

Vampire

A remote package testing tool written in python
11 January 2004, Vampire Version 0.2a

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This file documents Vampire (version 0.2a, 11 January 2004), a remote package testing tool.

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Introduction

Vampire is a program that tests a tarball on a network. It takes a tarball (typically built using the GNU Build System), uploads it on several machines, configures it, runs a check sequence (usually `make distcheck`) and returns the results. It is designed to be flexible enough to run checks on different systems and environments.

Vampire began with a first revision written by Nicolas Burrus for the EPITA Research & Development Laboratory (LRDE) in February 2003. Maxime Biais, Pierre Gleyzes, Sébastien Hénaff, Benoît Mérouze wrote a new revision from scratch, with a lot of new features and a new structure.

This edition corresponds to version 0.2a of Vampire.

1 Invoking Vampire

The usual way to invoke Vampire is as follows:

```
vampire [OPTIONS] ACTION [FILES]
```

1.1 Vampire Options

Vampire supports both traditional single-letter options and mnemonic long option names. Long option names are indicated with '--' instead of '-'. Abbreviations for option names are allowed as long as they are unique. When a long option takes an argument, like '--hostname', connect the option name and the argument with '='.

'-v'

'--verbose'

Verbose mode. Cause Vampire to print informations about what it is doing.

'-n'

'--do-nothing'

Verbose mode, doing nothing. Cause Vampire to print informations about what it would do in normal conditions.

'-d'

'--daemon'

Start the Vampire daemon mode.

'-a'

'--client'

Client mode. Vampire speaks with the daemon.

'-p'

'--port=*n*'

Specify the port *n* used to speak with the daemon.

'-h'

'--hostname=*name*'

Specify the host *name* where the daemon is running.

'-t'

'--tarball-file=*file*'

Specify the XML configuration file *file* for tarballs.

'-c'

'--host-file=*file*'

Specify the XML configuration file *file* for hosts. It describes the network to work with.

'-s'

'--load-average=*n*'

Specify the maximum load average *n* authorized to select the hosts on which vampire will test the tarballs.

'-o'

'--output=*file*'

Specify the file *file* in which Vampire has to write results (XML format).

'-r'

'--host-class=*reglist*'

Specify the kinds of hosts to use for tests. *reglist* is a list of regular expressions separated by commas defining the characteristics of hosts wanted. It can define a machine hardware name (*archi*), a operating system (*os*), a version of operating system (*version*) or an environment variable name.

Example:

```
vampire -r "os=Linux, archi=i*86, CC=gcc-3.2"
```

It is also possible to give simple regular expressions matching any characteristic, like '-r "*BSD, i*86"'.

'-q'

'--tarball-class=*class*'

Specify the class *class* of tarball to test in the configuration file of tarballs.

'-V'

'--version'

Print the version number of Vampire and exit.

'-H'

'--help' Print a summary of the command line options and exit.

1.2 Vampire Actions

'info' Called from client. Get informations about running and finished tests made by the daemon.

'check' Called from client. Check one or several tarballs given in the command line (*FILES*).

'kill-daemon'

Called from client. Exit the daemon mode.

2 Configuring Vampire

There are two files to configure Vampire:

1. The hosts configuration file. It describes the network used to test your tarball(s).
2. The tarballs configuration file. It describes the tarball(s) and the tests to do.

2.1 Hosts configuration

2.2 Tarballs configuration

3 Operating modes of Vampire

There are two operating modes for Vampire:

1. The standalone mode.
2. The daemon and client mode.

3.1 Standalone mode

The standalone mode is the basic use of Vampire. It is useful when you do not need to run tests often. Just run vampire with options you want and wait him for finishing your tests. If you have bigtesting needs or if other Vampire runs on the same network see the daemon mode

3.2 Daemon mode

The daemon mode is useful when several Vampire are liable to run on the same network, because the scheduler (which distribute tarballs on host) aims to manage many tarballs on many hosts. The repartition will be more efficient if one Vampire is used to run all the tests. Another daemon feature can be really useful when many tests are running: the info action that return you the status of the tests (remaining, completed and running test). In fact if the verbose option in the standalone mode is not enabled, you can't know the states of your tests.

3.2.1 Daemon

To run the Vampire daemon mode, just run vampire with the daemon arguments (-d, or -daemon). Note: You can add tests in the same time you are running the daemon mode.

3.2.2 Client

4 Publication of the results

4.1 Vampire's output

4.2 Exporting results

5 Errors and warning messages

Appendix A using and making wrappers for Vampire

A.1 Using wrappers

A.2 How To make your wrappers

Appendix B Shell completions for Vampire

B.1 Bash completion

B.2 Zsh completion

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