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r/Proxmox • 1 yr. ago

LordGarak



Are there any lightweight Linux distros designed for simple servers running in a VM?

Question

Just digging back into running Proxmox and I was wondering if there are any lightweight distro's designed with VM use in mind. Specifically for use with HA clustering. Something that boots very fast, has a small disk and memory footprint to synchronize. For running services like named where you have very few dependencies.

Something like openWRT comes to mind. That use to run from a few MB of flash and ram. I'm wondering if there is something similar that is well maintained and x86 of course.

48

77



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DapperAstronomer7632 • 1y ago

Alpine. Used for Docker as well, so wel maintained and very light-weight. See e.,g these instructions:
<https://kingtam.win/archives/alpine-docker.html> (ignore the whole docker host thing...)

87 Reply ...



effin_dead_again • 1y ago

I second Alpine. I've never had issues with it, and while it can seem a little strange vs. the bigger distros, it functions well and is kept up to date.

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**postnick** • 1y ago

I honestly just use Debian server or the lightweight Ubuntu server because it's what I know.

I have a fedora server for fun and it's a bit more of a hog but I have the resources to spare.

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**Ketomatic** • 1y ago

Vanilla Debian for me as well. It's the right balance of light, I know how it works, and everything I need is easy to get.

26 Reply ...

1 more reply

**FemaleMishap** • 1y ago

I go straight for a Debian net install and when it comes to tasksel, just SSH and system utilities. I've got a single image that I need to update, that is ready to be cloned, have Ansible thrown on it, to bring up whatever I need.

Unfortunately I'm doing my lab in virtualbox on my laptop since my desktop is in storage and my server needs new hard drives... And can't host Proxmox because ancient celeron CPU. Need an additional server for Proxmox.

9 Reply ...

**dn512215** • 1y ago

Another thing to consider here is KSM (https://pve.proxmox.com/wiki/Dynamic_Memory_Management). If all the VM's are using the same OS, then KSM can considerably consolidate their footprint in memory.

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6 more replies

**Marco_R63** • 1y ago

What about Ubuntu server minimal installation?

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I use the cloud images of Ubuntu server, but many other distros also have minimal or cloud/cloud-init images. They're small and with minimal packages installed. Plus you can also use cloud-init to make deploying new servers almost painless via templates (even better than the standard templates in Proxmox). Btw if you have a bunch of VMs with the same OS your system will automatically use KSM to reduce memory usage.

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HadManySons • 1y ago

+1 for Alpine. There's also Proton, but who knows its future since the VMware buyout.

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Need advice on setting up an *arr stack with VPN

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Outside of KVM/hypervisor, do you have any reason to run any type of "OS" off anything bigger than 128GB?

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How do you manage backups to external storage/place

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r/homelab • 1 yr. ago

What's the best way to create a fast networked shared storage that would perform similar to local NVME?

5 upvotes · 27 comments



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Any recommendations for a lightweight distro that works well with Nvidia cards or with easy driver installation?

2 upvotes · 17 comments



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Is there an implementation of mesoblastic for regular computers (not microprocessors)?

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