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Rambling around foo

tending to depart from the main point or cover a wide range of subjects

Monday, 6 April 2015

HOWTO: Dnsmasq server for network booting using TFTP and DHCP

[Dnsmasq](#) is a very lightweight server that besides the expected DNS caching functionality, it also offers DHCP and TFTP functionality in a single binary.

This makes it very useful if one needs to network boot a system since you can have the TFTP and DHCP part of the setup done easily, and only add NFS for a complete network boot.

Add to that that

One extra nice thing dnsmasq has is that it can mark specific hosts, addresses or ranges with some internal markers, then use those markers as symbolic names to apply settings based for classes of devices.

In the configuration snippet below, there is a rule I set up to make sure I would apply the 'netbsd' label to any system connecting through specific ethernet interfaces (one is the interface of the system, the other is a USB NIC I use from time to time):

```
#You will need a range for static IPs in the main file
dhcp-range=192.168.77.250,192.168.77.254,static

# give the name 'kinder' to any machine connecting through
the given ethernet nics and apply 'netbsd' label
dhcp-host=00:1a:70:99:60:BB,00:06:4F:0D:B1:95, kinder,
192.168.77.251, set:netbsd

# Machines tagged 'netbsd' shall use the given NFS root
path
dhcp-option=tag:netbsd, option:root-path,/export/netbsd-
nslu2/root
# Enable dnsmasq's built-in TFTP server
enable-tftp


# Set the root directory for files available via FTP.
tftp-root=/srv/tftp
```

Saving this configuration file in /etc/dnsmasq.d/kinder-netboot will enable this to be used by dnsmasq if this line is present in /etc/dnsmasq.conf

```
conf-dir=/etc/dnsmasq.d
```

Commenting it will disable the netbsd part easily.

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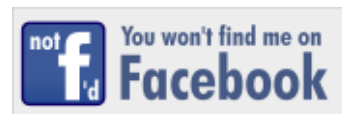


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