

DiggThis
 Google AdSense
 Google Analytics
 Google FriendConnect
 Piwik Analytics
 Twitter Badge

Hurricane Labs Engineering Notes

A forum for Hurricane Labs Support Engineers to express their views on the technologies we use and support.



Friday, January 30, 2009

Adding VMware Bridge Interfaces..... While Your Server is LIVE

Everyone who uses VMware server (1.x or 2.x) knows that needing to add a new network interface is a TERRIFYING thing to find out, as it requires taking down all of the virtual machines running on that server. At first glance this is an oversight on VMware's part. However, if you dig a little bit into how VMware Server works behind the scenes, you'll notice a few things. First of all, it uses a very strange configuration format, stored in the file `/etc/vmware/locations` (on Linux, anyways.. on that note, I'm assuming you're running VMware on Linux, and if you're not, you SHOULD be!). This file stores all of your answers to questions `vmware-config.pl` asks you, including past answers. It is this file that VMware uses at startup to create interfaces. The configuration lines for an interface look like this:

```
answer VNET_3_INTERFACE dummy1
file /dev/vmnet3
```

In this case, we're setting up a bridged interface. `vmnet3` is the VMware interface, and `dummy1` is the OS interface. To disable this interface, you could just add the following lines right after the two above:

```
remove_answer VNET_3_INTERFACE
remove_file /dev/vmnet3
```

Or just remove the first two lines.

(thanks to Cedric for pointing out a step I'd forgotten)

You'll need to manually create the device node for VMware to use as well. These device nodes are how VMware actually communicates with the virtual network interfaces. To do this, run the following command (the syntax is the same for both VMware Server 1.x and 2.x) as root:

```
mknod /dev/vmnetX c 119 X
```

Where X is the vmnet interface you're creating (3 in the above examples).

Ok, this is great. But you still have to restart VMware, right? WRONG! VMware handles its bridging through special processes that are run as `/usr/bin/vmnet-bridge`. These processes can be

Twitter Updates

Hurricane Blog - Hurricane Labs Engineering Notes: Adding VMware Bridge Interfaces.....
 2011-01-18 <http://bit.ly/e9xSUJ> #hurricanelabs about 18 hours ago

Eye of the Storm - Best of 2010
<http://bit.ly/e9xSUJ> #hurricanelabs 6 days ago

Hurricane Blog - New FCC Rules - Net Neutrality, or the end of the Internet as we know it? <http://bit.ly/dVW8Cm> #hurricanelabs 28 days ago

Hurricane Blog - Edge Box Reboots <http://bit.ly/aYkcTY> #hurricanelabs 80 days ago

[@b0dach](#) Thanks for coming out man 117 days ago

- DiggThis
- Google AdSense
- Google Analytics
- Google FriendConnect
- Hiwik Analytics
- Twitter Badge



[follow me on Twitter](#)

Subscribe via email

Enter your email address:

Delivered by [FeedBurner](#)

Subscribe

-  Posts ▼
-  Comments ▼

Contributors

- [Billford](#)
- [Kyle Capatosto](#)
- [delink](#)
- [someLuser](#)
- [Golden](#)
- [Patrick](#)
- [Robert](#)
- [mcmaster](#)
- [Nick](#)
- [Joe](#)
- [Steve Benson](#)
- [Chris Crane](#)
- [Bill Mathews](#)
- [Matt](#)
- [Hurricane Labs Engineering Blog](#)

Blog Archive

- ▶ 2011 (1)
- ▶ 2010 (26)
- ▼ 2009 (41)
 - ▶ December (2)
 - ▶ November (7)
 - ▶ October (1)

The opinions expressed on this blog are those of the individuals posting and not necessarily the views of Hurricane Labs.

- DiggThis
- Google-AdSense
- Google-Analytics
- Google-FriendConnect
- Piwik-Analytics
- Twitter-Badge