
Subject: Re: [PATCH net-2.6.25 10/11][INET] Eliminate difference in actions of
sysctl and proc handler for co

Posted by [Pavel Emelianov](#) on Wed, 05 Dec 2007 09:58:16 GMT

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David Miller wrote:

> From: Pavel Emelyanov <xemul@openvz.org>

> Date: Tue, 04 Dec 2007 13:16:45 +0300

>

>> AFAIS the net.ipv4.conf. <dev>, all and default sysctls should

>> work like this when changed (besides changing the value itself):

>>

>> <dev> : optionally do smth else

>> all : walk devices

>> default : walk devices

>>

>> The proc handler for net.ipv4.conf.all works like this:

>>

>> <dev> : flush rt cache

>> all : walk devices and flush rt cache

>> default : nothing

>>

>> while the sysctl handler works like this:

>>

>> <dev> : nothing

>> all : nothing

>> default : walk devices but don't flush the cache

>>

>> All this looks strange. Am I right that regardless of whatever

>> handler (proc or syscall) is called the behavior should be:

>>

>> <dev> : flush rt cache

>> all : walk the devices and flush the cache

>> default : walk the devices and flush the cache

>>

>> ?

>>

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

>

> Because, basically, nobody (and I really do mean nobody)

> uses the sysctl() method to change these things, what

> people expect is basically going to be the procfs

> access behavior.

OK. Thank you for clarification :)

> And I agree with it.

>

> The 'default' influences future settings, it should not modify
> existing devices. That's the job of 'all'.

I thought the same, and I saw that this is true for ipv6, but
ipv4 works differently :(-- changing default for some sysctls
will cause some devices to be changed as well.

I mean - devinet_copy_dflt_conf() copies the changed bit on
those devices, that have not this but marked in the "state" field.
It is called for such entries as "accept_redirects", "shared_media"
and many others. But not for "forwarding" one. That's what seemed
strange to me. Sorry, that I didn't express the idea more cleanly.

So what's the right behavior -- to propagate the default for all the
ctls on all the devices (according to their "state"), not to propagate
for all the ctls, or to keep things as they are now?

> Otherwise why have 'all' and 'default' as two different knobs
> if they do exactly the same thing? That's pointless.
>
> I've therefore dropped this patch.
>

Thanks,
Pavel
