

Cluster Join failed This host already contains virtual guests

👤 DocSpiegel · 🕒 Jul 15, 2019 · 🏷️ ceph cluster corosync

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DocSpiegel

New Member



Jul 15, 2019

🔗 #1

Hello all, I will keep this brief and to the point. I have moved my cluster to a permanent home on a new network and am recreating my cluster. In order to do so I followed the process of removing corosync.conf and deleting all the config files. I also removed all ceph config and all vm's are removed from all nodes.

I can create a cluster fine, but whenever I attempt to join a node to it I get the error 'this host already contains virtual guests' but they are all gone.

Any ideas?



mira

Proxmox Staff Member

Staff member



Jul 15, 2019

🔗 #2

Are there any files left in '/etc/pve/qemu-server' or '/etc/pve/lxc' on the node you want to join?

Best regards,
Mira

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DocSpiegel

New Member



Jul 15, 2019

🔗 #3

mira said: ↻

Are there any files left in '/etc/pve/qemu-server' or '/etc/pve/lxc' on the node you want to join?

In /etc/pve/nodes/ I found that there was a directory for each of the old nodes(i.e. /etc/pve/nodes/node1/qemu-server/ and inside found the vm .conf files i.e. 101.conf. I removed those and then the join worked properly.

Thank you for the quick response and help!



SwaggerRO19
New Member



Dec 20, 2019

#4

I have the same issue. I removed the 101.conf and 102.conf and when I try again to add the server to the cluster I receive the same error * this host already contains virtual guests

Any ideeas?



mira
Proxmox Staff Member
Staff member



Dec 20, 2019

#5

Please post the output of `ls /etc/pve/qemu-server` and `ls /etc/pve/lxc` as well as `ls /etc/pve/nodes`

Best regards,
Mira

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SwaggerRO19
New Member



Dec 20, 2019

#6

@mira

The server that will join the cluster:

```
root@pmx2:~# ls /etc/pve/qemu-server
root@pmx2:~# ls /etc/pve/lxc
100.conf
root@pmx2:~# ls /etc/pve/nodes
pmx2
root@pmx2:~#
```

The server that hosts the cluster:

```
root@proxmox:~# ls /etc/pve/qemu-server
root@proxmox:~# ls /etc/pve/lxc
101.conf 102.conf 105.conf 106.conf 107.conf 108.conf 110.conf
root@proxmox:~# ls /etc/pve/nodes
proxmox
root@proxmox:~#
```



mira
Proxmox Staff Member
Staff member

Dec 20, 2019

#7

You already have a container on that node. If you want to keep it, make a backup. Then delete the container, join the node to the cluster and restore the container.

Best regards,
Mira



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[SwaggerRO19](#)



SwaggerRO19

New Member



Dec 20, 2019

#8

@mira may I ask on what node? On the pmx2 one? Or on the host node.



mira

Proxmox Staff Member

Staff member



Dec 20, 2019

#9

On the one you want to join, as the error message mentions. You can't join a node to a cluster if the node has guests.

Best regards,
Mira

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[Chaminda Bandara and SwaggerRO19](#)



wifi75

Member



Sep 3, 2020

#10

hello I have some problem,

I have two node the first have a lot VM and the host name is Proxmox
On the proxmox host I have make a cluster.
now I'd like to join another node named proxmox2 but when i try there is error:
* this host already contains virtual guests

below result of command:

```
root@proxmox:~# ls /etc/pve/qemu-server
100.conf 101.conf 102.conf 103.conf 104.conf 105.conf 106.conf 110.conf
112.conf
root@proxmox:~# ls /etc/pve/lxc
root@proxmox:~# ls /etc/pve/nodes
proxmox
root@proxmox:~#
```

```
root@proxmox2:~# ls /etc/pve/qemu-server
root@proxmox2:~# ls /etc/pve/lxc
root@proxmox2:~# ls /etc/pve/nodes
```

```
proxmox2
root@proxmox2:~#
```

what can I d for fix ?



mira

Proxmox Staff Member

Staff member



Sep 3, 2020

#11

You can backup all your VMs on that node. Afterwards remove them from the node and join the node to the cluster. Once everything is working you can restore the VMs on the node.

Please make sure the backups are working **before** you delete the VMs.

Best regards,
Mira

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wifi75

Member



Sep 3, 2020

#12

each night node backs up to nas



voarsh

Member



Dec 27, 2020

#13

mira said:

On the one you want to join, as the error message mentions. You can't join a node to a cluster if the node has guests.

This is a bad design. Consider making it possible to join when guests exist on the joining node.

Last edited: Dec 27, 2020

[yonoss](#), [Monarch](#), [franko5](#) and 9 others



thiagotgc

Active Member



Aug 27, 2021

#14

voarsh said:

This is a bad design. Consider making it possible to join when guests exist on the joining node.

I also don't understand why this limitation.

Will this ever be overcome?
[franko5](#), [Scotty](#), [voarsh](#) and 1 other person



thiagotgc
Active Member



Dec 14, 2021
News?

#15



mira
Proxmox Staff Member
Staff member



Dec 17, 2021

#16

No, this won't be changed.
One of the reasons why this limitation exists, is that there can be a conflict of VM/CT IDs.

Best regards,
Mira

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[kristian.kirilov](#) and [sentense](#)



voarsh
Member



Dec 21, 2021

#17

[mira](#) said:

No, this won't be changed.
One of the reasons why this limitation exists, is that there can be a conflict of VM/CT IDs.

yes, I know this, but PVE team can compare what's in the cluster and what's in the new joining node, rename VM/CT IDs and disk names to not be what's in the cluster, so when joining it's unique.

Only workaround is to backup every VM/CT and restore after joining (oh, and dealing with VM/CT IDs)

[thiagotgc](#)



mokaz
Member



Dec 22, 2021

#18

That's what i did to sort this out:

- stop all the VMs on the joining node
- move the VMs descriptors within /etc/pve/nodes/[NODENAME]/qemu-server to /home/_cluster_bck
- join the cluster
- copy the backup VMs descriptors back to /etc/pve/nodes/[NODENAME]

/qemu-server

done =)

Wichets, fabwebbr and thiagotgc



fabian

Proxmox Staff Member

Staff member



Dec 22, 2021

#19

voarsh said:

yes, I know this, but PVE team can compare what's in the cluster and what's in the new joining node, rename VM/CT IDs and disk names to not be what's in the cluster, so when joining it's unique.

Only workaround is to backup every VM/CT and restore after joining (oh, and dealing with VM/CT IDs)

it's not that easy - changing guest IDs involves storage operations, storage config entries can also conflict, as could stuff like CPU models, firewall groups, backup jobs - and that's just from the top of my head without actually thinking through all the corner cases that might pop up.

you can already trivially work around this limitation manually **if you know what you are doing** (backup relevant content from /etc/pve, remove guest configs, join, restore content as needed), but there is so much that can go wrong that this will not be automated. 99% of the time a node is freshly installed, then joined to an existing cluster while empty.

Best regards,
Fabian

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mokaz

Member



Dec 22, 2021

#20

Sure thing Fabian, I wouldn't do this in production that's for sure.. But see here I've just made some stupid mistakes (rm -r /etc/pve/nodes/) while reconfiguring the cluster etc and well all the VMs were locally hosted or on NFS.. And I needed a few VMs to control underneath hardware, hence not much of a choice... in my home lab setup this hasn't gave me any issues really..

And sure thing, backup, backup backup..

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