

C.R.E.A.M. - Cache Rules Everything Around Me - with vagrant-cachier

One of the challenges with using Vagrant and VirtualBox for my labs is that I run download processes over and over again. This is good for testing, but not very good for time and bandwidth usage. When we have really aggressive downloading needs like apt repository files and such, there is something that can really help with your performance on deployments and make your ISP bill much easier to deal with.

Cache is King

There is a nifty little plugin called `vagrant-cachier` that I use, and you may have seen it already in other builds such as the OpenStack Cookbook scripts and the Couch to OpenStack series.

To install the plugin, simply run the `vagrant plugin install vagrant-cachier` command like so:



Once your plugin is installed, we just need to put it into the Vagrantfile in order to ensure it is being used. We have a nice code block we are going to put into place towards the beginning of the Vagrantfile that will be this:

```
if Vagrant.has_plugin?("vagrant-cachier")
  config.cache.scope = :box
  config.cache.enable :apt
else
  puts "[-] WARN: This would be much faster if you ran vagrant plugin install
vagrant-cachier first"
end
```

There is just a small check to see if the plugin exists, and if it doesn't, it will continue with the install process but warn you that cachier is not installed. The `cache.scope` and `cache.enable` option tells us the content that will be cached and the scope it will cover.

Here it is in the full Vagrantfile so that you can see where to place it:



Now the next time you decide to run your `apt-get dolla-dolla-bill-yall` you will be saving some network bandwidth and a lot of time.

In order to really extend the use of cachier, you can visit the project page here: <https://github.com/fgrehm/vagrant-cachier> and you can also see the documentation here: <http://fgrehm.viewdocs.io/vagrant-cachier> for easy access.

There are many other configurable options that you can use, and there are more providers than just Vagrant and VirtualBox. This has become a staple for me, and I hope you get back the time and value that I have from it for your lab work.

Happy cacheing!