
Subject: Re: About many connections in SMTP
Posted by [rkagan](#) on Fri, 11 May 2007 10:31:48 GMT
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> Im using Exim 4.60, that comes with DirectAdmin. I have
> smtp_accept_max in 130 and sometimes Im getting this error: "421 Too
> many concurrent SMTP connections; please try again later."
>
> I used exiwhat and netstat and I determine that yahoo servers have many
> incoming connections to my server. Triying to determine the problem I
> used an sniffer, its an example:
>
> SNIFFER OUTOUT
> 250 OK
> 250 Accepted
> 354 Enter message, ending with "." on a line by itself
> 250 OK id=1HlpNN-0000Rm-7w
> QUIT
> 221 exodo.colombiahosting.com.co closing connection
> 14 FIN-WAIT-1 209.191.125.35:29978 > 66.128.49.69:smtp
> 14 TIME-WAIT 209.191.125.35:29978 > 66.128.49.69:smtp
> 14 RESET 209.191.125.35:29978 > 66.128.49.69:smtp

This log seems incomplete; however, the 'QUIT' command is processed correctly, and the connection is closed.

> -bash-3.00# netstat -an | grep 209.191.125.35
> tcp 0 0 66.128.49.69:25
> 209.191.125.35:27139 ESTABLISHED
> tcp 0 0 66.128.49.69:25
> 209.191.125.35:39853 ESTABLISHED

209.191.125.35:29978 doesn't appear on this list: everything's fine.

> -bash-3.00# exiwhat | grep 209.191.125.35
> 7549 handling incoming connection from web38404.mail.mud.yahoo.com
> [209.191.125.35] id=1Hlow6-0001xl-lt
> 23792 handling incoming connection from web38404.mail.mud.yahoo.com
> [209.191.125.35] id=1HloZ6-0006Bk-UK
>
>
> and 20 minutes later I do netstat again and I get the same info. Then
> the connections never close
> -bash-3.00# netstat -an | grep 209.191.125.35
> tcp 0 0 66.128.49.69:25
> 209.191.125.35:27139 ESTABLISHED
> tcp 0 0 66.128.49.69:25

> 209.191.125.35:39853 ESTABLISHED

In the normal SMTP flow the session termination is initiated by the client by sending 'QUIT' command, and, AFAICS, it's processed correctly. Thus what you observe - the connections remaining in ESTABLISHED state - can be due to either of the two reasons

- your exim has too big timeouts for idle sessions
- the client keeps the session alive by talking to the server

To be sure, however, you can try the following:

- 1) identify the stalled connection
- 2) note the remote address and port number, and the pid of the process that serves this connection (you can use `netstat -tp` for that)

- 3) run

```
strace -v -p server_pid
```

and watch the output

- 4) (at the same time, in another terminal) run

```
tcpdump -A -n -v host remote_addr and port remote_port
```

and watch the output.

HTH,
Roman.
