

RE: fastest way to duplicate production server?

Source: <http://unix.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/FreeBSD/isp/2005-07/0039.html>

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Date: 07/13/05

To: "'RC'" <rubbishcollector@yahoo.com>, <freebsd-isp@freebsd.org>

Date: Tue, 12 Jul 2005 15:06:37 -0700

From: RC <rubbishcollector@yahoo.com>

>

> *We have a production FreeBSD 4.10 server running old versions
> of Apache/MySQL/PHP from ports. We'd like to upgrade
> Apache/MySQL/PHP to the latest versions. Before upgrading
> we'd like to test on a test box.*

>

> *What's the fastest way of duplicating the existing
> Apache/MySQL/PHP (including user databases)? (The production
> server cannot go down for more than a few seconds.)*

Make per-filesystem back-ups of everything excluding those files opened read-write by whatever services you're running (ignore log files). Use nice to run the backup at a priority low enough to not usurp resources from the production services. Stop whatever services are running. Use fstat to make sure the excluded files are closed. Make a backup of the files excluded from the first backup run (again, ignore logs). Restart whatever services you stopped.

If you can get away with it, flip the volumes read-only before doing the backup, it can make things just a little bit faster.

freebsd-isp@freebsd.org mailing list

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