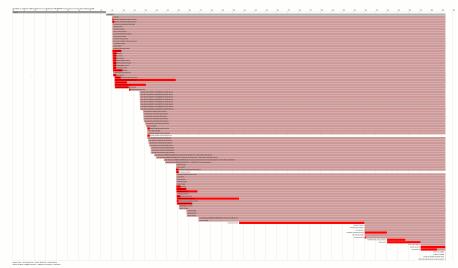
- Fast boot matters in some use-cases:
 - Virtualization, Cloud:
 - ★ Almost no BIOS / hardware checks ~> only software startup
 - ★ Requirement for infrastructure elasticity
 - Embedded world
- systemd-analyze time: summary

```
Startup finished in 4.883s (kernel) + 5.229s (userspace) = 10.112s
```

- systemd-analyze blame: worst offenders
 - 2.417s systemd-udev-settle.service
 - 2.386s postgresql@9.4-main.service
 - 1.507s apache2.service
 - 240ms NetworkManager.service
 - 236ms ModemManager.service
 - 194ms accounts-daemon.service

systemd-analyze plot

 Similar to bootchartd, but does not require rebooting with a custom init= kernel command-line



systemd-analyze critical-chain

Shows services in the critical path

```
graphical target @5.226s
∟multi user target @5.226s
  exim4 service @5.144s +81ms
    └postgresql.service @5.142s +1ms
      L—postgresgl@9.4-main.service @2.755s +2.386s
        L—basic target @2.743s
          L_timers target @2.743s
            └─systemd-tmpfiles-clean timer @2.743s
              ∟sysinit.target @2.742s
                —networking service @2.589s +153ms
                  └─local-fs.target @2.587s
                    └run-user-117.mount @3.877s
                      └─local fs pre target @223ms
                        L—systemd-remount-fs service @218ms +4ms
                          L_keyboard-setup service @157ms +61ms
                            -systemd-udevd service @154ms +2ms
                              └─systemd-tmpfiles-setup-dev service @113ms +33ms
                                └kmod-static-nodes service @102ms +10ms
                                  ∟system slice @96ms
                                    └ slice @94ms
```

Exploring the system status

- Listing units with systemctl list-units (or just systemctl):
 - active units: systemctl
 - List only services: systemctl -t service
 - ◆ List units in failed state: systemctl --state failed
- Whole system overview: systemctl status

systemctl status service

```
Apr 01 21:49:28 grep avahi-daemon[2858]: No service file found in /etc/avahi/services.

Apr 01 21:49:28 grep avahi-daemon[2858]: Joining mDNS multicast group on interface eth0.IPv

Apr 01 21:49:28 grep avahi-daemon[2858]: New relevant interface eth0.IPv6 for mDNS.

Apr 01 21:49:28 grep avahi-daemon[2858]: New relevant interface eth0.IPv4 for mDNS.

Apr 01 21:49:28 grep avahi-daemon[2858]: New relevant interface eth0.IPv4 for mDNS.

Apr 01 21:49:28 grep avahi-daemon[2858]: Network interface enumeration completed.

Apr 01 21:49:28 grep avahi-daemon[2858]: Registering new address record for fe80::d6be:d9fr

Apr 01 21:49:28 grep avahi-daemon[2858]: Registering new address record for fe80::d6be:d9fr

Apr 01 21:49:28 grep avahi-daemon[2858]: Registering hew address record for fe80::d6be:d9fr

Apr 01 21:49:28 grep avahi-daemon[2858]: Sejstering hew address record for fe80::d6be:d9fr

Apr 01 21:49:28 grep avahi-daemon[2858]: Sejstering hew address record for fe80::d6be:d9fr

Apr 01 21:49:29 grep avahi-daemon[2858]: Sejstering hew address record for fe80::d6be:d9fr

Apr 01 21:49:29 grep avahi-daemon[2858]: Sejstering hew address record for fe80::d6be:d9fr

Apr 01 21:49:29 grep avahi-daemon[2858]: Registering hew address record for fe80::d6be:d9fr
```

Includes:

- Service name and description, state, PID
- Free-form status line from systemd-notify(1) or sd_notify(3)
- Processes tree inside the cgroup
- Last lines from journald (syslog messages and stdout/stderr)

Configuring services by writing unit files

- With sysVinit: shell scripts in /etc/init.d/
 - Long and difficult to write
 - Redundant code between services
 - Slow (numerous fork() calls)
- With systemd: declarative syntax (.desktop-like)
 - Move intelligence from scripts to systemd
 - Covers most of the needs, but shell scripts can still be used
 - Can use includes and overrides (systemd-delta)
 - View config file for a unit: systemctl cat atd.service
 - Or just find the file under /lib/systemd/system/ (distribution's defaults) or /etc/systemd/system (local overrides)

Simple example: atd

```
[Unit]
Description=Deferred execution scheduler
# Pointer to documentation shown in systemctl status
Documentation=man:atd(8)
[Service]
# Command to start the service
ExecStart=/usr/sbin/atd -f
IgnoreSIGPIPE=false # Default is true
[Install]
```

Where "systemctl enable" creates the symlink

WantedBy=multi-user.target

Common options

- Documented in systemd.unit(5) ([Unit]), systemd.service(5) ([Service]), systemd.exec(5) (execution environment)
- ► Show all options for a given service: systemctl show atd
- Sourcing a configuration file: EnvironmentFile=-/etc/default/ssh ExecStart=/usr/sbin/sshd -D \$SSHD_OPTS
- ► Using the \$MAINPID magic variable: ExecReload=/bin/kill -HUP \$MAINPID
- ► Auto-restart a service when crashed: (≈ runit / monit)
 Restart=on-failure
- Conditional start:
 ConditionPathExists=!/etc/ssh/sshd_not_to_be_run
 Conditions on architecture, virtualization, kernel cmdline, AC power, etc.

Options for isolation and security

- Use a network namespace to isolate the service from the network: PrivateNetwork=yes
- Use a filesystem namespaces:
 - To provide a service-specific /tmp directory: PrivateTmp=yes
 - To make some directories inaccessible or read-only: InaccessibleDirectories=/home ReadOnlyDirectories=/var
- Specify the list of capabilities(7) for a service: CapabilityBoundingSet=CAP_CHOWN CAP_KILL Or just remove one: CapabilityBoundingSet=~CAP_SYS_PTRACE
- ► Disallow forking:

Options for isolation and security (2)

- Run as user/group: User=, Group=
- Run service inside a chroot:

RootDirectory=/srv/chroot/foobar ExecStartPre=/usr/local/bin/setup-foobar-chroot.sh ExecStart=/usr/bin/foobard RootDirectoryStartOnly=yes

► Control CPU shares, memory limits, block I/O, swapiness:

CPUShares=1500

MemoryLimit=1G

BlockIOWeight=500

BlockIOReadBandwith=/var/log 5M

ControlGroupAttribute=memory.swappiness 70

 More information: Converting sysV init scripts to systemd service files, Securing your services, Changing roots, Managing resources

Timer units

- Similar to cron, but with all the power of systemd (dependencies, execution environment configuration, etc)
- ► Realtime (wallclock) timers: calendar event expressions
 - Expressed using a complex format (see systemd.time(7)), matching timestamps like: Fri 2012-11-23 11:12:13
 - Examples of valid values: hourly (= *-*-* *:00:00), daily (=
 --* 00:00:00), *:2/3 (= *-*-* *:02/3:00)
- ▶ Monotonic timers, relative to different starting points:
 - ♦ 5 hours and 30 mins after system boot: OnBootSec=5h 30m
 - ♦ 50s after systemd startup: OnstartupSec=50s
 - 1 hour after the unit was last activated: OnUnitActiveSec=1h
 (can be combined with OnBootSec or OnStartupSec to ensure
 that a unit runs on a regular basis)

Timer units example

myscript.service:

```
[Unit]
  Description=MyScript
  [Service]
  Type=simple
  ExecStart=/usr/local/bin/myscript
myscript.timer:
  [Unit]
  Description=Runs myscript every hour
  [Timer]
  # Time to wait after booting before we run first time
  OnBootSec=10min
  # Time between running each consecutive time
  OnUnitActiveSec=1h
  Unit=myscript.service
  [Install]
```

WantedBy=multi-user.target

Timer units example (2)

- Start timer: systemctl start myscript.timer
- ► Enable timer to start at boot: systemctl enable myscript.timer
- ► List all timers: systemctl list-timers

Socket activation

- systemd listens for connection on behalf of service until the service is ready, then passes pending connections
- Benefits:
 - No need to express ordering of services during boot:
 - ★ They can all be started in parallel ~ faster boot
 - ★ And they will wait for each other when needed (when they will talk to each other), thanks to socket activation
 - Services that are seldomly used do not need to keep running, and can be started on-demand
- Not limited to network services: also D-Bus activation and path activation
- More information: Converting inetd Service, Socket Activation for developers (+ follow-up)

Socket activation example: dovecot

dovecot.socket:

[Unit]
Description=Dovecot IMAP/POP3 \
 email server activation socket

[Socket]
dovecot expects separate
IPv4 and IPv6 sockets
BindIPv6Only=ipv6-only
ListenStream=0.0.0.0:143
ListenStream=[::]:143
ListenStream=0.0.0:993
ListenStream=[::]:993
KeepAlive=true

[Install]
WantedBy=sockets.target

dovecot.service:

[Unit]
Description=Dovecot IMAP/POP3 \
 email server
After=local-fs.target network.target

[Service]
Type=simple
ExecStart=/usr/sbin/dovecot -F
NonBlocking=yes

[Install]
WantedBy=multi-user.target

Socket activation example: sshd

sshd.socket:

```
[Unit]
Description=SSH Socket for Per-Connection Servers

[Socket]
ListenStream=22
Accept=yes
[Install]
WantedBy=sockets.target
```

sshd@.service:

```
[Unit]
Description=SSH Per-Connection Server

[Service]
ExecStart=-/usr/sbin/sshd -i
StandardInput=socket
```

Socket activation example: sshd (2)

- sshd@.service means that this is an instantiated service
- ► There's one instance of sshd@.service per connection:

```
# systemctl --full | grep ssh
sshd@172.31.0.52:22-172.31.0.4:47779.service loaded active running
sshd@172.31.0.52:22-172.31.0.54:52985.service loaded active running
sshd.socket loaded active listening
```

- Instanciated services are also used by getty
 - See Serial console and Instanciated services

Logging with journald

- Component of systemd
- Captures syslog messages, kernel log messages, initrd and early boot messages, messages written to stdout/stderr by all services
 - Forwards everything to syslog
- Structured format (key/value fields), can contain arbitrary data
 - But viewable as syslog-like format with journalctl
- Indexed, binary logs; rotation handled transparently
- Can replace syslog (but can also work in parallel)
- Not persistent across reboots by default to make it persistent, create the /var/log/journal directory, preferably with: install -d -g systemd-journal /var/log/journal setfacl -R -nm g:adm:rx,d:g:adm:rx /var/log/journal
- Can log to a remote host (with systemd-journal-gatewayd)

Example journal entry

```
_SERVICE=systemd-logind.service
MESSAGE=User harald logged in
MESSAGE ID=422bc3d271414bc8bc9570f222f24a9
_EXE=/lib/systemd/systemd-logind
_COMM=systemd-logind
_CMDLINE=/lib/systemd/systemd-logind
_{PID} = 4711
UID=0
GID = 0
_SYSTEMD_CGROUP=/system/systemd-logind.service
_CGROUPS=cpu:/system/systemd-logind.service
PRIORITY=6
_BOOT_ID=422bc3d271414bc8bc95870f222f24a9
_MACHINE_ID=c686f3b205dd48e0b43ceb6eda479721
_HOSTNAME=waldi
LOGIN USER=500
```

Using journalctl

- ▶ View the full log: journalctl
- Since last boot: journalctl -b
- ► For a given time interval: journalctl --since=yesterday or journalctl --until="2013-03-15 13:10:30"
- View it in the verbose (native) format: journalctl -o verbose
- Filter by systemd unit: journalctl -u ssh
- Filter by field from the verbose format: journalctl _SYSTEMD_UNIT=ssh.service journalctl _PID=810
- ▶ Line view (\approx tail -f): journalctl -f
- ▶ Last entries (≈ tail): journalctl -n
- Works with bash-completion
- See also: Journald design document, Using the Journal

Containers integration

- General philosophy: integrate management of services from machines (VMs and containers) with those of the host
 - systemd-machined: tracks machines, provides an API to list, create, register, kill, terminate machines, transfer images (tar, raw, Docker)
 - machinect1: command-line utility to manipulate machines
 - other tools also have containers support:
 - ★ systemctl -M mycontainer restart foo
 - ★ systemctl list-machines: provides state of containers
 - ★ journalctl -M mycontainer
 - ★ journalctl -m: combined log of all containers
- systemd has its own mini container manager: systemd-nspawn
- Other virtualization solutions can also talk to machined
- More information: Container integration

Networking with systemd-networkd

- Replacement for /etc/network/interfaces, on servers and VMs
 - Not really for Network Manager on desktops and laptops
- Supports setting IP configuration, configuring bridges, vlans, bonding, tunnels, etc
- Configuration files with a [Match] section to match on MAC address, driver, udev path, type, hostname, etc
 - foo.link: link-level configuration MAC address, interface name, MTU, rate, Duplex mode, Wake on Lan
 - foo.netdev: creation of virtual network devices (bridges, bonds, vlans, IPIP or GRE tunnels, VXLAN, tun, tap, veth)
 - foo.network: network devices configuration: IP (static or DHCP, gateway, additional routes, DNS), addition to bridge
- More information: systemd-networkd(8), systemd.link(5), systemd.network(5), systemd.netdev(5)

Example 1: DHCP, additional route

For higher performance, systemd includes a DHCP client

```
# /etc/systemd/network/ethernet.network
[Match]
Name=eth0

[Network]
DHCP=yes

[Route]
Gateway=192.168.1.253
Destination=10.0.0.0/8
```

Example 2: static addressing and VLAN

```
# /etc/systemd/network/vlan1.netdev
# [Match] section is optional in netdev files
[NetDev]
Name=vlan1
Kind=vlan
FVLAN
Td=1
# /etc/svstemd/network/ethernet.network
[Match]
Name=eth0
[Network]
DHCP=yes
VLAN=vlan1 # will create vlan1 on this device
# /etc/systemd/network/vlan1.network
[Match]
Name=vlan1
[Network]
Address=192.168.1.1/24
```

Example 3: bridge and tap

/etc/systemd/network/bridge0.netdev

[NetDev] Name=bridge0 Kind=bridge

/etc/systemd/network/bridge0.network

[Match]

Name=bridge0

[Network] Address=192.168.1.1/24

DHCPServer=yes # systemd has its own, very basic, DHCP server

/etc/systemd/network/tap.netdev

[NetDev]
Name=tap0
Kind=tap

/etc/systemd/network/tap.network

[Match]

Name=bridge0

[NetDev] Bridge=bridge0

Migration from sysvinit

- systemd hooks into LSB init scripts: service foo start|stop|... and /etc/init.d/foo redirect to systemctl
- systemd-sysv-generator creates wrapper units for LSB scripts:
 - Using LSB dependencies
 - Services are described as LSB: foo
 - ★ List all generated services: systemctl list-units | grep LSB:

Generated wrapper service file for apache2

```
$ systemctl cat apache2.service
# /run/systemd/generator.late/apache2.service
 Automatically generated by systemd-sysv-generator
[Unit]
Description=LSB: Apache2 web server
Before=runlevel2.target runlevel3.target runlevel4.target
  runlevel5.target shutdown.target
After=local-fs.target remote-fs.target network-online.target
  systemd-journald-dev-log.socket nss-lookup.target
Wants=network-online.target
Conflicts=shutdown.target
```

KillMode=process
[...]
ExecStart=/etc/init.d/apache2 start
ExecStop=/etc/init.d/apache2 stop
ExecReload=/etc/init.d/apache2 reload

[Service]
Type=forking

More stuff

- New cross-distro configuration files: /etc/hostname, /etc/locale.conf, /etc/sysctl.d/*.conf, /etc/tmpfiles.d/*.conf
- ► Tools to manage hostname, locale, time and date: hostnamectl, localectl, timedatectl
- Support for watchdogs
- Handling of user sessions
 - Each within its own cgroup
 - Multi-seat support
 - loginctl to manage sessions, users, seats

Conclusions

- systemd revisits the way we manage Linux systems
 - If we redesigned services management from scratch, would it look like systemd?
- ► For service developers: easier to support systemd than sysVinit
 - No need to fork, to drop privileges, to write a pid file
 - Just output logs to stdout (redirected to syslog, with priorities)
- Some parts still have rough edges, or are still moving targets, but are promising: journal, containers, networking