

OpenBSD: add VMM to 'packer'

The red pill taken to develop a Go 'plugin' for packer.io to be able to create VM images on OpenBSD for VMM and many other virtualizers.

Philipp Bühler <pb@sysfive.com> @pb_double

sysfive.com portfolio

- Continuous system and application operation
- Collaborations with Providers, Developers, Services and QA
- Hybrid cloud provisioning
- cost efficient scaling on commodity HW
- scale out to AWS/RS/GCE
- Incident, problem, disaster response
- Service availability independent of solution scenario
- migrate from or to private/public cloud or own HW
- robust, scalable technology portfolio
- continuous improvements in security and server architecture
- coherent provisioning across platforms (dev/stage/live)
- vendor/provider independence, OSS focus



Ze problems I tackle

- VM guest keeper need bootable stuff
- "infrastructure to go"
- reproducibility
- cross-host / virtualizer (OSX, OpenBSD / VirtualBox, VMM, AMI)

Solutions / Approaches

- my-imager.sh
- github | sh
- my-cold-hands ("VM guy is AWOL")
- packer (o'rly)

What's packer anyway?

Packer is an open source tool for creating **identical** machine images for multiple platforms from a **single source** configuration. Packer is lightweight, runs on every major operating system, and is highly performant, creating machine images for multiple platforms **in parallel**.

Packer does not replace configuration management like Chef or Puppet. In fact, when building images, Packer is able to use tools like Chef or Puppet to install software onto the image.

- written in golang
- small core providing communications (rpc)
- everything else is a plugin (but linked into one binary)
- configuration in JSON (+ optional variables)

forms in the sandbox / Terminology

Artifacts

Outcome of a "Build", e.g. AMI, .vmdk, .box

Builds

The actual running task producing above artifacts; parallelized

Builders

Code to steer the VM host, handle disk images, etc (see below)

Provisioners (optional)

Additional treatment, installation goes here and range from simple inline shell scripts to full-blown ansible, Chef, ..

Post-processors

Treat the Artifacts after creation, e.g. compress, upload AWS, ..

Templates

The JSON files defining all of the above (and some) - NOT a VM "template"

Builders + Post-Provisioning

By default the following “builder” engines are supported. Where needed the accompanying “post-processor” is typically available, too (e.g. EC2/AMI upload):

Alicloud ECS, Amazon EC2, Azure, CloudStack, DigitalOcean, Docker, File, Google Cloud, Hetzner Cloud, HyperOne, Hyper-V, Linode, LXC, LXD, NAVER Cloud, Null, 1&1, OpenStack, Oracle, Parallels, ProfitBricks, QEMU, Scaleway, Tencent Cloud, Triton, Vagrant, VirtualBox, VMware, Yandex.Cloud.

Further “builders” can be found in the wild and are just added as a single go binary in certain paths (e.g. ~/.packer.d/plugins/)

By default additional provisioning support for the following tools:

Ansible, Breakpoint, Chef, Converge, File, InSpec, PowerShell, Puppet, Salt Masterless, Shell.

OpenBSD VMM

vm(4)

virtual machine monitor (VMM) providing the required resources for the VMs (CPU, Disk, Net) and handles the necessary memory mapping (isolation).

vmd(8)

userland daemon to interact with vm(4) to create actual VMs and handle their lifecycle through

vmctl(8)

administrative tool to create, start/stop, etc VMs. In this scope also the main 'interface' for the packer builder plugin.

vm.conf(5)

configuration file for vmd(8), persist VM/network configurations.

doas(1)

While most tasks the “builder” can (and should!) run as unprivileged user, some commands need to be run as root. The plugin does so automatically. **Caveat:** needs 'nopass' for now (no tty), 'persist' typically timeouts too early.

Enough Introduction..

Questions so far?

some placeholder

some placeholder

Ohai + Links + Thanks

- Code/Slides - <https://v.gd/packobsd>
- Kickoff - Glarus, Switzerland / <https://hack4glarus.ch>
- Thanks to Claudio for the idea of vmctl -B
- Thanks to grubernaut for go.mod and workflow
- Any help/pull request very welcome (e.g. multi-disk)

Questions?



BEER after the closing session and ****auction****

DO NOT MISS - and see you at the SENS after it



Code/Slides - <https://v.gd/packobsd>

some placeholder