neo4j / **neo4j**

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# Handle finding server PID with lsof >= 4.88 🐛

**Closed**    **hoelzro** wants to merge 1 commit into `neo4j:2.3` from `hoelzro:fix-lsof-usage`

Conversation 10    Commits 1    Files changed 1                    +2 −3

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**hoelzro** commented Apr 23, 2015

lsof, as of 4.88, always prints the file descriptor number (prefixed
with an 'f') when using fields output (specified by the `-F` ) option.
This can follow the PID in the field list, causing the `grep -B1 | head -n1` expression to interpret the file
descriptor number as the PID, which
makes starting a Neo4J server fail.

This change looks instead for the 'p' prefix that denotes the active
PID; perl is used instead of grep because I felt that it would be easier
to write a portable Perl invocation to extract the PID.

⬡    Handle finding server PID with lsof >= 4.88 ⋯                    a67900f

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**jotomo** commented Apr 23, 2015

(Disclaimer: I'm just a bystander) The downside to the perl solution is that it adds a dependency on perl.
AFAIK perl is not yet used in neo4j so far (well, in one place as part of the build, but not as a runtime
dependency). Adding a dependency for one a single use seems a bit much ...

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**hoelzro** commented Apr 23, 2015

**@jotomo** You're right; I figured that since perl is installed on most *nix machines these days, it would be
an acceptable dependency.

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**jakewins** commented Apr 23, 2015                    Collaborator

**@benbc @simpsonjulian** thoughts?

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**jakewins** commented Apr 23, 2015                    Collaborator

Also, got your CLA **@hoelzro**, added you to the list of verified contributors so the PRs should turn green
now :)

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**simpsonjulian** commented Apr 23, 2015                    Owner

Ideally we'd remove `lsof` , as it's not guaranteed to be installed on a target system (e.g. vendor Unices).

I think `perl` will be installed on more target systems, but not all, especially in the Docker deployment
scenario. I'm wondering if we can avoid checking for open sockets entirely, and reduce the footprint of
Neo4j.

Note: if we add perl as a runtime dependency, we need to declare that in the Linux packages (and
perhaps Homebrew).

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**cleishm** commented Apr 25, 2015                    Owner

### Labels
None yet

### Milestone
No milestone

### Assignee
No one assigned

### 6 participants

Unfortunately I must concur with **@simpsonjulian** - we can't add a dependency on perl.

The best approach will be to remove this type of checking entirely, and leave it to the various init services provided by each supported platform package.

**hoelzro** commented Apr 27, 2015

**@cleishm** That makes sense to me; I just wanted to get the ball rolling!

**benbc** commented Apr 27, 2015                                                                Owner

**@hoelzro** I'm afraid that I agree that it's not reasonable to pull in Perl just for this use. Can you tell me which distro and version you are using that has lsof 4.88?

**hoelzro** commented Apr 27, 2015

**@benbc** Sure, I'm on Arch Linux. It's a rolling release distro, so nailing it down to a particular version is kind of hard. =/

**cleishm** commented Apr 27, 2015                                                                Owner

Closing this PR, pending a new solution.

**cleishm** closed this Apr 27, 2015

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