There are rumors on the ceph-users mailing list that the ceph-radosgw service fails to start if the httpd package is not installed. This is because the init.d file attempts to start the RGW process with the "apache" UID. If a user is running civetweb, there is no reason for the httpd package to be present on the system.

We should switch the init script to use "root" as is done on Debian/Ubuntu.

Version-Release number of selected component: ceph-0.94.1

What I suggest is to run rgw with its own user/group. It add flexibility and security that people want (apache user can be added in "rgw" group).

I can add work for debian* packaging but it can break some behavior, for example we have to use a specific directory for log. Here is an example of work we have to do in Chef Cookbook that I want to remove and push in packages: https://github.com/ceph/ceph-cookbook/commit/0845115b52d355a4c81eca149c81aafabdfb698

I'm available to discuss more about it, but it's a real and important question to answer (and using root is a quick and dirty solution).

#7 - 05/11/2015 03:36 PM - Ken Dreyer
- Regression set to No

Hi Guilhem,

You're right that running as root is not a good solution.

With the transition to civetweb, there is no longer a reason for the Apache package (httpd RPM, or apache2 DEB) to be present on the system, so the Apache UID ("apache" on RPM, "www-data" on Debian) is probably not going to be available going forward.

We really want to get away from running daemons as root in Ceph overall. There is a work-in-progress branch in GitHub called "wip-user" here: https://github.com/ceph/ceph/tree/wip-user. At the moment we are working with the distros to get static UIDs allocated for Ceph (eg. Fedora is here, https://fedorahosted.org/fpc/ticket/524, and there's an equivalent post to the SUSE and Debian lists archived somewhere). My plan is that we'll run all the Ceph daemons under this UID.

You're right that those items you linked in Chef really ought to be done in the packaging itself. My hope is that we can fix those things when wip-user gets closer to merging into the master branch.

#8 - 05/12/2015 09:12 PM - Ken Dreyer
For reference, the issue that tracks running RGW (and the other daemons) as the new "ceph" unprivileged UID is #9133

#9 - 05/14/2015 11:03 PM - Loic Dachary
- Status changed from Pending Backport to Resolved

#10 - 05/15/2015 10:58 AM - Nathan Cutler
commit:a71f309 init-radosgw: run RGW as root (in firefly), commit:f30fa4a init-radosgw: run RGW as root (in hammer),

#11 - 05/16/2015 01:48 AM - Tim Serong
If RGW runs as the "ceph" user, then that process could theoretically read/write raw data on the OSDs if it were possible to exploit somehow. Mightn't it be safer to leave it running as the 'www' user, but have that user created automatically when RGW is installed, if it doesn't already exist?

#12 - 05/16/2015 08:03 AM - Nathan Cutler
- Status changed from Resolved to Feedback

#13 - 05/16/2015 08:08 AM - Nathan Cutler
Adding to what Tim said, changing this to root in firefly might cause trouble in firefly-based production installations that are already committed to apache.

#14 - 05/18/2015 02:43 PM - Ken Dreyer
What sort of problems do you picture occurring when switching from an unprivileged www UID to root in firefly?