

# Installing Open vSwitch on Gentoo (Xen Hypervisor)

The Gentoo ebuild for Open vSwitch does not seem to work with the latest available kernel as of this writing (*3.10.7-gentoo-r1*). This post is documentation of the process that I performed in order to successfully install Open vSwitch on a Gentoo server running the Xen hypervisor. This guide assumes that you already have a Gentoo environment configured and running with the Xen hypervisor available in portage.

*Note: See the update in the comment section below for how to install `openvswitch-2.0.0` from portage!*

First make sure the following kernel settings are enabled for full Open vSwitch compatibility:

After you rebuild the kernel and reboot the machine you can load the `openvswitch` module by typing:

Next add an entry for the `openvswitch` module to `/etc/conf.d/modules` so it loads on each reboot:

In order to successfully install Open vSwitch it must be downloaded and installed from source. The latest source code can be downloaded [here](#).

In this guide the `openvswitch-1.11.0.tar.gz` file was downloaded and extracted to `/usr/src/openvswitch`. Perform the following commands to build and install Open vSwitch from the downloaded source code.

Open vSwitch should now have files installed in `/usr` and `/var`

The `ovs-*` commands should also now be available in your path

Next it is necessary to create the openvswitch DB

Startup the Open vSwitch database server

Initialize the database

Then start up openvswitch

In order to have Xen use Open vSwitch as its default virtual interface add the following entry to `/etc/xen/xl.conf`

The physical Ethernet interface that will be used with Open vSwitch has to be set to null in `/etc/conf.d/net`

Finally create the first Open vSwitch bridge called `xenbr0`

*Note: See the update in the comment section below for how to install openvswitch-2.0.0 from portage!*

References:

[How to Install Open vSwitch on Linux, FreeBSD and NetBSD](#)

[Xen Networking – Xen \(Setting up Open vSwitch networking\)](#)

[QEMU with Open vSwitch network](#)