2024-07-10

OpenHPC: Beyond the Install Guide

OpenHPC: Beyond the Install Guide
for PEARC24

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2024-07-22

Acknowledgments and shameless plugs

OpenHPC especially Tim Middelkoop (Internet2) and Chris Simmons (Massachusetts Green High Performance Computing Center). They have a BOF at 1:30 Wednesday. You should go to it.

Jetstream2 especially Jeremy Fischer, Mike Lowe, and Julian Pistorius. Jetstream2 has a tutorial at the same time as this one. Please stay here.

NSF CC* for the equipment that led to some of the lessons we're sharing today (award #2127188).

ACCESS current maintainers of the project formerly known as the XSEDE Compatible Basic Cluster.

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Where we're starting from

Figure 1: Two example HPC networks for the tutorial

You:

- have installed OpenHPC before
- have been issued a (basically) out-of-the-box OpenHPC cluster for this tutorial

Cluster details:

- Rocky Linux 9 (x86_64)
- OpenHPC 3, Warewulf 3, Slurm
- 2 non-GPU nodes
- 2 GPU nodes (currently without GPU drivers, so: expensive non-GPU nodes)
- 1 management node (SMS)
- 1 unprovisioned login node

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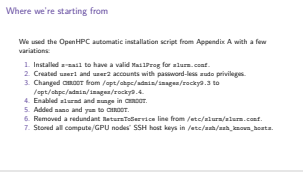
Where we're starting from
We used the OpenHPC automatic installation script from Appendix A with a few variations:
1. Installed s-nail to have a valid MailProg for slurm.conf.
2. Created user1 and user2 accounts with password-less sudo privileges.
3. Changed CHROOT from /opt/ohpc/admin/images/rocky9.3 to /opt/ohpc/admin/images/rocky9.4.
4. Enabled slurmd and munge in CHROOT.
5. Added nano and yum to CHROOT.
6. Removed a redundant ReturnToService line from /etc/slurm/slurm.conf.
7. Stored all compute/GPU nodes' SSH host keys in /etc/ssh/ssh_known_hosts.

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Where we're going

1. A login node that's practically identical to a compute node (except for where it needs to be different)
2. A slightly more secured SMS and login node
3. GPU drivers on the GPU nodes
4. Using node-local storage for the OS and/or scratch
5. De-coupling the SMS and the compute nodes (e.g., independent kernel versions)
6. Easier management of node differences (GPU or not, diskless/single-disk/multi-disk, Infiniband or not, etc.)
7. Slurm configuration to match some common policy goals (fair share, resource limits, etc.)

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Assumptions

1. We have a VM named `login`, with no operating system installed.
2. The `eth0` network interface for `login` is attached to the internal network, and `eth1` is attached to the external network.
3. The `eth0` MAC address for `login` is known—check the **Login server** section of your handout for that. It's of the format `aa:bb:cc:dd:ee:ff`.
4. We're logged into the SMS as `user1` or `user2` that has `sudo` privileges.

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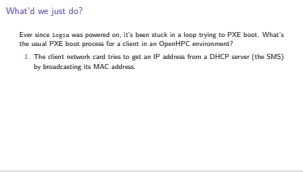
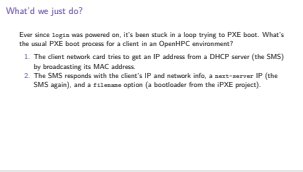
Working from section 3.9.3 of the install guide:

```
[user1@sms-0 ~]$ sudo wwsh -y node new login --netdev eth0 \
    --ipaddr=172.16.0.2 --hwaddr=__:__:__:__:__:__
[user1@sms-0 ~]$ sudo wwsh -y provision set login \
    --vnfs=rocky9.4 --bootstrap='uname -r' \
    --files=dynamic_hosts,passwd,group,shadow,munge.key,network
```

Make sure to replace the __ with the characters from your login node's MAC address!


What'd we just do?
Ever since login was powered on, it's been stuck in a loop trying to PXE boot. What's the usual PXE boot process for a client in an OpenHPC environment?
1. The client network card tries to get an IP address from a DHCP server (the SMS) by broadcasting its MAC address.

x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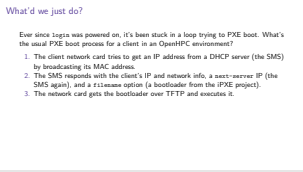
1. The client network card tries to get an IP address from a DHCP server (the SMS) by broadcasting its MAC address.
2. The SMS responds with the client's IP and network info, a next-server IP (the SMS again), and a filename option (a bootloader from the iPXE project).

x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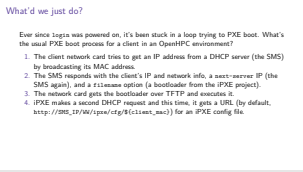
3. The network card gets the bootloader over TFTP and executes it.

x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3. The network card gets the bootloader over TFTP and executes it.
4. iPXE makes a second DHCP request and this time, it gets a URL (by default, http://SMS_IP/WW/ipxe/cfg/${client_mac}) for an iPXE config file.

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x

What'd we just do?

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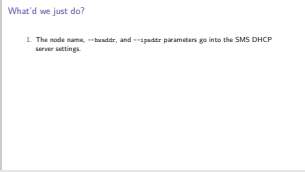
2. The SMS responds with the client's IP and network info, a `next-server` IP (the SMS again), and a `filename` option (a bootloader from the iPXE project).
3. The network card gets the bootloader over TFTP and executes it.
4. iPXE makes a second DHCP request and this time, it gets a URL (by default, `http://SMS_IP/WW/ipxe/cfg/${client_mac}`) for an iPXE config file.
5. The config file contains the URL of a Linux kernel and initial ramdisk, plus multiple kernel parameters available after initial bootup for getting the node's full operating system contents.


What'd we just do?
1. The node name, --bmaddr, and --ipaddr parameters go into the SMS DHCP server settings.

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What'd we just do?

1. The node name, `--bwaddr`, and `--ipaddr` parameters go into the SMS DHCP server settings.
2. The `--bootstrap` parameter defines the kernel and ramdisk for the iPXE configuration.

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What'd we just do?

1. The node name, `--hwaddr`, and `--ipaddr` parameters go into the SMS DHCP server settings.
2. The `--bootstrap` parameter defines the kernel and ramdisk for the iPXE configuration.
3. The node name, `--netdev`, `--ipaddr`, `--hwaddr` parameters all go into kernel parameters accessible from the provisioning software.

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What'd we just do?

1. The node name, `--hwaddr`, and `--ipaddr` parameters go into the SMS DHCP server settings.
2. The `--bootstrap` parameter defines the kernel and ramdisk for the iPXE configuration.
3. The node name, `--netdev`, `--ipaddr`, `--hwaddr` parameters all go into kernel parameters accessible from the provisioning software.
4. During the initial bootup, the `--hwaddr` parameter is passed to a CGI script on the SMS to identify the correct VNFS for the provisioning software to download (set by the `--vnfs` parameter).

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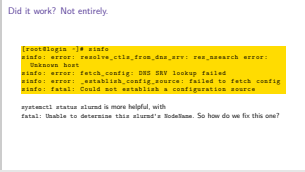
What'd we just do?

1. The node name, `--hwaddr`, and `--ipaddr` parameters go into the SMS DHCP server settings.
2. The `--bootstrap` parameter defines the kernel and ramdisk for the iPXE configuration.
3. The node name, `--netdev`, `--ipaddr`, `--hwaddr` parameters all go into kernel parameters accessible from the provisioning software.
4. During the initial bootup, the `--hwaddr` parameter is passed to a CGI script on the SMS to identify the correct VNFS for the provisioning software to download (set by the `--vnfs` parameter).
5. After downloading the VNFS, the provisioning software will also download files from the SMS set by the `--files` parameter.

Did it work? So far, so good.

```
[user1@sms-0 ~]$ sudo ssh login
[root@login ~]# df -h
Filesystem
...
172.16.0.1:/home
172.16.0.1:/opt/ohpc/pub
```

x


Did it work? Not entirely.
[root@login ~]# sinfo
sinfo: error: resolve_ctls_from_dns_srv: res_nsearch error: Unknown host
sinfo: error: fetch_config: DNS SRV lookup failed
sinfo: error: _establish_config_source: failed to fetch config
sinfo: fatal: Could not establish a configuration source
systemctl status slurmd is more helpful, with
fatal: Unable to determine this slurmd's NodeName. So how do we fix this one?

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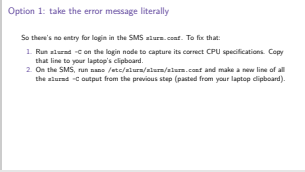
Option 1: take the error message literally

So there's no entry for login in the SMS `slurm.conf`. To fix that:

1. Run `slurmd -C` on the login node to capture its correct CPU specifications. Copy that line to your laptop's clipboard.

x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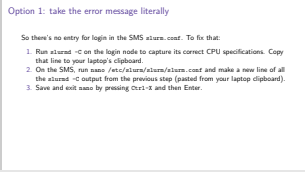
x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3. Save and exit nano by pressing Ctrl-X and then Enter.

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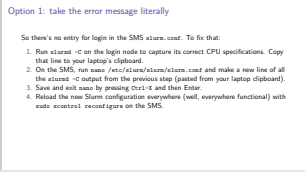
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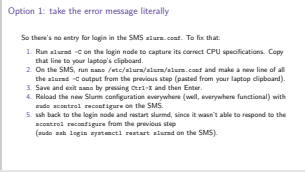
3. Save and exit nano by pressing Ctrl-X and then Enter.
4. Reload the new Slurm configuration everywhere (well, everywhere functional) with sudo scontrol reconfigure on the SMS.

x

x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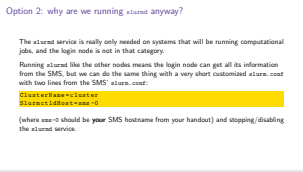
3. Save and exit `nano` by pressing `Ctrl-X` and then Enter.
4. Reload the new Slurm configuration everywhere (well, everywhere functional) with `sudo scontrol reconfigure` on the SMS.
5. ssh back to the login node and restart slurmd, since it wasn't able to respond to the `scontrol reconfigure` from the previous step
(`sudo ssh login systemctl restart slurmd` on the SMS).

Option 1: take the error message literally

Now an `sinfo` should work on the login node:

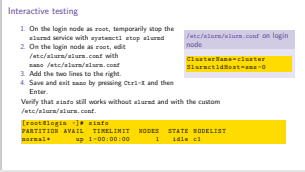
```
[root@login ~]# sinfo
PARTITION AVAIL  TIMELIMIT  NODES  STATE NODELIST
normal*      up 1-00:00:00      1   idle c1
```

x


Option 2: why are we running slurmd anyway?
The slurmd service is really only needed on systems that will be running computational jobs, and the login node is not in that category.
Running slurmd like the other nodes means the login node can get all its information from the SMS, but we can do the same thing with a very short customized slurm.conf with two lines from the SMS' slurm.conf:
ClusterName=cluster
SlurmctldHost=sms-0
(where sms-0 should be your SMS hostname from your handout) and stopping/disabling the slurmd service.

x

x


Interactive testing
1. On the login node as root, temporarily stop the slurmd service with systemctl stop slurmd
2. On the login node as root, edit /etc/slurm/slurm.conf with nano /etc/slurm/slurm.conf
3. Add the two lines to the right.
4. Save and exit nano by pressing Ctrl-X and then Enter.
/etc/slurm/slurm.conf on login node
ClusterName=cluster
SlurmctldHost=sms-0
Verify that sinfo still works without slurmd and with the custom /etc/slurm/slurm.conf
[root@login ~]# sinfo
PARTITION AVAIL TIMELIMIT NODES STATE NODELIST
normal* up 1-00:00:00 1 idle c1

Making permanent changes from the SMS

Let's reproduce the changes we made interactively on the login node in the Warewulf settings on the SMS.

For the customized `slurm.conf` file, we can keep a copy of it on the SMS and add it to the Warewulf file store.

We've done that previously for files like the shared `munge.key` for all cluster nodes (see section 3.8.5 of the OpenHPC install guide).

We also need to make sure that file is part of the login node's provisioning settings.

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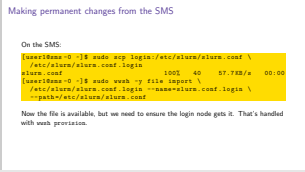

Making permanent changes from the SMS
On the SMS:
[user1@smx-0 ~]$ sudo scp login:/etc/slurm/slurm.conf \
/etc/slurm/slurm.conf.login
slurm.conf 100% 40 57.7KB/s 00:00
[user1@smx-0 ~]$ sudo wwsh -y file import \
/etc/slurm/slurm.conf.login --name=slurm.conf.login \
--path=/etc/slurm/slurm.conf
Now the file is available, but we need to ensure the login node gets it. That's handled
with wwsh provision.

x

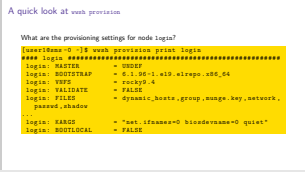
x

A quick look at wwsh provision

What are the provisioning settings for compute node c1?

```
[user1@sms-0 ~]$ wwsh provision print c1
################################################################
### c1 ###########################################################
c1: MASTER              = UNDEF
c1: BOOTSTRAP           = 6.1.96-1.el9.elrepo.x86_64
c1: VNFS                = rocky9.4
c1: VALIDATE            = FALSE
c1: FILES               = dynamic_hosts,group,munge.key,network,
  passwd,shadow
...
c1: KARGS               = "net.ifnames=0 biosdevname=0 quiet"
c1: ROOTLOCAL           = FALSE
```

x


A quick look at wwsh provision
What are the provisioning settings for node login?
[user1@sms-0 ~]$ wwsh provision print login
login
login: MASTER = UNDEF
login: BOOTSTRAP = 6.1.96-1.el9.elrepo.x86_64
login: VNFS = rocky9.4
login: VALIDATE = FALSE
login: FILES = dynamic_hosts,group,munge.key,network,
passwd,shadow
...
login: KARGS = "net.ifnames=0 biosdevname=0 quiet"
login: BOOTLOCAL = FALSE

x

A quick look at `wwsh provision`

The provisioning settings for `c1` and `login` are identical, but there's a lot to read in there to be certain about it.

We could run the two outputs through `diff`, but every line contains the node name, so **no lines are literally identical**.

Let's simplify and filter the `wwsh provision` output to make it easier to compare.

x

Filtering `wwsh provision` output

- I only care about the lines containing = signs, so

```
wwsh provision print c1 | grep =
```

is a start.

Filtering `wwsh provision` output

- I only care about the lines containing = signs, so

```
wwsh provision print c1 | grep =
```

is a start.

- Now all the lines are prefixed with `c1:`, and I want to keep everything after that, so

```
wwsh provision print c1 | grep = | cut -d: -f2-
```

will take care of that.

x

Filtered result

```
wwsh provision print c1 | grep = | cut -d: -f2-
```

```
MASTER          = UNDEF
BOOTSTRAP       = 6.1.96-1.el9.elrepo.x86_64
VNFS            = rocky9.4
VALIDATE        = FALSE
FILES           = dynamic_hosts,group,munge.key,network,
  passwd,shadow
...
KARGS           = "net.ifnames=0 biosdevname=0 quiet"
BOOTLOCAL       = FALSE
```

Much more useful.

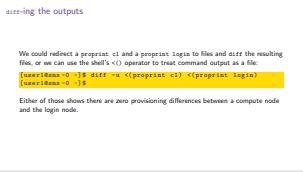
x

Making a function for this

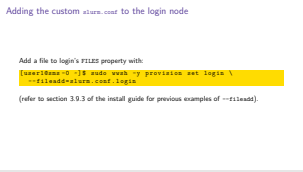
We may be typing that command pipeline a lot, so let's make a shell function to cut down on typing:

```
[user1@sms-0 ~]$ function proprint() { \
  wwsh provision print $@ | grep = | cut -d: -f2- ; }
[user1@sms-0 ~]$ proprint c1
MASTER          = UNDEF
BOOTSTRAP       = 6.1.96-1.el9.elrepo.x86_64
...
```

x


diff-ing the outputs
We could redirect a proprint c1 and a proprint login to files and diff the resulting files, or we can use the shell's <() operator to treat command output as a file:
[user1@ama-0 ~]$ diff -u <(proprint c1) <(proprint login)
[user1@ama-0 ~]$
Either of those shows there are zero provisioning differences between a compute node and the login node.

x


Adding the custom slurm.conf to the login node
Add a file to login's FILES property with:
[user1@sms-0 ~]$ sudo wwsh -y provision set login \
--fileadd=slurm.conf.login
(refer to section 3.9.3 of the install guide for previous examples of --fileadd).

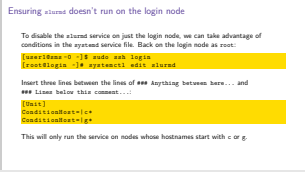
x

Checking for provisioning differences

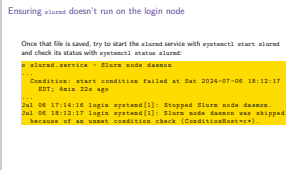
Rerun the previous `diff` command to easily see what's changed:

```
[user1@sms-0 ~]$ diff -u <(proprint c1) <(proprint login)
--- /dev/fd/63  2024-07-06 11:11:07.682959677 -0400
+++ /dev/fd/62  2024-07-06 11:11:07.683959681 -0400
@@ -2,7 +2,7 @@
  BOOTSTRAP         = 6.1.96-1.el9.elrepo.x86_64
  VNFS              = rocky9.4
  VALIDATE          = FALSE
- FILES             = dynamic_hosts,group,munge.key,network,
  passwd,shadow
+ FILES             = dynamic_hosts,group,munge.key,network,
  passwd,shadow,slurm.conf.login
  PRESHELL          = FALSE
  POSTSHELL         = FALSE
  POSTNETDOWN       = FALSE
```

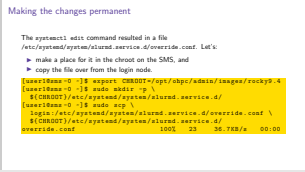
x


Ensuring slurmd doesn't run on the login node
To disable the slurmd service on just the login node, we can take advantage of conditions in the systemd service file. Back on the login node as root:
[user1@smc-0 ~]$ sudo ssh login
[root@login ~]# systemctl edit slurmd
Insert three lines between the lines of ### Anything between here... and ### Lines below this comment...:
[Unit]
ConditionHost=|c*
ConditionHost=|g*
This will only run the service on nodes whose hostnames start with c or g.

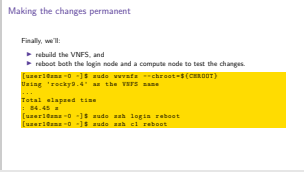
x


Ensuring slurmd doesn't run on the login node
Once that file is saved, try to start the slurmd service with systemctl start slurmd and check its status with systemctl status slurmd:
slurmd.service - Slurm node daemon
Condition: start condition failed at Sat 2024-07-06 18:12:17 EDT; 4min 22s ago
Jul 06 17:14:16 login systemd[1]: Stopped Slurm node daemon.
Jul 06 18:12:17 login systemd[1]: Slurm node daemon was skipped because of an unmet condition check (ConditionPath=!/e

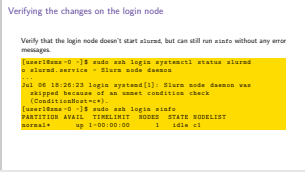
x


Making the changes permanent
The systemctl edit command resulted in a file /etc/systemd/system/slurmd.service.d/override.conf. Let's:
make a place for it in the chroot on the SMS, and
copy the file over from the login node.
[user1@sms-0 ~]$ export CHROOT=/opt/ohpc/admin/images/rocky9.4
[user1@sms-0 ~]$ sudo mkdir -p \
${CHROOT}/etc/systemd/system/slurmd.service.d/
[user1@sms-0 ~]$ sudo scp \
login:/etc/systemd/system/slurmd.service.d/override.conf \
${CHROOT}/etc/systemd/system/slurmd.service.d/
override.conf 100% 23 36.7KB/s 00:00

x

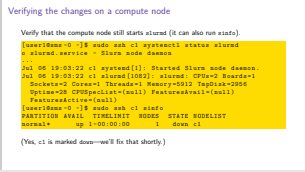

Making the changes permanent
Finally, we'll:
rebuild the VNFS, and
reboot both the login node and a compute node to test the changes.
[user1@sms-0 ~]$ sudo wwvnfs --chroot=${CHROOT}
Using 'rocky9.4' as the VNFS name
...
Total elapsed time
= 84.45 s
[user1@sms-0 ~]$ sudo ssh login reboot
[user1@sms-0 ~]$ sudo ssh c1 reboot

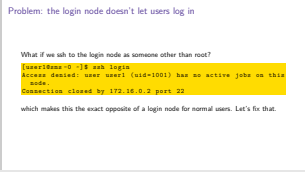
x


Verifying the changes on the login node
Verify that the login node doesn't start slurmd, but can still run sinfo without any error messages.
[user1@sms-0 ~]$ sudo ssh login systemctl status slurmd
o slurmd.service - Slurm node daemon
...
Jul 06 18:26:23 login systemd[1]: Slurm node daemon was
skipped because of an unmet condition check
(ConditionHost=c*).
[user1@sms-0 ~]$ sudo ssh login sinfo
PARTITION AVAIL TIMELIMIT NODES STATE NODELIST
normal* up 1-00:00:00 1 idle c1

x

x


Verifying the changes on a compute node
Verify that the compute node still starts slurmd (it can also run sinfo).
[user1@sms-0 ~]$ sudo ssh c1 systemctl status slurmd
● slurmd.service - Slurm node daemon
...
Jul 06 19:03:22 c1 systemd[1]: Started Slurm node daemon.
Jul 06 19:03:22 c1 slurmd[1082]: slurmd: CPUs=2 Boards=1
Sockets=2 Cores=1 Threads=1 Memory=5912 TmpDisk=2956
Uptime=28 CPUSpecList=(null) FeaturesAvail=(null)
FeaturesActive=(null)
[user1@sms-0 ~]$ sudo ssh c1 sinfo
PARTITION AVAIL TIMELIMIT NODES STATE NODELIST
normal* up 1-00:00:00 1 down c1
(Yes, c1 is marked down—we'll fix that shortly.)


Problem: the login node doesn't let users log in
What if we ssh to the login node as someone other than root?
[user1@sms-0 ~]$ ssh login
Access denied: user user1 (uid=1001) has no active jobs on this node.
Connection closed by 172.16.0.2 port 22
which makes this the exact opposite of a login node for normal users. Let's fix that.

x

Making the login node function as a login node

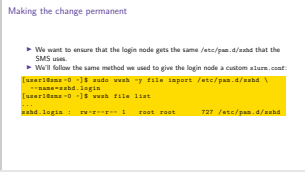
- The `Access denied` is caused by the `pam_slurm.so` entry at the end of `/etc/pam.d/sshd`, which is invaluable on a normal compute node, but not on a login node.
- On the SMS, you can also do a `diff -u /etc/pam.d/sshd ${CHROOT}/etc/pam.d/sshd`
- You'll see that the `pam_slurm.so` line is the only difference between the two files.

x

Testing a PAM change to the login node

- Temporarily comment out the last line of the login node's `/etc/pam.d/ssh` and see if you can ssh into the login node as a normal user (i.e., `ssh user16login`).
- Your user should be able to log in now.
- In case the PAM configuration won't let root log in, **don't panic**! Instructors can reboot your login node from its console to put it back to its original state.

x


Making the change permanent
We want to ensure that the login node gets the same /etc/pam.d/sshd that the SMS uses.
We'll follow the same method we used to give the login node a custom slurm.conf:
[user1@sms-0 ~]$ sudo wwsh -y file import /etc/pam.d/sshd \
--name=sshd.login
[user1@sms-0 ~]$ wwsh file list
...
sshd.login : rw-r--r-- 1 root root 727 /etc/pam.d/sshd

x

x

Making the change permanent

```
[user1@smx-0 ~]$ sudo wwsh -y provision set login \
  --fileadd=sshd.login
[user1@smx-0 ~]$ diff -u <(proprint c1) <(proprint login)
...
  VALIDATE            = FALSE
- FILES               = dynamic_hosts,group,munge.key,network,
 passwd,shadow
+ FILES               = dynamic_hosts,group,munge.key,network,
 passwd,shadow,slurm.conf.login,sshd.login
...
```

(refer to section 3.9.3 of the install guide for previous examples of `--fileadd`).

Testing the change

Reboot the login node and let's see if we can log in as a regular user.

```
[user1@sms-0 ~]$ sudo ssh login reboot
[user1@sms-0 ~]$ ssh login
[user1@login ~]$
```

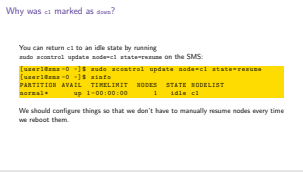
x

A bit more security for the SMS and login nodes

TODO: narrative about checking `/var/log/secure` on the SMS, seeing lots of brute-force SSH attempts for both it and login

TODO: Verify if this will work on the SMS with a simple `sudo yum install fail2ban ; sudo systemctl enable fail2ban firewalld`, but we'll also have to ensure that we don't disrupt NFS or other services to the internal network

x


Why was c1 marked as down?
You can return c1 to an idle state by running
sudo scontrol update node=c1 state=resume on the SMS:
[user1@sms-0 ~]$ sudo scontrol update node=c1 state=resume
[user1@sms-0 ~]$ sinfo
PARTITION AVAIL TIMELIMIT NODES STATE NODELIST
normal* up 1-00:00:00 1 idle c1
We should configure things so that we don't have to manually resume nodes every time we reboot them.

x

More seamless reboots of compute nodes

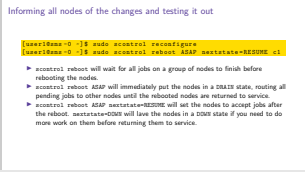
- Slurm doesn't like it when a node gets rebooted without its knowledge.
- There's an `scontrol reboot` option that's handy to have nodes reboot when system updates occur, but it requires a valid setting for `RebootProgram` in `/etc/slurm/slurm.conf`.
- By default, Slurm and OpenHPC don't ship with a default `RebootProgram`, so let's make one.

x

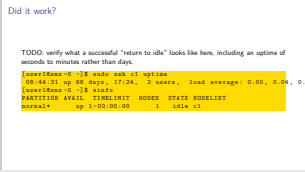
Adding a valid RebootProgram

```
[user1@smx-0 ~]$ grep -i reboot /etc/slurm/slurm.conf
#RebootProgram=
[user1@smx-0 ~]$ echo 'RebootProgram="/sbin/shutdown -r now"' \
  | sudo tee -a /etc/slurm/slurm.conf
[user1@smx-0 ~]$ grep -i reboot /etc/slurm/slurm.conf
#RebootProgram=
RebootProgram="/sbin/shutdown -r now"
```

x


Informing all nodes of the changes and testing it out
[user1@smc-0 ~]$ sudo scontrol reconfigure
[user1@smc-0 ~]$ sudo scontrol reboot ASAP nextstate=RESUME ci
scontrol reboot will wait for all jobs on a group of nodes to finish before rebooting the nodes.
scontrol reboot ASAP will immediately put the nodes in a DRAIN state, routing all pending jobs to other nodes until the rebooted nodes are returned to service.
scontrol reboot ASAP nextstate=RESUME will set the nodes to accept jobs after the reboot. nextstate=DOWN will lave the nodes in a DOWN state if you need to do more work on them before returning them to service.

x


Did it work?
TODO: verify what a successful "return to idle" looks like here, including an uptime of seconds to minutes rather than days.
[user1@sms-0 ~]$ sudo ssh c1 uptime
08:44:31 up 66 days, 17:29, 2 users, load average: 0.00, 0.04, 0.
[user1@sms-0 ~]$ sinfo
PARTITION AVAIL TIMELIMIT NODES STATE NODELIST
normal* up 1-00:00:00 1 idle c1

x

Decoupling kernels from the SMS

How to install kernels into the chroot and bootstrap from the chroot.

x

x

Semi-stateful node provisioning

(talking about the gparted and filesystem-related pieces here.)

x

Management of GPU drivers

(installing GPU drivers – mostly rsync'ing a least-common-denominator chroot into a GPU-named chroot, copying the NVIDIA installer into the chroot, mounting /proc and /sys, running the installer, umounting /proc and /sys, and building a second VNFS)

Configuration settings for different node types

(have been leading into this a bit with the wwsh file entries, systemd conditions, etc. But here we can also talk about nodes with two drives instead of one, nodes with and without Infiniband, nodes with different provisioning interfaces, etc.)

x

x

Automation for Warewulf3 provisioning

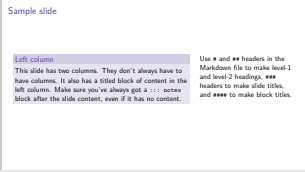
(here we can show some sample Python scripts where we can store node attributes and logic for managing the different VNFSes)

└Configuring Slurm policies

x

Configuring Slurm policies

Can adapt a lot of Mike's CaRCC Emerging Centers talk from a couple years ago for this. Fair share, hard limits on resource consumption, QOSes for limiting number of GPU jobs or similar.



This is my note.

- It can contain Markdown
- like this list