

Re: [CFR] reflect resolv.conf update to running application

Source: <http://unix.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/FreeBSD/arch/2005-08/0199.html>

From: Brooks Davis (brooks_at_one-eyed-alien.net)

Date: 08/22/05

Date: Mon, 22 Aug 2005 08:16:45 -0700

To: Poul-Henning Kamp <phk@haven.freebsd.dk>

On Sun, Aug 21, 2005 at 07:17:06PM +0200, Poul-Henning Kamp wrote:

> In message <20050821115454.55441a64@Magellan.Leidinger.net>, Alexander Leidinger writes:

> > On Sun, 21 Aug 2005 00:37:56 +0100 (BST)

> > Robert Watson <rwatson@freebsd.org> wrote:

> >

> > > (2) By reading the configuration file more frequently and more quickly

> > > after a change, we increase the chances of a race condition in which

> > > the resolve reads a partially written resolv.conf file during an

> > > update. Does this happen in practice? I've always been very leery of

> > > re-reading configuration files automatically based on a time-stamp, as

> > > updates to files are not atomic at all.

> >

> > Can kqueue be used instead of polling?

>

> Programs writing resolv.conf should just do this the right way:

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> 1. Write new contents to temporary file.

> 2. Rename temporary file to resolv.conf.

The one issue with this is that we sort of support a read-only /etc with resolv.conf as a symlink to somewhere else. Short of following the symlink by hand in dhclient-script, you have to do the current cat trick. It should cause the file to be replaced in one write() though so I don't think the race exists (unless someone comes up with a dhclient config that generates a resolv.conf larger than 512-bytes).

-- Brooks

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Any statement of the form "X is the one, true Y" is FALSE.

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