

Update #8 - Synchting Systemd Recovery After Upgrade

Date: May 10, 2025

Category: System Maintenance / Automation

Backlink: [Update #7 - Synchting UFW Rule Automation with DDNS Integration](#)

Overview

After performing a system upgrade on the VPS hosting BookStack and Synchting, it was discovered that Synchting no longer started correctly under the user-level `systemctl --user` session. Attempts to restart the service resulted in a `Failed to connect to bus: Connection refused` error, likely due to the user session being interrupted by the upgrade process.

The Problem

- After the package upgrades, the Synchting service appeared to be inactive.
- Running:

```
systemctl --user restart synchting
```

resulted in:

```
Failed to connect to bus: Connection refused
```

The Solution

Switched Syncthing from a user-level service to a system-wide service tied to the user account.

Steps Taken:

1. **Stopped any failed user service attempts (optional but safe):**

```
systemctl --user stop syncthing
```

2. **Enabled the system-wide service instead:**

```
sudo systemctl enable syncthing@<username>.service  
sudo systemctl start syncthing@<username>.service
```

3. **Verified Syncthing is active:**

```
sudo systemctl status syncthing@<username>.service
```

Optional Consideration

If future system upgrades disrupt services again, I will consider using a simple systemd timer or cron job to periodically check and restart Syncthing, though this is not currently necessary due to the stability of the system-wide service.

Revision #4

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