

Re: Live Upgrade for Linux

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From: Nate Campi (nate@campin.net)

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From: Nate Campi <nate@campin.net>
To: Kelly Sauke <ksauke@fastenal.com>

On Tue, Mar 25, 2003 at 02:20:27PM -0600, Kelly Sauke wrote:

> *Maybe I need a little clarification of what Live Upgrade does. I've
> gotten a lot of response of what I would call installer utilities but
> not a Live Upgrade (if I'm wrong please point it out to me). What Live
> Upgrade does under solaris is it creates a complete alternate boot
> environment with a root /usr /var and any other filesystem you want.
> Then you can apply patches etc to this other boot environment and boot
> off of that. If there is something in the patch that doesn't work or
> screws up the machine, then you just reboot off the original boot
> environment and you're back to where you were before upgrading and still
> have access to the patched boot environment to fix it. Its great for
> upgrading production type servers because the 'back out plan' if you
> will is nothing more than reboot off the old boot environment. In other
> words you have 2 / filesystems, 2 /usr's, 2 /var's as well as 2
> kernels. Its a complete boot environment copy that you can do anything
> to and then just reboot off the new environment without having to touch
> the 'live' environment.*

I've used live upgrade, but I've had the best luck with cloning disks and upgrading the clone offline. If all goes well you can swap in the new disk, usually a bigger size than the old one (big win). This works well regardless of OS/platform.

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Nate Campi <http://www.campin.net>