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Subject: Re: How Inactive may be much greater than cached?

Posted by [vaverin](#) on Thu, 18 Oct 2007 07:14:05 GMT

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Nick Piggin wrote:

> Hi,

>

> On Thursday 18 October 2007 16:24, Vasily Averin wrote:

>> Hi all,

>>

>> could anybody explain how "inactive" may be much greater than "cached"?

>> stress test (<http://weather.ou.edu/~apw/projects/stress/>) that writes into

>> removed files in cycle puts the node to the following state:

>>

>> MemTotal: 16401648 kB

>> MemFree: 636644 kB

>> Buffers: 1122556 kB

>> Cached: 362880 kB

>> SwapCached: 700 kB

>> Active: 1604180 kB

>> Inactive: 13609828 kB

>>

>> At the first glance memory should be freed on file closing, nobody refers

>> to file and ext3\_delete\_inode() truncates inode. We can see that memory is

>> go away from "cached", however could somebody explain why it become

>> "invalid" instead be freed? Who holds the references to these pages?

>

> Buffers, swap cache, and anonymous.

But buffers and swap cache are low (1.1 Gb and 700kB in this example) and anonymous should go away when process finished.

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