
Subject: [PATCH 3/5] Switch caches notification dynamically
Posted by [Pavel Emelianov](#) on Tue, 25 Sep 2007 14:22:51 GMT
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The /sys/slab/<name>/cache_notify attribute controls whether the cache <name> is to be accounted or not.

By default no caches are accountable. Simply make
echo -n 1 > /sys/slab/<name>cache_notify
to turn notification of this cache on.

If we turn accounting on on some cache and this cache is merged with some other, this "other" will be notified as well. One can solve this by disabling of cache merging, i.e. booting with slub_nomerge option to the kernel.

Turning the notifications "on" causes all the subsequent allocations use the slow allocation path, so all the per-cpu caches are flushed and all the partial pages are marked as SlabDebug.

Turning the notification off is possible only when this cache is empty. The reason for this is that the pages, that are full of objects are not linked in any list, so we wouldn't be able to walk these pages and tell them they should not produce notifications any longer.

To make "off" possible we need to rework the slub.c in respect to full slabs handling (this is currently available with SLUB_DEBUG only). This is in TODO.

Signed-off-by: Pavel Emelianov <xemul@openvz.org>

```
diff --git a/mm/slub.c b/mm/slub.c
index 31d04a3..e066a0e 100644
--- a/mm/slub.c
+++ b/mm/slub.c
@@ -3779,6 +3932,60 @@ static ssize_t defrag_ratio_store(struct
    SLAB_ATTR(defrag_ratio);
 #endif

+static ssize_t cache_notify_show(struct kmem_cache *s, char *buf)
+{
+ return sprintf(buf, "%d\n", !!s->flags & SLAB_NOTIFY);
+}
+
```

```

+static ssize_t cache_notify_store(struct kmem_cache *s,
+ const char *buf, size_t length)
+{
+ int err;
+ int n;
+
+ if ((buf[0] == '1') && !(s->flags & SLAB_NOTIFY)) {
+ err = slub_on_notify(s);
+ if (err < 0)
+ return err;
+
+ s->flags |= SLAB_NOTIFY;
+
+ flush_all(s);
+ for_each_node_state(n, N_NORMAL_MEMORY) {
+ struct kmem_cache_node *node;
+ struct page *pg;
+
+ node = get_node(s, n);
+ spin_lock_irq(&node->list_lock);
+ list_for_each_entry(pg, &node->partial, lru)
+ SetSlabDebug(pg);
+ spin_unlock_irq(&node->list_lock);
+ }
+ return length;
+ }
+
+ if ((buf[0] == '0') && (s->flags & SLAB_NOTIFY)) {
+ /*
+  * TODO: make the notifications-off work
+  */
+ if (any_slab_objects(s))
+ return -EBUSY;
+
+ s->flags &= ~SLAB_NOTIFY;
+ err = slub_off_notify(s);
+ if (err < 0) {
+ s->flags |= SLAB_NOTIFY;
+ return err;
+ }
+
+ return length;
+ }
+
+ return -EINVAL;
+}
+
+SLAB_ATTR(cache_notify);

```

```
+
static struct attribute * slab_attrs[] = {
    &slab_size_attr.attr,
    &object_size_attr.attr,
@@ -3809,6 +4016,7 @@ static struct attribute * slab_attrs[] =
#ifdef CONFIG_NUMA
    &defrag_ratio_attr.attr,
#endif
+ &cache_notify_attr.attr,
    NULL
};
```
