Subject: Re: Need help diagnosing OOM Killer report
Posted by vaverin on Wed, 26 Sep 2007 12:17:13 GMT
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Rick,

could you please tell me what the kernel you have used?

OOM happens because disk activity eats some part of memory in normal zone and it becomes full.
whole normal zone is ~800mb and only buffer_head uses ~ 370Mb.
You can try to call sync in cycle (to force write to disk, it should reduce number of busy buffer_heads) -- but I'm not sure that it would be enough to prevent OOM-kill.

The simplest way to work around this issue -- increase size of normal zone.
In your kernel you have only 800 Mb used for normal zone.
Youcan switch to our enterprise kernels that have enabled 4Gb split option (at leaset for 2.6.9/rhel4 and 2.6.18/rhel5 kernels). 4Gb split patch increases size of normal zone up to 3.6 Gb.

Also you can switch to 64-bit kernels -- however it requires re-installation of hostOS on your node.
In general I would recommend to use 64-bit kernels now, even if you have only 32-bit VEs

thank you,
 Vasily Averin