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Tools and techniques for managing virtual machine images

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Virtual machines can have many different deployment scenarios and therefore may require generation of multiple VM images. We report on work that has been done in a collaboration between CERN's Grid Deployment group and openlab to address several issues with image generation. Libsfimage is a standalone application which generates VM images with a rich selection of Linux distribution. OSFarm provides a user interface to libfsimage. In order to optimize generation of images, a layered copy-on-write image structure is used and an image cache ensures that identical images are not regenerated. For distributing images, content-based transfer has been investigated.

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