svn UPDATE

by Glen Barber

THE FREEBSD 9.3-RELEASE CYCLE

is nearing the final stages. FreeBSD 9.3 builds on the reliability and stability of FreeBSD 9.2 and brings a number of fixes and improvements to the 9.X series.

A list of changes since FreeBSD 9.2-RELEASE can be found here: http://www.FreeBSD.org/releases/9.3R/relnotes.html

ZFS Support Added to bsdinstall(8) stable/9@r264437

(http://svnweb.freebsd.org/changeset/base/264437)

Automatic installation onto a ZFS dataset was added to the FreeBSD installer, bsdinstall(8), near the end of the 10.0-RELEASE cycle. Revision 264437 of the stable/9 branch brings this and several other changes to bsdinstall(8), such as installing to a GELI-encrypted geom(4) provider and automatically aligning sectors to 4096 bits.

Loadable Xen Kernel Module stable/9@r266269

(http://svnweb.freebsd.org/changeset/base/266269)

Prior to FreeBSD 10.0-RELEASE, running FreeBSD as a virtual machine guest on the Xen hypervisor required specific changes to the kernel configuration. FreeBSD 10.0 natively supports the Xen environment, without requring special kernel configuration options. FreeBSD 9.3 will also natively support running as a Xen virtual machine by shipping with a kernel module, xenhvm.ko.

ttys(5) "onifconsole" Addition stable/9@r267243

(http://svnweb.freebsd.org/changeset/base/267243)

A new flag has been added to the ttys(5) file–"onifconsole." The new flag is equivalent to "on" (activating the serial console) when the tty is an active kernel console; otherwise, it defaults to "off."

This is particularly useful for embedded systems, where there may be one or more serial channels available, or on systems with IPMI SoL (serial over LAN) connections and the "default" tty may differ.

This change first appeared in head/ in revision 267243.

Process Filtering by Jail Name stable/10@r266280

(http://svnweb.freebsd.org/changeset/base/266280)

The top(1) utility has been updated to include a new flag, '-J', to filter the process table by jail(8) name or number. Prior to this change, all processes on the running system would be displayed; whether or not the process was run within a jail. With this change, it is now possible to limit the process list to show only the processes running within a specified jail. To limit the process list to display only processes running outside of a jail environment, specify the jail number '0'.

vt(4) Now Included in the GENERIC Kernel head/@r268045

(http://svnweb.freebsd.org/changeset/base/268045)

The vt(4) driver is now included in the GENERIC kernel configuration. The vt(4) driver is the system console driver that integrates with KMS (Kernel Mode Setting) graphics cards. Prior to the vt(4) driver it would not be possible to switch back to the system virtual terminals after the Xorg environment starts. This change adds a new loader(8) tunable, kern.vty, which activates the vt(4) virtual terminal driver when set to 'vt.'

As a hobbyist, Glen Barber became heavily involved with the FreeBSD project around 2007. Since then, he has been involved with various functions, and his latest roles have allowed him to focus on systems administration and release engineering in the Project. Glen lives in Pennsylvania, USA.