OpenWrt Wiki

Share USB Hard-drive with Samba using the Luci web-interface

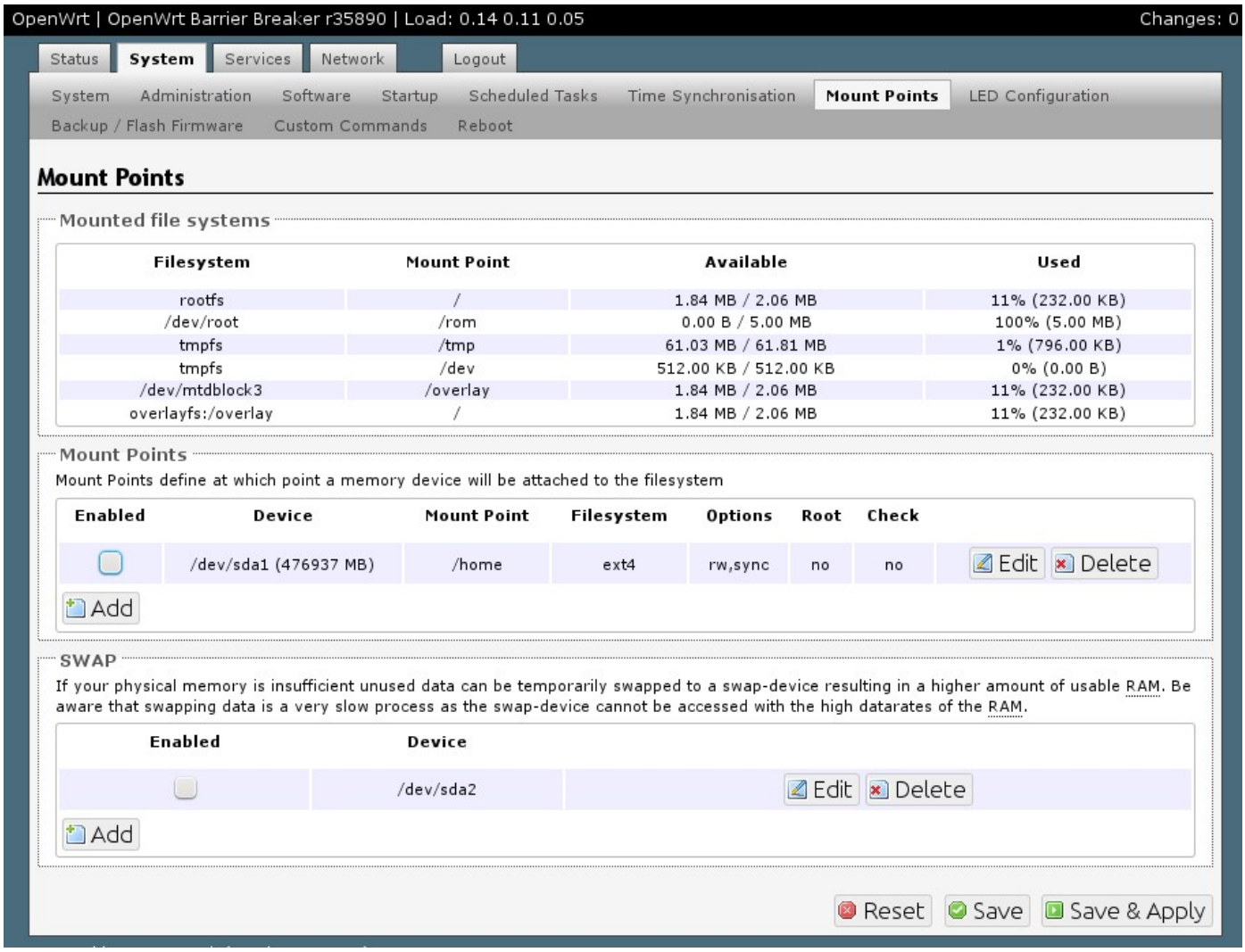
USB-connections are becoming common on most routers today. A popular usage scenario is connecting a USB storage device like a USB-pen or hard-drive and share the content on your LAN. This recipe will guide you through how this can easily be set-up using the Luci web-interface.

Install dependencies

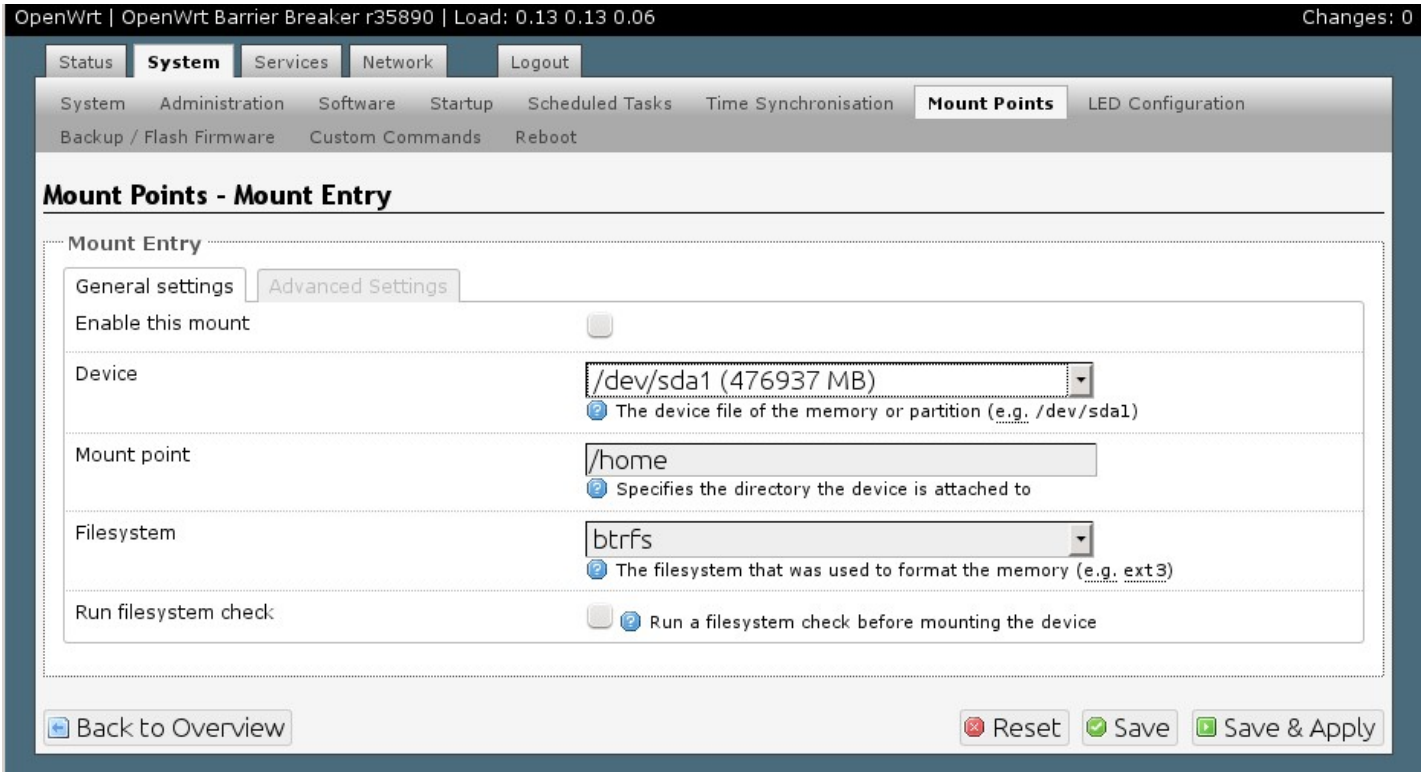
You will find detailed walk troughs for USB-storage and Samba respectively. As a minimum you will need to install the packages kmod-usb-storage, block-mount, samba36-server and luci-app-samba. In addition you will need support for the file system you format the USB device with. For ext file-systems install kmod-fs-ext4, for btrfs install kmod-fs-btrfs. Avoid using ntfs from Microsoft, it lacks a couple of important features for file-systems. But if you still want to use it, install ntfs-3g in order to have read & write access.

Mount your USB drive

Whether it is a USB pen or a hard-drive. Simply plug it in the USB port, and it should show be automatically detected by OpenWrt (if you ssh into the router you will typically find a new entry /dev/sda for the device, and /dev/sda1 for it's first partition). Now go to the **Mount points** tab under System in the Luci web-interface. You will find your USB storage device listed already as show below. If you have formatted your drive with the Ext file system, all you need is to tick **Enable** and then **Save & Apply**. (!) Mount points is only visible if dependencies are already installed



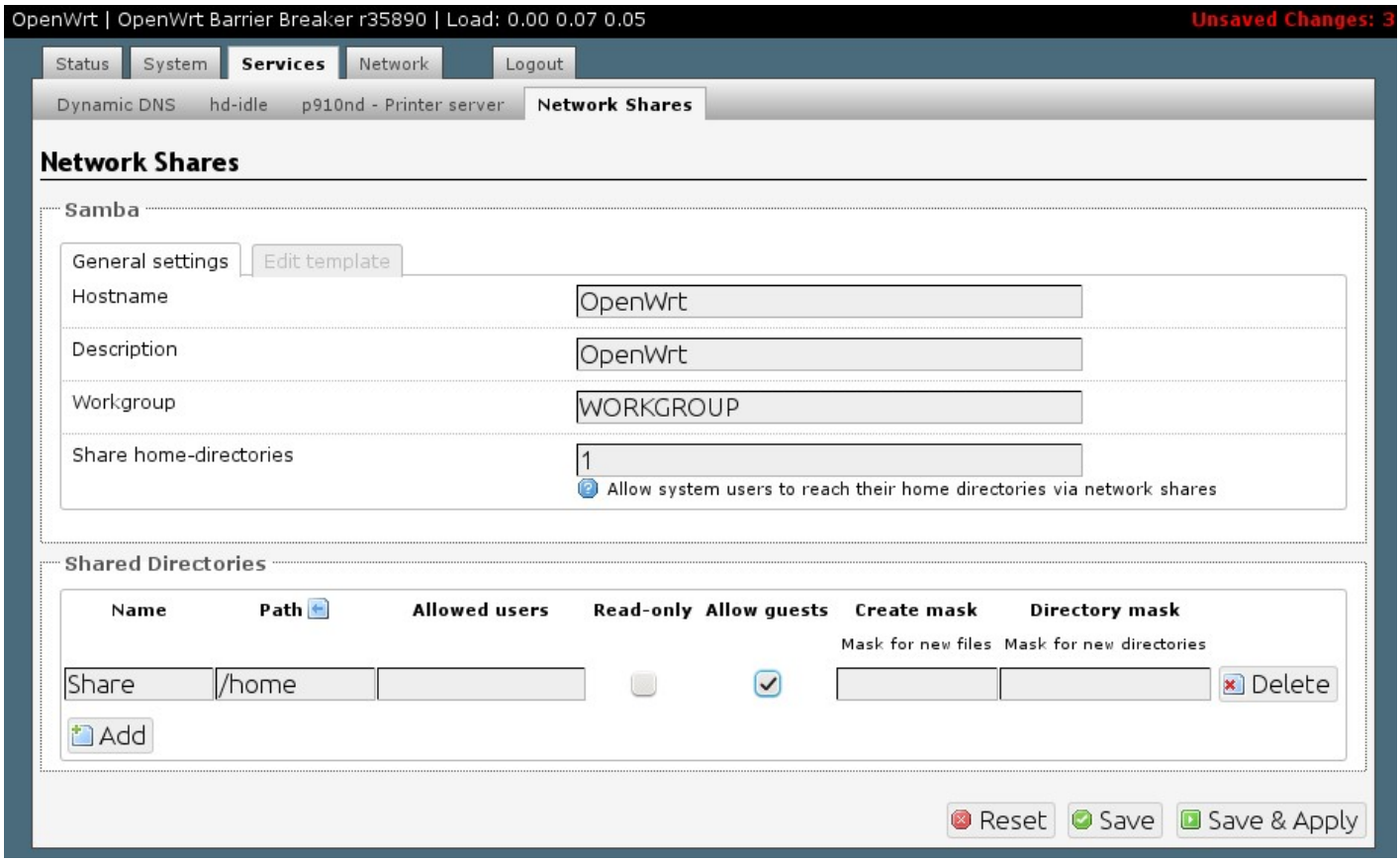
In my case I used the btrfs filesystem due to it's advanced functionalities. In this case you will need to change the file system. Choose **Edit**, and you will be able to revise like this:



Share the drive on your local network

We will only show how to do simply sharing here. Samba supports advanced access policies, but this recipe is meant for the most common use case. Please consult the Samba howto for a more thorough walk-through.

Open the web-interface Luci, under **Services** choose the **Network Shares** tab. Here you will need to fill in the name of your shared folder as it will appear on you network. In our example we called it *Share*. You will also need to fill in the mount point from above, we used the default */home*. You will also need to tick **Allow guests** (otherwise setting up user access control is necessary). Also tick Read-Only is you only want to grant read access for clients on you local network, we allowed write access here:



doc/recipes/usb-storage-samba-webinterface.txt · Last modified: 2015/01/30 15:42 by andreas85