# Managing Version‑Skew on a Shared **/home**

**Scope:** How to keep your data safe when multiple roots (openSUSE Tumbleweed/Aeon + test distros) mount the same Btrfs /home.

| ## 1 Why Skew Happens \* Rolling distributions ship the *same* apps days apart. \* A newer build may upgrade config files in ~/.config, breaking an older build. \* Older kernels might not understand Btrfs features enabled by newer kernels. |
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| ## 2 Tumbleweed ⇄ Aeon Synchronisation | Pipeline Stage | **Tumbleweed** | **Aeon Desktop** | |—————-|—————-|——————| | Build & QA | Daily snapshot after openQA pass | Image built **immediately** from the same snapshot | | Delivery | zypper dup when you choose | transactional‑update.timer auto‑stages in 24 h | | **Typical Lag** | 0 days (if you run dup) | **0–2 days** | |
| ### Shared **/home** – Risk Assessment | Risk Area | Why Skew Matters | Reality with TW + Aeon | |———–|——————|————————| | Desktop configs | Newer version rewrites INI/JSON | Same snapshot ± 48 h → safe | | Flatpak data | Uses per‑user runtimes | Usually identical; Aeon may even be newer | | Tool‑chain caches | Forward compatible | No issues | | Kernel‑space user trees | Rare now | Not an issue | |
| > **Bottom line:** keep both roots updated weekly and you almost never see config breakage. |
| ### Keeping Them in Lock‑Step | Strategy | How | Result | |———-|—–|——–| | **Let Aeon lead** | Leave transactional‑update.timer enabled; add a nightly zypper dup timer on TW | <24 h skew | | **Let TW lead** | Disable timer on Aeon; run transactional‑update dup after each zypper dup | Manual but synchronous | |

## 3 When Skew *Can* Bite

* Major desktop jumps (e.g. GNOME 46→47) — if you freeze one root for weeks.
* Opt‑in RPMs present only on one root.
* Work‑arounds: update, use per‑root users, or isolate configs.

| ## 4 General Skew Management for *Other* Test Distros ### 4.1 Risk Map | Risk Zone | What Could Go Wrong | Impact | |———–|——————–|——–| | **Files‑on‑disk** | Kernel lacks new Btrfs flag | Disk fails to mount / data corruption | | **Configs** | Newer app rewrites settings | Old build crashes or misbehaves | | **UID/GID** | Installer picks UID 1001 | Mixed file ownership | | **Accidental deletion** | Unfamiliar UI | Data loss | |
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| ## 5 Restoration Playbook | Scenario | Steps | |———-|——-| | Config broken (files intact) | snapper diff N..N‑1 → snapper undochange N | | Whole test distro trashed /home | Boot good root → snapper rollback latest healthy snapshot | | Btrfs metadata corrupted | Restore send‑stream from backup drive/cloud | |

## 6 TL;DR

1. **TW + Aeon** ship within 0–2 days → safe for single /home if both updated weekly.
2. For *other* test distros: snapshot before you boot, isolate configs (sub‑volume or user), prune snapshots.
3. Off‑disk backups (Btrfs send or Restic) guarantee a last‑resort restore path.

With these safeguards you can multi‑boot experimental roots on a single laptop without risking long‑lived data—or your evening. 🚀