

CONTENTS IN DETAIL

FOREWORD by Paul Vixie	xv
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	xvii
INTRODUCTION	xix
Virtualization: A Brief History	xx
So What's Xen Again? (And Why Should I Use It?)	xxi
Xen's Limitations	xxii
So, Why Should I Use Xen?	xxii
Overview of the Book	xxiii
But I Am Impatient!	xxiv
1	
XEN: A HIGH-LEVEL OVERVIEW	1
Virtualization Principles	1
Virtualization Techniques: Full Virtualization	3
Virtualization Techniques: OS Virtualization	4
Paravirtualization: Xen's Approach	4
How Paravirtualization Works	4
Xen's Underpinnings: The Gory Details	6
Scheduling	6
Interrupts	7
Memory	7
I/O Devices	10
Networking	11
Block Devices	11
Putting It Together	12
2	
GETTING STARTED	13
Hardware Compatibility	14
Installing CentOS	15
Getting Familiar with Your Xen System	17
Management with xm	17
Making a DomU	18
Anatomy of a Domain Configuration File	19
Configuring the DomU	19
You're Finished. Have a Cookie.	21
3	
PROVISIONING DOMUS	23
A Basic DomU Configuration	24
Selecting a Kernel	24

Quick-and-Dirty Install via tar	25
Why This Is Not the Best Idea	25
Stuff to Watch Out For	26
Using the Package Management System with an Alternate Root	27
Red Hat, CentOS, and Other RPM-Based Distros	27
Debootstrap with Debian and Ubuntu	28
QEMU Install	30
virt-install—Red Hat’s One-Step DomU Installer	31
Converting VMware Disk Images	33
Mass Deployment	34
Manual Deployment	34
QEMU and Your Existing Infrastructure	35
Installing pypxeboot	38
Automated Installs the Red Hat Way	39
And Then	41

4 STORAGE WITH XEN 43

Storage: The Basics	44
Varying Types of Storage	44
Basic Setup: Files	45
LVM: Device-Independent Physical Devices	47
Enlarge Your Disk	51
File-Backed Images	52
LVM	52
Copy-on-Write and Snapshots	53
LVM and Snapshots	54
Storage and Migration	55
Network Storage	55
Closing Suggestions	58

5 NETWORKING 59

Xen’s Network Setup Process	60
Defining Virtual Interfaces	61
Naming Virtual Interfaces	62
Autoconfiguration	64
Specifying a MAC Address	65
Manipulating vifs with xm	66
Securing Xen’s Virtual Network	66
Specifying an IP Address	66
Firewalling the Dom0	67
Networking with network-route	67
Networking with network-bridge	68
Networking with network-nat	70
Configuration Variables	71
Custom Network Scripts	72
Multiple-Bridge Setups	72
Bridged and Routing	73
Further Thoughts	74

6	DOMU MANAGEMENT: TOOLS AND FRONTENDS	75
	Tools for the VM Provider	76
	Xen-tools	76
	libvirt, virsh, and virt-manager	81
	Administering the Virtualized Data Center	85
	Administration for the VM Customer	85
	Xen-shell	85
7	HOSTING UNTRUSTED USERS UNDER XEN: LESSONS FROM THE TRENCHES	89
	Advantages for the Users	89
	Shared Resources and Protecting Them from the Users	90
	Tuning CPU Usage	91
	Scheduling for Providers	94
	Controlling Network Resources	94
	Storage in a Shared Hosting Environment	98
	Regulating Disk Access with ionice	99
	Backing Up DomUs	100
	Remote Access to the DomU	102
	An Emulated Serial Console	102
	A Menu for the Users	103
	PyGRUB, a Bootloader for DomUs	104
	Making PyGRUB Work	106
	Wrap-Up	108
8	BEYOND LINUX: USING XEN WITH OTHER UNIX-LIKE OSs	109
	Solaris	110
	Getting Started with Solaris	110
	Solaris Dom0	112
	Setting Up Xen	112
	Solaris SMF	113
	Creating a Solaris DomU	114
	Creating a Solaris DomU Under Linux	116
	OpenSolaris DomU Postinstall Configuration	117
	NetBSD	118
	NetBSD's Historical Xen Support	118
	Installing NetBSD as a Dom0	119
	Installing NetBSD as a DomU	121
	Beyond Paravirtualization: HVM	123
9	XEN MIGRATION	125
	Migration for Troglodytes	126
	Migration with xm save and xm restore	127
	Cold Migration	128

Live Migration	129
How It Works	129
Making Xen Migration Work	130
Migrating Storage	133
ATA over Ethernet	133
iSCSI	136
Quo Peregrinatur Grex	139

10

PROFILING AND BENCHMARKING UNDER XEN 141

A Benchmarking Overview	142
UnixBench	143
Analyzing Network Performance	144
Measuring Disk Performance with Bonnie++	146
Application Benchmarks	147
httperf: A Load Generator for HTTP Servers	147
Another Application Benchmark: POV-Ray	149
Tuning Xen for Optimum Benchmarking	149
Profiling with Xen	150
Xenoprof	151
Getting OProfile	151
Profiling Multiple Domains in Concert	154
An OProfile Example	156
Conclusion	157

11

CITRIX XENSERVICES: XEN FOR THE ENTERPRISE 159

Citrix's Xen Products	160
The Benefits of Using Citrix XenServer	161
Ten Minutes to Xen	161
The Disadvantages of Using Citrix XenServer	162
Getting Started	162
Prerequisites	162
Installing Citrix XenServer	163
Citrix's Xen GUI: XenCenter	164
Administering VMs with the XenCenter	164
Installing DomU Images	165
Installing from the Debian Templates	165
Templated Linux VM	166
Windows Install	167
Creating DomU Images with P2V	167
Converting Pre-existing Virtual or Physical Machines with XenConvert	167
XenServer Tools in the DomU	167
xe: Citrix XenServer's Command-Line Tool	168
XenServer's Disk Management	169
Xen Storage Repositories	170
Emulated CD-ROM Access	171
XenServer VM Templates	172
XenServer Resource Pools	172
Citrix XenServer: A Brief Review	173

12		
HVM: BEYOND PARAVIRTUALIZATION		175
Principles of HVM	.....	176
Device Access with HVM	.....	177
HVM Device Performance	.....	177
HVM and SMP	.....	178
HVM and Migration	.....	179
Xen HVM vs. KVM	.....	179
Working with HVM	.....	180
Creating an HVM Domain	.....	181
Interacting with an HVM Domain	.....	183
Getting the Standard Xen Console to Work	.....	184
HVM Devices	.....	184
Paravirtualized Drivers	.....	185
And, for Our Next Trick . . .	.....	186
13		
XEN AND WINDOWS		187
Why Run Windows Under Xen?	.....	187
Windows on Xen: Prerequisites	.....	188
Windows on Xen: Installation	.....	189
Installing Windows Manually	.....	189
A Discussion of HALs	.....	190
Installing Windows the Red Hat Way	.....	191
Windows with the Virtual Framebuffer	.....	193
Et Voilà!	.....	194
Windows Activation	.....	195
Graphics Cards	.....	195
Paravirtualized Drivers for Windows	.....	196
Proprietary Windows PVM Drivers	.....	196
GPL Windows Paravirtualized Drivers	.....	196
Ongoing Development	.....	198
14		
TIPS		199
Compiling Xen	.....	200
Compile-Time Tuning	.....	202
Alternate Kernels (Dom0 and DomU)	.....	203
paravirt_ops Dom0	.....	203
paravirt_ops DomU	.....	205
The Xen API: The Way of the Future	.....	207
Managing Memory with the Balloon Driver	.....	208
PCI Forwarding	.....	209
GRUB Configuration	.....	210
The Serial Console	.....	211
Enabling Serial Output	.....	211
The Xen Hypervisor Console	.....	212
Xen and LILO	.....	212
The Virtual Framebuffer	.....	213
Use of the XenStore for Fun and Profit	.....	214
Automatically Connecting to the VNC Console on Domain Boot	.....	215

15		
TROUBLESHOOTING		219
Troubleshooting Phase 1: Error Messages		220
Errors at Dom0 Boot		220
DomU Preboot Errors		222
Creating Domains in Low-Memory Conditions		222
Configuring Devices in the DomU		223
Troubleshooting Disks		223
VM Restarting Too Fast		224
Troubleshooting Xen's Networking		225
The DomU Interface Number Increments with Every Reboot		227
iptables		227
Memory Issues		228
Other Messages		228
A Constant Stream of 4GiB seg fixup Messages		230
The Importance of Disk Drivers (initrd Problems)		230
XenStore		231
Xen's Logs		232
dmesg and xm dmesg		232
Logs and What Xen Writes to Them		232
Applying the Debugger		234
Xen's Backend Architecture: Making Sense of the Debug Information		234
Domain Stays in Blocked State		235
Debugging Hotplug		236
strace		237
Python Path Issues		238
Mysterious Lockups		238
Kernel Parameters: A Safe Mode		239
Getting Help		239
Mailing Lists		239
The Xen Wiki		240
The Xen IRC Channel		240
Bugzilla		240
Your Distro Vendor		240
xen-bugtool		240
Some Last Words of Encouragement		241
A		
XM REFERENCE		243
xm's Syntax		244
xm Subcommands		244
B		
THE STRUCTURE OF THE XEN CONFIG FILE		251
List of Directives		253
HVM Directives		258
Device Model Options		260
INDEX		263