Subject: Re: controlling mmap()'d vs read/write() pages
Posted by ebiederm on Fri, 23 Mar 2007 12:21:01 GMT
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Nick Piggin <nickpiggin@yahoo.com.au> writes:

>> Would any of them work on a system on which every filesystem was on
>> ramfs, and there was no swap? If not then they are not memory attacks
>> but I/O attacks.
>>
>> I completely concede that you can DOS the system with I/O if that is
>> not limited as well.
>>
>> My point is that is not a memory problem but a disk I/O problem which is
>> much easier to and cheaper to solve. Disk I/O is fundamentally a slow
>> path which makes it hard to modify it in a way that negatively affects
>> system performance.
>>
>> I don't think with a memory RSS limit you can DOS the system in a way
>> that is purely about memory. You have to pick a different kind of DOS
>> attack.
>
> It can be done trivially without performing any IO or swap, yes.

Please give me a rough sketch of how to do so.

Or is this about DOS'ing the system by getting the kernel to allocate
a large number of data structures (struct file, struct inode, or the like)?

Eric

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