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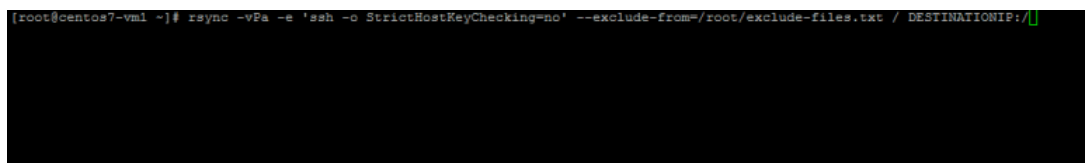
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Linux System Administration, Linux Tutorials

centos, linux

4,492

# HOT CLONE A CENTOS SERVER WITH RSYNC



Hot Clone is the term used to describe to completely clone a Linux server using r-sync across a network. This is useful in situations which you would like to create a clone with little to no downtime, typical of taking the original server offline. You can use this to perhaps move a single server environment or certain situation in which you want to upgrade or reduce drives etc.

## THIS GUIDE MAKES A COUPLE ASSUMPTIONS:

First both servers need to have the same disk configuration. Either both servers use hardware software raid, or single disks. They typically need to match.

The new server should have the same major install release as the source server. So both CentOS 6.x or both need to be 7.x.

The new server has hard drive partitions in the same format as the old server and they are the same size or can accommodate all of the used space on the source system.

Services which are writing data should be stopped at the time of the sync (ie mail, database, etc).

## PREPARE THE SYSTEMS:

Install needed software packages on both servers:

```
yum install -y rsync
```

On the server you want to copy from perform the following:

Create and edit `/root/exclude-files.txt` and add the following:

```
/boot
/dev
/tmp
/sys
/proc
/backup
/etc/fstab
/etc/mtab
/etc/mdadm.conf
/etc/sysconfig/network*
```

This excludes files which directly pertain to the source system and should not be copied

## HOT CLONE THE SERVER:

Once you have saved that file you can go ahead and rsync to the server you want to copy

```
'ssh -o StrictHostKeyChecking=no' --exclude-from=/root/exclude-files.txt /
```

This will rsync over everything from the source system to the new system. The size of the data on the servers will determine how long the copy will take. Be sure to update DESTINATION address or hostname of the server you are copying to.

After the rsync has completed you can reboot the freshly copied system to have it load everything that has been copied. If you were going to replace the old system with the new system and want the old IP addresses, host name etc to be used, you would then remove `/etc/sysconfig/network*` from the new file.

Once the new server is back up from the reboot. Go ahead and login using the old server IP and verify everything is working as expected.

< [MySQL Replication Master Slave Setup](#)

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```
release .*$,,g' /etc/sys
"
el=auto rd.lvm.lv=cento
```

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```
2017 01:25:57 GMT
e/png
33
live
, 28 Apr 2017 02:21:20 GMT
47"
ay 2018 23:17:30 GMT
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```

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Chris

Your target machine is not going to boot without a boot loader or initial ra ridiculous.

Guest

+ 0 - Reply



LinuxAdmin.io

Hello Chris,  
The assumption is that you have already done a base install with ram disk, this was specified in the assumptions portion of the gui

Author

+ 2 - Reply



Anthony

Guest

Worked great! I needed a Sangoma distribution (CentOs 7) on a VPS but here has it nor did they allow me to send them an ISO. I then just installed Sangoma on Vmware, A Bare CentOS 7 at the VPS provider follow your instructions and presto! My Sangoma is now on a VPS 😊 Thank you ve

+ 0 -

Reply



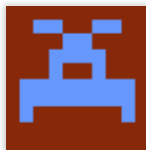
Author

LinuxAdmin.io

Awesome, so glad we could help!!

+ 0 -

Reply



Guest

René

This won't work on large live databases. You need to shut down stuff that writes to files during the rsync-transfer.

+ 0 -

Reply



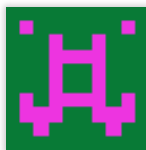
Author

LinuxAdmin.io

Hello Rene,  
You are correct, I have added note that services which write data stopped prior to the execution.

+ 0 -

Reply



Guest

John

Worked brilliantly!

Thanks a ton for this.

+ 0 -

Reply



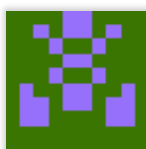
Author

LinuxAdmin.io

Glad to hear it worked out for you.

+ 0 -

Reply



Bosco

Guest

Can I initiate the rsync from the destination server running a basic install  
What do I have to change on the commandline

+ 0 -

Reply



Author

LinuxAdmin.io

Hello,

Its possible this could work(untested), is there a reason why you  
on the destination vs the origin server? That said, to reverse the

```
rsync -vPa -e 'ssh -o StrictHostKeyChecking=no'  
from=/root/exclude-files.txt DESTINATIONIP:/ /
```

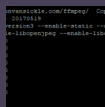
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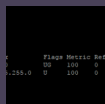
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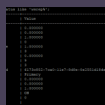
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