FreeBSD Administration - Feature #792

Setup an SFTP User on FreeBSD

04/07/2016 03:39 PM - Daniel Curtis

Status:	Closed	**Start date:**	04/07/2016
Priority:	Normal	**Due date:**	
Assignee:	Daniel Curtis	**% Done:**	100%
Category:	File Server	**Estimated time:**	0.50 hour
Target version:	FreeBSD 10	**Spent time:**	0.50 hour

Description

This is a simple guide for setting up a user that only has sftp access on FreeBSD. This is useful for file transfers over SSH, instead of using scp.

Create a SFTP only group

- This is the group where the SFTP only users will be added.

```
pw groupadd sftp
```

Configure SSH

- Open the sshd_config file:

```
vi /etc/ssh/sshd_config
```

  - Add these lines at the bottom of the file and change the chroot directory to your needs.

```
Match Group sftp
ChrootDirectory /home/%u
X11Forwarding no
AllowTcpForwarding no
ForceCommand internal-sftp
```

Add a new SFTP user

- Add a new user to your system and set the login group to sftponly.

```
adduser
```

  - *Example output*:

```
Username: bob
Full name: SFTP user
Uid (Leave empty for default):
Login group [bob]: sftp
Login group is sftp. Invite bob into other groups? []:
Login class [default]:
Shell (sh csh tcsh bash rbash nologin) [sh]:
Home directory [/home/bob]:
Home directory permissions (Leave empty for default):
Use password-based authentication? [yes]:
Use an empty password? (yes/no) [no]:
Use a random password? (yes/no) [no]:
Enter password:
```

```
        Enter password again:
        Lock out the account after creation? [no]:
        Username  : bob
        Password  : *****
        Full Name : SFTP user
        Uid       : 1006
        Class     :
        Groups    : sftp
        Home      : /home/bob
        Home Mode : root
        Shell     : /bin/sh
        Locked    : no
        OK? (yes/no): yes
        adduser: INFO: Successfully added (bob) to the user database.
```

- The chroot directory needs to be owned by root so that the user/group can log in:

```
chown root:sftp /home/bob
```

- Create a new directory within the users home directory where files can be uploaded and change the ownership of this directory to the new user and the sftp group.

```
mkdir /home/bob/files
chown bob:sftp /home/bob/files
```

- Restart the SSH server

```
service sshd restart
```

Resources

- http://bin63.com/how-to-set-up-an-sftp-user-on-freebsd

History

#1 - 04/07/2016 03:43 PM - Daniel Curtis

- Description updated

#2 - 04/07/2016 03:49 PM - Daniel Curtis

- Status changed from New to Resolved

- % Done changed from 0 to 100

#3 - 04/22/2016 05:05 PM - Daniel Curtis

- Status changed from Resolved to Closed