

Using virtiofs to access host disks

Virtiofs allows virt-manager to mount disks on the host directly. This saves having to mount them via NFS and is faster.

The web page [Sharing files with Virtiofs](#) describes how to add disks by editing the VM's XML. You do this by running ``virsh edit guestname`` on the host. *virsh* will check your updates for errors.

Using the GUI instead

virt-manager version 5 lets you do everything via the gui. When creating the VM, tick “Customize configuration before install” to give you the settings screen. In the “Memory” entry, tick “Enable shared memory”. That will do the **memoryBacking** XML entry in the web page. Now touch “Begin installation at top left. On reboot, click the light bulb (VM h/w details) and click “Add Hardware” (lower l/h). Click “Filesystem” (about 2/3rds of the way down) and enter “Source path” (e.g. `/`) and Target path (I use host system name, but you can use anything). This creates a **filesystem** XML entry.

Using the GUI - continued

See the note about *target dir* on the website. Once you click “Finish”, the disk is available for mounting. Make a mount point directory and do the mount:-

mkdir /smallstar

mount -tvirtiofs smallstar /smallstar

Put an entry in /etc/fstab for next time:-

smallstar /smallstar virtiofs defaults 0 0

The disk should mount at the next boot.

Errors I have encountered

As documented in [last meeting's talk \(slide 15\)](#), old Linux revisions on the guest may give errors even though they are supposedly recent enough.

Resources

Be aware, virtiofsd 1.13.3 is the the first version that can mount the root disk. Download it from [here](#).