Robinhood PolicyEngine Temporary Filesystem Manager Configuration tutorial

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The purpose of this document is to guide you for the first steps of Robinhood installation and configuration. We will first run a very simple instance of Robinhood for monitoring purpose only. Then we will configure it for purging files when disk space is missing. Finally we will deal with more advanced usage, by defining filesets and associating different purge policies to them.

1. Installation

1.1. Robinhood

Requirements

Before building Robinhood, make sure the following packages are installed on your system:

- mysql-devel
- lustre API library (if Robinhood is to be run on a Lustre filesystem): '/usr/include/liblustreapi.h' and '/usr/lib/liblustreapi.a' are installed by lustre rpm.

Compilation

Retrieve Robinhood tarball from sourceforge: http://sourceforge.net/projects/robinhood

Unzip and untar the sources:

```
tar zxvf robinhood-2.2.3.tar.gz
cd robinhood-2.2.3
```

Then, use the "configure" script to generate Makefiles:

- use the --with-purpose=TMP_FS_MGR option for using it as a temporary filesystem manager;

```
./configure --with-purpose=TMP_FS_MGR
```

Other './configure' options:

- You can change the default prefix of installation path (default is /usr) using:
- '--prefix=<path>'
 If you want to disable Lustre specific features (getting stripe info, purge by OST...),

Finally, build the RPM:

```
make rpm
```

A ready-to-install RPM is generated in the 'rpms/RPMS/<arch>' directory. The RPM is tagged with the lustre version it was built for.

The RPM includes:

- 'robinhood' and 'rbh-report' binaries

use the '--disable-lustre' option.

- 'rbh-config' configuration helper
- Configuration templates
- /etc/init.d/robinhood script

1.2. MySQL database

Robinhood needs a MySQL database for storing its data. This database can run on a different machine than the Robinhood program.

Requirements

Install *mysql* and *mysql-server* packages on the node where you want to run the database engine.

```
Start the database engine: service mysqld start
```

Creating Robinhood database

With the helper script:

To easily create robinhood database, you can use the 'rbh-config' script. Run this script on the database host to check your system configuration and perform database creation steps:

```
# check database requirements:
rbh-config precheck_db

# create the database:
rbh-config create_db
```

Note: if no option is given to rbh-config, it prompts for configuration parameters interactively. Else, if you specify parameters on command line, it runs in batch mode.

Write the database password to a file with restricted access (root/600), e.g. /etc/robinhood.d/.dbpassword

or manually:

Alternatively, if you want a better control on the database configuration and access rights, you can perform the following steps of your own:

- Create the database (one per filesystem) using the mysqladmin command: mysqladmin create <robinhood_db_name>
- Connect to the database: mysql <robinhood_db_name>

Then execute the following commands in the MySQL session:

```
O GRANT USAGE ON robinhood_db_name.* TO 'robinhood'@'%' identified by 'password';
```

- O GRANT ALL PRIVILEGES ON robinhood_db_name.* TO 'robinhood'@'%' identified by 'password';
- o Refresh server access settings: FLUSH PRIVILEGES;
- O You can check user privileges using: SHOW GRANTS FOR robinhood;
- For testing access to database, execute the following command on the machine where robinhood will be running:

```
\label{local_mass} \verb|mysql -- user=| robinhood -- password=| password -- host=| db_host| \\ robinhood_db_name
```

If the command is successful, a SQL shell is started. Else, you will get a 'permission denied' error.

At this time, the database schema is empty. Robinhood will automatically create it the first time it is launched.

2. Run your first Robinhood instance

Let's begin with a simple case: we want to monitor the content of /tmp ext3 filesystem, by scanning it periodically.

2.1. Configuration file

We first need to write a very basic configuration file: after installing robinhood rpm, get the template file /etc/robinhood.d/tmpfs/templates/tmp_fs_mgr_tuto.conf. It contains the minimal set of configuration variables:

```
General
{
    fs_path = "/tmp";
    fs_type = ext3;
}

Log
{
    log_file = "/var/log/robinhood/tmp_fs.log";
    report_file = "/var/log/robinhood/reports.log";
    alert_file = "/var/log/robinhood/alerts.log";
}

ListManager
{
    MySQL
    {
        server = db_host;
        db = robinhood_test;
        user = robinhood;
        password_file = /etc/robinhood.d/.dbpassword;
    }
}
```

General section:

'fs_path' is the mount point of the filesystem we want to monitor.

'fs_type' is the type of filesystem (as returned by mount). This parameter is used for sanity checks.

Log section:

Make sure the log directory exists.

Note1: you can also specify special values 'stderr', 'stdout' or 'syslog' for log parameters.

Note2: robinhood is compliant with log rotation (if its log file is renamed, it will automatically switch to a new log file).

ListManager::MySQL section:

This section is for configuring database access.

Set the host name of the database server (*server* parameter), the database name (*db* parameter), the database user (*user* parameter) and specify a file where you wrote the password for connecting to the database (*password_file* parameter).

/!\ Make sure the password file cannot be read by any user, by setting it a '600' mode for example.

If you don't care about security, you can directly specify the password in the configuration file, by setting the *password* parameter.

```
E.g.: password = 'passw0rd';
```

2.2. Running robinhood

For this first example, we just want to scan the filesystem once and exit, so we can get stats about current content of /tmp.

Thus, we are going to run robinhood command with the '--scan' option, and the '--once' option so it will exit when the scan is finished.

You can specify the configuration file using the '-f' option. By default, it uses the first file it finds in the '/etc/robinhood.d/tmpfs' directory.

If you want to override configuration values for log file, use the '-L' option. For example, let's use '-L stdout'

```
robinhood -f /etc/robinhood.d/tmpfs/test.conf -L stdout --scan --once
or just:
robinhood -L stdout --scan --once
(if your config file is the only one in /etc/robinhood.d/tmpfs)
```

You should get something like this:

```
2009/07/17 13:49:06: FS Scan | Starting scan of /tmp 2009/07/17 13:49:06: FS Scan | Full scan of /tmp completed, 7130 entries found. Duration = 0.07s 2009/07/17 13:49:06: FS Scan | File list of /tmp has been updated 2009/07/17 13:49:06: Main | All tasks done! Exiting.
```

2.3. Getting stats on filesystem content

Now we performed a scan, we can get stats about users, files, directories, etc. using the rbh-report command.

• Getting stats about user 'foo':

```
rbh-report -u foo
User:
                    foo
   Type:
                     directory
   Count:
                     720.00 KB
   Space used:
                                 (1440 blks)
   Dircount min:
                             0
   Dircount max:
                            54
   Dircount avg:
                         file
   Type:
   Count:
                           609
   Space used:
                     20.26 MB
                                 (41496 blks)
   Size min:
                            8
                                 (8 bytes)
                      1.05 MB
   Size max:
                                 (1096625 bytes)
                     27.21 KB (27865 bytes)
   Size avg:
                      symlink
   Type:
   Count:
                             9
   Space used:
                     36.00 KB
                                 (72 blks)
   Size min:
                         13
                                 (13 bytes)
   Size max:
                            22
                                  (22 bytes)
                            17
                                 (17 bytes)
   Size avg:
```

• Getting largest files:

```
rbh-report --top-size
Rank:
                    /tmp/robinhood-2.1.1/rpms/BUILD/robinhood/src/Robinhood/rbh-report
Path:
Size:
                    1.05 MB (1096625 bytes)
               2009/07/15 14:25:45
Last access:
Last modification: 2009/07/15 14:25:44
Owner/Group: foo/grp1
*Purge class: tmp_file_class
Rank:
Path:
                    /tmp/robinhood-2.1.1/rpms/BUILD/robinhood/src/Robinhood/robinhood
Size: 1.03 MB (1080539 bytes)
Last access: 2009/07/15 1400
Last modification: 2009/07/15 14:25:43
Owner/Group: foo/grp2
Purge class: [default]
*new in robinhood 2.2
```

• Getting top space consummers:

```
rbh-report --top-users
Rank:
User:
                     foo
                21.00 MB
Space used:
                           (43008 blks)
                  708
Nb entries:
Size min:
                       8
                            (8 bytes)
                          (1096625 bytes)
Size max:
                  1.05 MB
                23.92 KB (24489 bytes)
Size avg:
```

```
Rank: 2
User: root
Space used: 32.00 KB (64 blks)
Nb entries: 4
Size min: 112 (112 bytes)
Size max: 4.00 KB (4096 bytes)
Size avg: 2.05 KB (2104 bytes)
```

• [new 2.2] fileclasses summary:

```
rbh-report --class-info

Class: important_files
Nb entries: 879
Space used: 9.00 GB (18874368 blks)
Size min: 0 (0 bytes)
Size max: 1.00 GB (19327352832 bytes)
Size avg: 10.48 MB (10993664 bytes)

Class: project_B
Nb entries: 878
Space used: 2.23 GB (4666481 blks)
Size min: 0 (0 bytes)
Size max: 95.37 MB (100000000 bytes)
Size avg: 2.60 MB (2727157 bytes)
```

• ...and more:

you can also generate reports, or dump files per directory, per OST, etc... To get more details about available reports, run 'rbh-report --help'.

3. Scan options and alerts

In the first example, we have used Robinhood as a 'one-shot' command. It can also be used as a daemon that will periodically scan the filesystem for updating its database. You can also configure alerts when entries in the filesystem match a condition you specified.

Let's configure Robinhood to scan the filesystem once a day. Add a FS_Scan section to the config file:

```
FS_Scan
{
    min_scan_interval = 1d;
    max_scan_interval = 1d;

    nb_threads_scan = 2;

Ignore
    {
        # ignore ".snapshot" and ".snapdir" directories (don't scan them)
        type == directory
        and
            ( name == ".snapdir" or name == ".snapshot" )
    }

Ignore
    {
        # ignore the content of /tmp/dir1
        tree == "/tmp/dir1"
```

```
}
```

It is possible to have a variable scan interval, depending on the filesystem usage. For this example, we want a constant scan interval so we set min_scan_interval and max_scan_interval to 1 day (1d).

Robinhood uses a parallel algorithm for scanning large filesystems efficiently. You can set the number of threads used for scanning using the nb_threads_scan parameter.

You may need to ignore some parts of the filesystem (like .snapshot dirs etc...). For this, you can use a "ignore" sub-block, like in the example above, and specify complex Boolean expressions on file properties (refer to Robinhood admin guide for more details about available attributes).

To create alerts about filesystem entries, add an EntryProcessor section to configuration file:

```
EntryProcessor
    Alert Large Directory
        type == directory
        dircount > 10000
        and
        last mod < 1d
    }
    # Raise alerts for large files
    Alert Large file
        type == file
        and
        size > 100GB
        and
        last_mod < 1d</pre>
    }
}
```

In this example, we want to raise alerts for directories with more that 10.000 entries and file larger than 100GB.

Note that these rules are matched at each scan. If you don't want to be alerted about a given file at every scan, it is advised to specify a condition on last_mod, so you will only be alerted for recently modified entries.

[new 2.2] You can now specify a name for alerts, so you can easily identify the issue in the alert title (in e-mail title).

Those alerts are written to the alert_file specified in Log section. They can also be sent by mail by specifying a mail address in the alert_mail parameter of Log section.

[new 2.2] You can now batch alert e-mails as a single summary (instead of sanding 1 mail per file). This is driven by the batch_alert_max parameter of Log section (0=no batch limit, 1=no batching).

Now, let's run Robinhood as a daemon. Use the '--detach' option to start it in background and detach it from your terminal:

```
robinhood --scan --detach
```

4. Resource monitoring and purges

One of the main purposes of robinhood is to monitor disk space usage and trigger purges when disk space runs low.

Purge triggering is based on high/low watermarks and files removal is based on a LRU list: when the used space reaches a high watermark, Robinhood will build a list of least recently accessed files (from its database) and purge them until the disk space is back to the low watermark.

4.1. Defining purge triggers

First of all, let's specify watermarks levels for triggering purge.

This can be done on several criteria:

- Global filesystem usage
- OST usage (for Lustre filesystems)
- User usage (quota-like purge)
- Periodic purge (whatever the filesystem usage is) [new 2.2.3]

Write the following block to configuration file for triggering purge on global filesystem usage:

trigger_on specifies the type of trigger.

high_watermark_pct indicates the disk usage that must be reached for starting purge. low_watermark_pct indicates the disk usage that must be reached for stopping purge. check interval is the interval for checking disk usage.

We can also do the same for users, be specifying a kind of "quota":

Every 12h, the daemon will check the space used by users. If a user uses more than 10GB, its files will be purged from the least recently accessed until the space he uses decrease to 9GB.

A list of users (separated by coma) can also be specified for quotas (wildcards are allowed), e.g:

[new 2.2.3] Periodic trigger periodically purge all entries that match purge policies (no watermarks are expected in this case):

```
Purge_Trigger {
         trigger_on = periodic;
         check_interval = 12h;
}
```

[new 2.2.3] To receive a mail notification each time a high watermark (or quota) is reached, add this parameter to a trigger:

```
notify_hw = true ;
```

By default, robinhood raises an alert if it can't purge enough data to reach the low watermark. [new 2.2.3] You can disable those alerts by adding this in a trigger definition:

```
alert lw = false ;
```

4.2. Minimal purge policy

Robinhood makes it possible to define different purge policies for several file classes. In this example, we will only define a single purge policy for all files. This can be done in a 'Purge_Policies' section of config file:

'default' policy is a special policy that applies to files that are not in a file class. In a policy, you must specify a condition for allowing entries to be purged. In this example, we don't want recently accessed entries (read or written within the last hour) to be purged.

4.3. Running resource monitoring

Robinhood is now able to monitor disk usage and purge entries when needed. Start the daemon with the '--purge' option. If your are not sure of your configuration, you can specify the '--dry-run' option, so it won't really purge files.

```
robinhood --purge --detach --dry-run
```

You will get something like this in the log file:

```
Main | Resource Monitor successfully initialized
```

```
ResMonitor | Filesystem usage: 92.45% (786901 blocks) / high watermark: 90.00% (764426 blocks)
ResMonitor | 34465 blocks (x512) must be purged on Filesystem (used=786901, target=734426, block size=4096)
Purge | Building a purge list from last full FS Scan: 2009/07/17 13:49:06
Purge | Starting purge on global filesystem
ResMonitor | Global filesystem purge summary: 34465 blocks purged/34465
blocks needed in /tmp
```

The list of purged files is written in the report file.

Note 1: you can use the same daemon for performing scans periodically and monitoring resource, by combining options on command line.

```
E.g.: robinhood --purge --scan --detach
```

By default, if you start Robinhood with no action, it will perform both.

Note 2: if you do not want to have a daemon on your system, you can perform resource monitoring with a 'one-shot' command that you can launch in cron, for example: robinhood --purge --once

It will check the disk usage: it will exit immediately if disk usage does not exceed the high watermark; else, it will purge entries.

Only check watermarks without purging data:

if robinhood is started with the '--check-watermarks' option instead of '--purge', it will only check for trigger conditions without purging data.

4.4. Purge parameters

You can add a "Purge_parameters" block to the configuration file, to have a better control on purges:

```
Purge_Parameters
{
    nb_threads_purge = 4;
    post_purge_df_latency = 1min;
    db_result_size_max = 10000;
}
```

Purge actions are performed in parallel. You can specify the number of purge threads by setting the *nb_threads_purge* parameter.

On filesystems where releasing data is asynchronous, the 'df' command may take a few minutes before returning an up-to-date value after purging a lot of files. Thus, Robinhood must wait before checking disk usage again after a purge. This is driven by the <code>post_purge_df_latency</code> parameter.

4.5. Using file classes

Robinhood makes it possible to apply different purge policies to files, depending on their properties (path, posix attributes, ...). This can be done by defining file classes that will be addressed in policies.

In this section of the tutorial, we will define 3 classes and apply different policies to them:

- We don't want "*.log" files that owns to 'root' to be purged;
- We want to keep files from directory /tmp/A to be kept longer on disk than files from other directories.

First, we need to define those file classes, in a 'filesets' section of the configuration file. We associate a custom name to each FileClass, and specify the definition of the class:

Then, those classes can be used in policies:

- entries can be white-listed using a 'ignore_fileclass' statement;
- they can be targeted in a policy, using a 'target_fileclass' directive.

```
Purge_Policies
      # whitelist log files of 'root'
      ignore fileclass = root log file;
      # keep files in /fs/A at least 12h after their last access
      Policy purge_A_files
      {
            target fileclass = A files;
            condition { last_access > 12h }
      }
      # The default policy applies to all other files
      # (files not in /fs/A and that don't own to root)
      Policy default
      {
            Condition { last_access > 1h }
      }
}
```

Notes:

- a given FileClass cannot be targeted simultaneously in several purge policies;
- policies are matched in the order they appear in configuration file. In particular, if 2 policy targets overlap, the first matching policy will be used;

- If you modify a fileclass definition or target fileclasses of policies, you need to reset fileclass information in database. To do so, run this command: rbh-config reset_classes
 - For ignoring entries, you can directly specify a condition in the 'purge_policies' section, using a 'ignore' block:

```
Purge_Policies
{
    Ignore
    {
       owner == root
       and
       name == "*.log"
}
```

[new 2.2] FileClasses can be defined as the union or the intersection of other FileClasses. To do so, use the special keywords "union", "inter" and "not" in the fileclass definition:

5. Directory removal

Purge after purge, there will be more and more empty directories in the filesystem namespace. Robinhood provides with a mechanism for removing directories that have been empty for a long time.

It is also possible to recursively remove entire parts of the filesystem ("rm -rf"), by specifying a condition on the top-level directory.

Directory removal is driven by a 'rmdir_policy' section in the configuration file:

- The condition for removing empty directories is given by the 'age_rm_empty_dirs' parameter, that indicates the duration after which an empty directory is removed.
- You can specify one or several 'ignore' condition for directories you never want to be removed.
- Use 'recursive_rmdir' sub-blocks to indicate what matching directories are to be removed recursively. /!\The whole directories content is removed without checking policies on their content (whitelist rules...).

```
rmdir_policy
{
    # remove empty directories after 15 days
    age_rm_empty_dirs = 15d;

# recursively remove ".trash" directories after 15 days
    recursive_rmdir
    {
        name == ".trash" and last_mod > 15d
    }
}
```

```
# whitelist directories matching the following condition
ignore
{
    depth < 2
        or
        owner == 'foo'
        or
        tree == /fs/subdir/A
}</pre>
```

You can specify advanced parameters by writing an 'rmdir_parameters' block:

```
rmdir_parameters
{
    # Interval for performing empty directory removal
    runtime_interval = 12h ;

# Number of threads for performing rmdir operations
    nb_threads_rmdir = 4 ;
}
```

In this section, you can also specify the period for checking empty directories (*runtime_interval* parameter).

For running empty directory removal, start robinhood with the '--rmdir' option:

```
robinhood -f /etc/robinhood.d/test.conf -rmdir
```

6. Robinhood on Lustre

Robinhood provides special features for Lustre filesystems:

6.1. Purge triggers on OST usage

Robinhood can monitor OST usage independently, and trigger purges only for the files of a given OST when it exceeds a threshold.

```
E.g.:
Purge_Trigger
{
    trigger_on = OST_usage ;
    high_watermark_pct = 85% ;
    low_water_mark_pct = 80% ;
    check_interval = 5min ;
}
```

6.2. File classes/conditions on OST indexes

[Incoming feature, will be available in v2.3]

On Lustre filesystem, you can specify policy conditions and fileclasses based on ost indexes.

```
E.g.:
Filesets
      FileClass retired ost
             ost index == 1 or ost index == 4 or ost index == 7
             and ost index != 9
       }
}
"ost_index == N" is true if at least one part of the file is stored in OST index #N.
```

"ost_index != N" is true if <u>no</u> part of the file is stored in OST index #N.

(Note: < and > are not allowed for this criteria).

File classes/conditions on OST pool names

In Lustre 1.8 release and later, you can use OST pool names for specifying file classes.

```
E.g.:
Filesets
      FileClass dalx_storage
            ost pool == "da1*"
```

6.4. Use Lustre changelogs instead of scanning the filesystem with Lustre 2!

With Lustre 2.x, file system scans are no more required to update robinhood's database: it can collect events from Lustre using Lustre's ChangeLog mechanism. This avoids over-loading the filesystem with namespace scans!

To activate this feature in Lustre, use the 'rbh-config' script on MDS:

```
rbh-config enable_chglogs
```

Then, set related information into robinhood's configuration:

```
ChangeLog
{
    MDT
        mdt_name = "MDT0000";
       reader id = "cl1";
}
```

By default, on Lustre v2, robinhood performs event handling when it is started with no option (instead of scanning).

You can start a robinhood instance for reading events only, using the '-read-log' option.

Note: in Lustre 2.0, there is a couple of bugs in ChangeLog mechanism ("defunc" processes in daemon mode, thread-safety issues, ...). Those bugs are now fixed in git master branch of Lustre, and fixes will be included in the next Lustre release (probably 2.1). Thus, it is recommended to wait this new version of Lustre for using this feature.

7. Optimizations and compatibility

7.1. [new 2.2] Periodic fileclass matching

In previous versions, robinhood matched fileclasses every time it applied policies. This resulted in doing a lot of filesystem calls at this time. Now, it can match fileclasses at regular interval, and only the policy condition for the fileclass is checked at each policy application. Additionally, the fileclass of each file is now stored in the database, so you can see it using the rbh-report command.

The fileclass matching interval is set using the 'fileclass_update' parameter in the new 'db_update_policy' section:

```
db_update_policy
{
    fileclass_update = periodic( 1h );
}
```

Possible values are:

- never: match file class once, and never again
- always: always re-match file class when applying policies (this is the old behavior)
- periodic(<period>): match fileclasses if this has not been done for a while.

If you modify fileclass definitions in config file, you need to clear robinhood cache, to force matching them again. This can be done using 'rbh-config':

```
> rbh-config reset_classes
```

7.2. Optimize report generation

By default, robinhood database is optimized for insertion and update, to get the best performances when scanning large filesystems and processing high streams of events.

On the other side, this makes it longer to generate reports: it may take a couple of minutes generating a summary for filesystems with tens of millions of entries.

If you don't care about the time it takes for scanning, and if its event processing pipeline does not appear to be busy, you may want to optimize Robinhood for generating reports faster. There is not a single universal optimization for this: you have to define specific indexes on the database, depending on the reports you need.

Don't hesitate asking on robinhood-support mailing list to determine the good index for your need: robinhood-support@lists.sourceforge.net.

7.3. rpmbuild compatibility issue

Robinhood spec file (used for generating the RPM) is written for recent Linux distributions (RH5 and later). If you have troubles generating robinhood RPM (e.g. undefined rpm macros), you can switch to the older spec file (provided in the distribution tarball):

```
> mv robinhood.old_spec.in robinhood.spec.in
```

- > ./configure
- > make rpm

7.4. SLES init depedencies

On SLES systems, the default dependency for boot scheduling is on "mysql" service. However, in many cases, it should be too early for starting robinhood daemon, especially if the filesystem it manages is not yet mounted. In such case, you have to modify the following lines in scripts/robinhood.init.sles.in before you run ./configure:

Required-Start: <required service>

Get more information

In-line help

'--help' options of 'robinhood' and 'rbh-report' commands provide you with detailed descriptions of command-line parameters.

Admin guide

For more details about robinhood configuration, you can refer to the admin guide. It is usually located in the doc/admin_guides directory of the distribution tarball.

Mailing list

If you have other specific questions, you can get support by posting to Robinhood mailing list: robinhood-support@lists.sourceforge.net