

Friday, October 26. 2007

### **Theo de Raadt about virtualisation**

I wrote some month ago, that the increase in security in virtualized environments is more a feeled increased than a real one, as it would be foolish to assume that the hypervisor is a more stable, more secure oder less bug-infested piece of software than another software of comparable size. It looks i´m not the only one thinking this way (at least i´ve got this feel when i look at the VMware madness raging in the industry). Theo de Raadt seems to look at virtualisation in a similar way. He stated in an article in the openbsc-misc mailinglist: You've been smoking something really mind altering, and I think you should share it.

x86 virtualization is about basically placing another nearly full kernel, full of new bugs, on top of a nasty x86 architecture which barely has correct page protection. Then running your operating system on the other side of this brand new pile of shit.

You are absolutely deluded, if not stupid, if you think that a worldwide collection of software engineers who can't write operating systems or applications without security holes, can then turn around and suddenly write virtualization layers without security holes.

You can think about Mr. de Raadt what you want, but in most cases he has a point, albeit he should take some courses in "How to speak in a more diplomatic way" ...

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp at 07:43

Yep, I absolutelly agree with Theo and you. Virtualization is not the answer for all open problems- it's just another try to work around them.

Anonymous on Oct 26 2007, 10:51

Hello,

do you know what kind of permance penalty I have to expect, when running an xVM dom0 without domUs compared to Solaris without Xen?

Thanks!

Anonymous on Oct 26 2007, 11:19

good article. i also agree with Theo.

Anonymous on Sep 23 2008, 08:55