

GNU/Linux Administration - Support #439

Using VBoxManage To Take Virtual Machine Snapshot on Linux

08/15/2014 05:29 PM - Daniel Curtis

Status:	Closed	Start date:	08/15/2014
Priority:	Normal	Due date:	
Assignee:	Daniel Curtis	% Done:	100%
Category:		Estimated time:	0.20 hour
Target version:		Spent time:	0.50 hour

Description

While managing a small NodeJS instance, I decided to upgrade to the newest development branch of the software I am using. Since I am using VirtualBox, I chose take advantage of the snapshot capability; by taking a preliminary snapshot and then upgrading, I can then revert to that snapshot if the upgrade fails. It's the perfect server undo button.

Taking a snapshot of a VM

- Take a snapshot of a virtual machine

```
VBoxManage snapshot "examplevm" take "prebackup" --live
```

NOTE: The above command will take a live snapshot of the virtual machine, without interrupting any functions the VM is providing. The `--pause` command can be used to pause the VM while snapshotting.

- After the snapshot creation is completed, you can power off the machine and restore it:

```
VBoxManage snapshot "examplevm" restorecurrent
```

Revert Snapshot

- To Discard current changes

```
VBoxManage snapshot "examplevm" discardcurrent
```

- Revert to last snapshot:

```
VBoxManage snapshot "examplevm" discardcurrent
```

- To see Snapshot information about a particular VM

```
VBoxManage snapshot "examplevm" discard "prebackup"
```

Merging snapshots into a base VDI

If there is a need to apply the changes made since the snapshot was taken, then merging the snapshot that was taken into the Virtual Disk Image used by the virtual machine is necessary.

- To merge a snapshot into a VDI run:

```
VBoxManage clonehd /full/path/to/{uuid-of-last-snapshot}.vdi thedisk-full.vdi
```

So I should clonehd only the last snapshot, not every snapshot from the chain. And it is thousands percent faster.

Resources

- <https://www.virtualbox.org/manual/ch08.html>

History

#1 - 08/15/2014 05:30 PM - Daniel Curtis

- *Description updated*

#2 - 08/16/2014 12:35 PM - Daniel Curtis

- *Description updated*

#3 - 08/16/2014 12:36 PM - Daniel Curtis

- *Description updated*

#4 - 09/28/2014 03:34 PM - Daniel Curtis

- *Status changed from Resolved to Closed*