



2021 Q4

Important updates for ISC's BIND 9, ISC DHCP, and Kea DHCP support subscribers.

BIND BIND/DNS News

BIND Branches

We have [declared 9.16.19 to be ESV](#), meaning we are no longer adding new features or refactoring, and are focusing solely on stability. BIND 9.11 was scheduled to be EOL in December. However, we have decided to extend support for 9.11 for our support customers, to provide another quarter to migrate to 9.16. The December development release will be the BIND 9.18 Release Candidate. Per our [published release plan](#), we plan to bring out a new stable branch, 9.18, in Q1 2022.

Upgrading to 9.16

Our support team has assembled a [list of changes](#) between the 9.11 and 9.16 branches, highlighting those that users might need to note when migrating. We also track significant features added and removed in the [Significant Features Matrix](#). In particular, 9.16, while it [can handle more queries on the same hardware](#), also uses more memory. We will make some changes in the January 9.16 maintenance build to reduce the memory increase, but it is likely that BIND 9.16 will still require more memory than 9.11. This is something to be aware of when upgrading if you have limited memory in your machines running BIND.

BIND QA Process Explained

If you are wondering what our quality assurance process is like, we have just published [an interview with Michal Kepien, Director of BIND QA](#).

Resolver Performance

Petr Špaček explains the results of extensive performance testing of the BIND 9.11 and 9.16 versions in [this recorded talk](#), which he also delivered at the [November RIPE meeting](#). This is an update on his earlier test of 9.16 documented [in this blog](#). Benchmarking resolvers is complicated, because one query might take 100x more resources to answer than another, depending on whether the answer is cached, signed, etc. So, simply measuring "queries per second" just begs the question, which queries? One of ISC's customers generously agreed to capture and share an extended stream of queries to their resolver pool, which Petr used to create a realistic benchmark.

New KB articles

- [Changes to be aware of when moving from BIND 9.11 to 9.16](#)
- [9.16 DNSSEC validation automatic trust anchor management](#)
- [Lame servers - what are they and how does BIND deal with them?](#)
- [How to Apply a Patch diff to ISC Source Code](#)

You might be interested in the results of [this survey of DNS operators](#), including BIND users, from CZ.NIC.



Kea/DHCP News

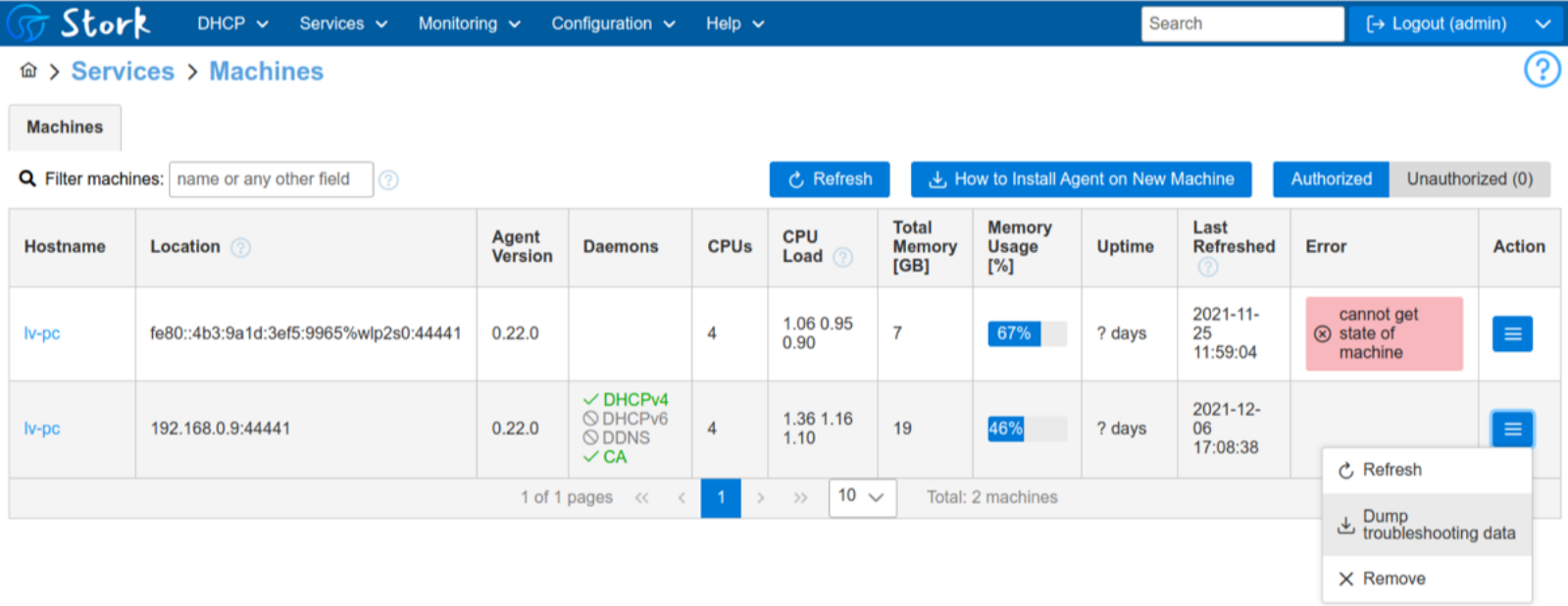
Kea 2.0 was released in September

This version added multi-threading for high-availability deployments, as well as TLS support. We have published a series of test results [here](#) and summarized the main points in [this new KB article](#).

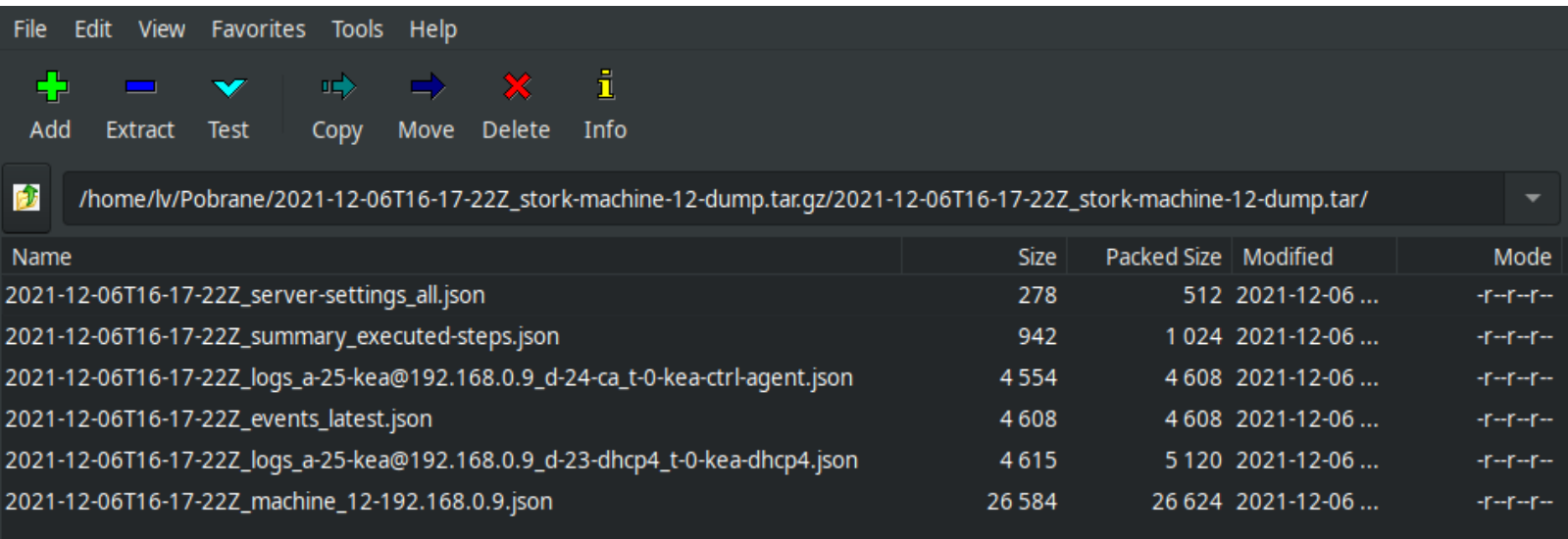
Per our [published release plan](#), Kea 1.6 is no longer supported; we will continue to support Kea 1.8 until we publish the next stable version.

Stork Reaches 1.0 in December

With [Stork, ISC's graphical management interface](#), you can now search for and view leases in Kea, as well as see the current status of host reservations. Stork is also now able to search for declined leases, which are a tell-tale sign of address duplication problems in a network. We have recently added a configuration viewer and a configuration review capability, which we [plan to expand](#) in the future. Another great feature in 1.0 will dump your running configuration and other relevant data to a file for sharing with ISC support, in case you need help with troubleshooting:



This "Dump troubleshooting data" button creates a compressed package like the one below.



With these new features, we are nearing the end of our initial list of Kea monitoring requirements. In 2022 we will be working on providing a graphical interface for managing Kea configuration. We would love to hear from users who have requirements for configuration support as we work on the design for this new capability.

New KB articles on DHCP:

- [Kea 2.0 Performance Summary](#)
- [Kea Significant Features](#) (updated)
- [Getting started with Galera or Percona for Kea](#) (updated)
- [Using Host Reservations in Kea](#) (updated)

Updates from Support

Upcoming Support Holiday Schedule

ISC's offices will officially be closed on the following dates:

- Friday and Monday, December 24 & 27, 2021
- Friday, December 31, 2021

For these observed holidays, the "Next Business Day" response on any tickets is deferred until the first day we are back at work again (i.e., the clock on responses stops ticking as the last working day ends and resumes on the morning of our return).

These closures do not affect Critical tickets for our Silver and Gold subscribers with 7x24-hour support. As always, Critical phone calls and tickets will be responded to per your contracted SLA. Bronze support customers (without 24x7 coverage) will receive responses to their critical tickets on the first business day following the ISC holidays.

In recognition of the common practice of having a 'network freeze' during the last two months of the calendar year, when many systems administrators try to avoid making changes, we will attempt to avoid issuing any [public vulnerability notifications](#) (CVEs) during that time. This of course does not apply to a Type II vulnerability.

Meet an ISC Engineer!



Dan Theisen, New Support Engineer

Dan is the newest member of our Support team. He brings years of experience in system and network engineering to ISC and we are confident you will enjoy working with him.

Read more about Dan [here](#).

Happy Holidays from ISC!

Every year we put together a little holiday "card" to show our customers, users, contributors, and friends how much we appreciate them. This year we've assembled greetings and photos from our staff members around the world! We hope you enjoy it.

[View our card!](#)

Fall ISC Webinars BIND 9 Application Security

This fall's series of webinars focused on [BIND 9 application security](#), and once again featured Carsten Strotmann as presenter. To register for the last webinar in the series, on the security implications of DNS fragmentation, please see [our website](#). The first three sessions of this class have been recorded and are available for viewing on our [presentations page](#). If you would like to be notified of new webinars, please sign up for our [training-info](#) mailing list, or monitor our social media ([Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Twitter](#)) or website.

All our webinars are archived on ISC's [YouTube](#) and [BrightTALK](#) channels and on our [website](#).

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