

Re: reload rc.conf during boot process

Source: <http://unix.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/FreeBSD/questions/2004-09/1822.html>

From: Giorgos Keramidas (keramida_at_ceid.upatras.gr)

Date: 09/21/04

Date: Tue, 21 Sep 2004 16:24:48 +0300
To: Markie <mark.cullen@dsl.pipex.com>

On 2004-09-21 14:18, Markie <mark.cullen@dsl.pipex.com> wrote:

> *"Giorgos Keramidas" <keramida@ceid.upatras.gr> wrote:*
> | > *After running my program in the rc.d mount script I then did a*
> | >
> | > *./etc/rc.conf*
> | >
> | > *but rc.conf doesn't get reloaded.*
> |
> | *The /etc/rc script is a ``driver script'' that loads rc.conf before teh*
> | *mount script has a chance to run. Even if you reload rc.conf in the*
> | *mountd script this cannot affect the parent process that runs /etc/rc.*
> |
> | *Oh I think I see what you're saying, it's kind of like variable scope,*
> | *right? When I do ./etc/rc.conf in mountcritlocal that's loading the file,*
> | *but only for that script? It's not actually replacing the variables at all,*
> | *right?*

They're environment variables and that's how environment variables work in UNIX. Environment variables can be changed in a process and this will affect all the processes spawned off by the one with the changed environment but it won't affect processes higher up the hierarchy.

The `/etc/rc` script starts `/etc/rc.d/mountd` after setting some of these variables (by running `./etc/rc.conf` as usual). The `mountd` process inherits the environment of `/etc/rc` and can make changes to its environment as much as it wants. The changes don't affect the parent process (the `/etc/rc` invocation).

> *I saw load_rc_config 'XXX' in early.sh or something, just a minute ago!*
> *Does the XXX do anything?*

Not much. It's just a placeholder to shuttup the checks near the beginning of `load_rc_config`. Passing an invalid `command name` to `load_rc_config` lets us load `/etc/rc.conf` and any other config file listed in `"$source_rc_confs"` without having to re-invent `load_rc_config` every time.

> *I don't actually have rc.conf.d either, as far as I can tell?*

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This shouldn't be a problem. Don't worry about it.

> *My idea was so I could try out FreeBSD on my lap*