### Description

Enabling the new cachewebsite build option ([#15342](https://gitlab.com/tails-project/tails/-/merge_requests/15342)) by default should lower by 25% the total runtime of a Tails images build job on our CI.

It would take up to 5 extra GiB on isobuilders' /var/lib/libvirt/images.

Note that this option is automatically disabled when building a release (i.e. from a tag), to be on the safe side.

Here's the plan:

1. Ask our developers to use the cachewebsite option locally, in order to iron out whatever bugs are left in the implementation (I think I'll do that anyway) [done](2020-02-04)
2. Ensure our isobuilders have enough space to store the cache [done](2020-02-04)
3. While waiting for feedback from developers, enable this on my local Jenkins for a few weeks, in order to learn about potential Jenkins-specific problems this may cause
4. On a topic branch, enable cachewebsite by default and add a cachewebsite=no option to allow disabling this feature

### Related issues:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Due date</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#15342</td>
<td>Resolved</td>
<td>02/22/2018</td>
<td>Add option to our build system for caching the wiki added</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#16209</td>
<td>Confirmed</td>
<td></td>
<td>Core work: Foundations Team</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| #17481 | Resolved | | Refresh our patches to apply on top of thunder...

### Associated revisions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revision</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Message</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21717530</td>
<td>intrigeri</td>
<td>02/15/2020 05:42 PM</td>
<td>Build system: enable website caching by default, with a way option to disable it (refs: #17439)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e4c8259d</td>
<td>intrigeri</td>
<td>02/15/2020 05:50 PM</td>
<td>Build system: enable website caching by default, with a way option to disable it (refs: #17439)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>79517875</td>
<td>segfault</td>
<td>02/21/2020 10:41 AM</td>
<td>Merge branch 'feature/17439-enable-cachewebsite-by-default' into stable (Closes: #17439)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d1102c94</td>
<td>intrigeri</td>
<td>03/05/2020 09:35 PM</td>
<td>Build system: enable website caching by default, with a way option to disable it (refs: #17439)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#1</th>
<th>01/14/2020 07:46 PM - intrigeri</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Blocked by Feature #15342: Add option to our build system for caching the wiki added</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#2</th>
<th>01/14/2020 08:06 PM - intrigeri</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Description updated</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Enabling the new cacheweb site build option (#15342) should lower by 25% the total runtime of a Tails images build job on our CI. It would take up to 5 extra GiB on isobuilders’ /var/lib/libvirt/images.

A great trade-off, IMHO!

Any reasons why we should not enable this option?

I don’t think so. Well, this adds another instance of where a caching bug can occur, which generally is tricky to even notice, but I don’t think that should be a deterrent (imagine where we would be without any caching). It is very clear to me that the code that disables this cache for releases is correct, and that’s the most import bit. Let’s just keep it that way!

If not, I could:

- ask our developers to use the cacheweb site option locally, in order to iron out whatever bugs are left in the implementation (I think I’ll do that anyway)
- enable this on my local Jenkins for a few weeks, in order to learn about potential Jenkins-specific problems this may cause

Sounds good! In fact, I think we should consider making cacheweb site the default since it will improve the developer UX story and we get less fragmented options among developers. In my experience, opt-in for a nice feature generally results in more fragmentation compared to opt-out -- with opt-in for a desirable feature, only users that read the docs will know about it and thus possibly/likely enable it.

In fact, I think we should consider making cacheweb site the default since it will improve the developer UX story and we get less fragmented options among developers. In my experience, opt-in for a nice feature generally results in more fragmentation compared to opt-out -- with opt-in for a desirable feature, only users that read the docs will know about it and thus possibly/likely enable it.
Agreed. I made it opt-in to start with only out of humility and because I did not want to affect our CI so soon. So perhaps this ticket becomes "Consider enabling the cachewebsite build option by default, including on our CI". And then we'll need a nocachewebsite option, I guess.

anonym wrote:

intrigeri wrote:

Enabling the new cachewebsite build option (#15342) should lower by 25% the total runtime of a Tails images build job on our CI. It would take up to 5 extra GiB on isobuilders’ /var/lib/libvirt/images.

A great trade-off, IMHO!

Any reasons why we should not enable this option?

I don't think so. Well, this adds another instance of where a caching bug can occur, which generally is tricky to even notice, but I don't think that should be a deterrent (imagine where we would be without any caching).

I agree.

intrigeri wrote:

#5 - 01/15/2020 05:50 PM - segfault

#6 - 02/04/2020 10:38 AM - intrigeri

- Subject changed from Consider enabling the cachewebsite build option on our CI to Enable the cachewebsite build option by default, including on our CI
- Description updated
- Assignee set to intrigeri
- Target version set to Tails_4.4

#7 - 02/04/2020 10:38 AM - intrigeri

- Blocks Feature #16209: Core work: Foundations Team added

#8 - 02/04/2020 11:47 AM - intrigeri

- Description updated
intrigeri wrote:

Enable this on my local Jenkins for a few weeks, in order to learn about potential Jenkins-specific problems this may cause

Enabled this today and already enjoying the benefits :)

Ensure our isobuilders have enough space to store the cache

They don't: during a build, there's only 2.9G free space there.

#9 - 02/04/2020 12:13 PM - intrigeri
- Description updated

#10 - 02/04/2020 12:36 PM - intrigeri
- Description updated

#11 - 02/04/2020 12:38 PM - intrigeri
- Parent task set to #16960
- Type of work changed from Sysadmin to Code

(The sysadmin part is done.)

#12 - 02/15/2020 05:37 PM - intrigeri
- Feature Branch set to feature/17439-enable-cachewebsite-by-default

#13 - 02/16/2020 10:17 AM - intrigeri
- Blocked by Bug #17481: Refresh our patches to apply on top of thunderbird 1.68.5.0-1~deb10u1 added

#14 - 02/16/2020 12:17 PM - intrigeri
- Status changed from In Progress to Needs Validation
- Assignee deleted (intrigeri)

Looks good so far. It indeed cuts the build time down by almost 30% on Jenkins, in the best case scenario:

#15 - 02/21/2020 10:41 AM - segfault
- Status changed from Needs Validation to Resolved
- % Done changed from 0 to 100

Applied in changeset tails/7951787568f5229d0481c9432742c7f5be43d940.