Tips for an Archlinux install

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Abstract

Here are some brief notes about a basic arch linux installation. These notes are to be read together with the installation guide, and they reflect my *personal* preferences.

1 Partition

I create 4 partitions:

1. root partition (about 25G),

2. boot partition (200M),

3. swap partition (about twice the ram), and

4. home partition (rest of memory).

Caution! Use primary partition for 4th partition, not extended.
After that, format and `mount` the partitions

```
mkswap /dev/sda3
swapom /dev/sda3
mkfs.ext4 /dev/sda1
mkfs.ext4 /dev/sda2
mkfs.ext4 /dev/sda4
mount /dev/sda1 /mnt
mkdir /mnt/home
mkdir /mnt/boot
mount /dev/sda2 /mnt/boot
mount /dev/sda4 /mnt/home
```

Choose a couple close mirrors and pacstrap only base to save time. After change root, install reflector, generate mirrorlist by

```
reflector --verbose --latest 20 --protocol https --sort rate --save /etc/pacman.d/mirrorlist
```

and install base-devel, vim, git, networkmanager, grub.
Change kernel to lts (keep the linux kernel as a backup) and install headers:
pacman -S linux-headers linux-lts linux-lts-headers grub-mkconfig -o /boot/grub/grub.cfg reboot

2 Network manager

To avoid manually configurating networks after reboot, install nm:
pacman -S networkmanager
and enable it:
systemctl enable NetworkManager
After reboot internet works out of the box.

3 User add

Add a new user
useradd -m -g wheel myname
and give him root privileges by running visudo and uncommentin wheel group (I use NOPASSWD option).

4 Prettify console

Install terminus fonts:
    pacman -S terminus-font
    To use terminus fonts in console do:
    echo "FONT=ter-114n" ¿¿ /etc/vconsole.conf

5 Changing default shell

Zsh is a much more powerful shell than bash. To list all installed shells, run:

```
$ chsh −l
```

and to set one as default for your user do:

```
$ chsh −s full−path−to−shell
```

where full-path-to-shell is the full path as given by chsh -l.
    If you now log out and log in again, you will be greeted by the other shell.