

WIP: Writing the ZFS Chapter of the FreeBSD Handbook

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Introductions

Allan Jude

- 12 Years as FreeBSD Server Admin
- Architect of the ScaleEngine CDN (HTTP and Video)
- Host of BSDNow.tv & TechSNAP.tv Podcasts
- Extensive work with Puppet to manage our 80+ servers in 31 data centers in 11 countries
- Lots of work with ZFS to manage large collections of videos as well as extremely large website caches (15+ million objects in ff*ff directories)
- Operate the PCBSD CDN for ISO and PKG

ZFS in the Handbook

- Last year I knowed the ZFS section of the file systems chapter was very thin
- The first section was about the hacking required to get ZFS to work reliably on 32bit systems, in-depth kernel tuning
- This seemed to me like it would turn users off
- The section failed to express just how amazing ZFS is
- ... Patches Welcome

Progress

- Started writing on the train ride to BSDCan 2013
- Wrote ~3000 words, but style was not great, and was in plain text
- Learned docbook and FDP-primer @ BSDCan doc sprint
- Started writing and mailing in patches
- Got a project branch to work in
- Benedict Reuschling (bcr@) started helping, he had written some stuff (in German) for a class he teaches

Today

- Almost finished
- Currently ~16,000 words
- Chapters:
 - zpool commands
 - zfs commands
 - Delegation
 - Advanced (tuning, root-on-zfs)
 - External resources
 - ZFS Terms and Features

Thanks

- Tom Rhodes for writing the original section
- Benedict Reuschling for contributing a number of sections and reviewing mine
- Warren Block for answering endless docbook questions and editing the hell out of everything
- Matt Ahrens for answering my endless questions

What I Need From You

- The remaining section is the FAQ
- I want to hear about every surprise, error, gotcha, misconception, or stumbling block you have ever encountered with or because of ZFS
- Use Cases - Do you do anything with ZFS that you expect many other people might want to do? Examples of common procedures would be great Google bait

Contacting Me

- The current docs live in svn
doc/projects/zfsupdate-201307/
- I published rendered (readable) version at
<http://www.allanjude.com/bsd/zfs.html>
- Feedback and suggestions welcome
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