
Subject: [PATCH 2.6.24-rc8-mm1 12/15] (RFC) IPC/semaphores: make use of RCU to free the sem_undo_list

Posted by [Pierre Peiffer](#) on Tue, 29 Jan 2008 16:02:41 GMT

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From: Pierre Peiffer <pierre.peiffer@bull.net>

Today, the sem_undo_list is freed when the last task using it exits. There is no mechanism in place, that allows a safe concurrent access to the sem_undo_list of a target task and protects efficiently against a task-exit.

That is okay for now as we don't need this.

As I would like to provide a /proc interface to access this data, I need such a safe access, without blocking the target task if possible.

This patch proposes to introduce the use of RCU to delay the real free of these sem_undo_list structures. They can then be accessed in a safe manner by any tasks inside read critical section, this way:

```
struct sem_undo_list *undo_list;
int ret;
...
rcu_read_lock();
undo_list = rcu_dereference(task->sysvsem.undo_list);
if (undo_list)
    ret = atomic_inc_not_zero(&undo_list->refcnt);
rcu_read_unlock();
...
if (undo_list && ret) {
    /* section where undo_list can be used quietly */
    ...
}
...
```

Signed-off-by: Pierre Peiffer <pierre.peiffer@bull.net>

```
include/linux/sem.h | 7 +++++--
ipc/sem.c           | 42 +++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++-----
2 files changed, 31 insertions(+), 18 deletions(-)
```

Index: b/include/linux/sem.h

=====

--- a/include/linux/sem.h

+++ b/include/linux/sem.h

@@ -115,7 +115,8 @@ struct sem_queue {

```

};

/* Each task has a list of undo requests. They are executed automatically
- * when the process exits.
+ * when the last refcnt of sem_undo_list is released (ie when the process exits
+ * in the general case)
*/
struct sem_undo {
    struct sem_undo * proc_next; /* next entry on this process */
@@ -125,12 +126,14 @@ struct sem_undo {
};

/* sem_undo_list controls shared access to the list of sem_undo structures
- * that may be shared among all a CLONE_SYSVSEM task group.
+ * that may be shared among all a CLONE_SYSVSEM task group or with an external
+ * process which changes the list through procfs.
*/
struct sem_undo_list {
    atomic_t refcnt;
    spinlock_t lock;
    struct sem_undo *proc_list;
+ struct ipc_namespace *ns;
};

struct sysv_sem {
Index: b/ipc/sem.c
=====
--- a/ipc/sem.c
+++ b/ipc/sem.c
@@ -1038,6 +1038,7 @@ static inline int get_undo_list(struct s
    return -ENOMEM;
    spin_lock_init(&undo_list->lock);
    atomic_set(&undo_list->refcnt, 1);
+ undo_list->ns = get_ipc_ns(current->nsproxy->ipc_ns);
    current->sysvsem.undo_list = undo_list;
}
*undo_listp = undo_list;
@@ -1316,7 +1317,8 @@ int copy_semundo(unsigned long clone_flg
}

/*
- * add semadj values to semaphores, free undo structures.
+ * add semadj values to semaphores, free undo structures, if there is no
+ * more user.
    * undo structures are not freed when semaphore arrays are destroyed
    * so some of them may be out of date.
    * IMPLEMENTATION NOTE: There is some confusion over whether the
@@ -1326,23 +1328,17 @@ int copy_semundo(unsigned long clone_flg

```

```

* The original implementation attempted to do this (queue and wait).
* The current implementation does not do so. The POSIX standard
* and SVID should be consulted to determine what behavior is mandated.
+ *
+ * Note:
+ * A concurrent task is only allowed to access and go through the list
+ * of sem_undo if it successfully grabs a refcnt.
*/
-void exit_sem(struct task_struct *tsk)
+static void free_semundo_list(struct sem_undo_list *undo_list)
{
- struct sem_undo_list *undo_list;
  struct sem_undo *u, **up;
- struct ipc_namespace *ns;

- undo_list = tsk->sysvsem.undo_list;
- if (!undo_list)
-   return;
-
- if (!atomic_dec_and_test(&undo_list->refcnt))
-   return;
-
- ns = tsk->nsproxy->ipc_ns;
- /* There's no need to hold the semundo list lock, as current
-   * is the last task exiting for this undo list.
+ /* There's no need to hold the semundo list lock, as there are
+ * no more tasks or possible users for this undo list.
*/
  for (up = &undo_list->proc_list; (u = *up); *up = u->proc_next, kfree(u)) {
    struct sem_array *sma;
@@ -1354,7 +1350,7 @@ void exit_sem(struct task_struct *tsk)

    if(semid == -1)
      continue;
-   sma = sem_lock(ns, semid);
+   sma = sem_lock(undo_list->ns, semid);
    if (IS_ERR(sma))
      continue;

@@ -1368,7 +1364,8 @@ void exit_sem(struct task_struct *tsk)
    if (u == un)
      goto found;
  }
- printk ("exit_sem undo list error id=%d\n", u->semid);
+ printk(KERN_ERR "free_semundo_list error id=%d\n",
+   u->semid);
  goto next_entry;
found:

```

```

*unp = un->id_next;
@@ -1404,9 +1401,22 @@ found:
next_entry:
    sem_unlock(sma);
}
+ put_ipc_ns(undo_list->ns);
+ kfree(undo_list);
+ }

+/* called from do_exit() */
+void exit_sem(struct task_struct *tsk)
+{
+ struct sem_undo_list *ul = tsk->sysvsem.undo_list;
+ if (ul) {
+ rcu_assign_pointer(tsk->sysvsem.undo_list, NULL);
+ synchronize_rcu();
+ if (atomic_dec_and_test(&ul->refcnt))
+ free_semundo_list(ul);
+ }
+}
+
+
#ifdef CONFIG_PROC_FS
static int sysvipc_sem_proc_show(struct seq_file *s, void *it)
{

```

--

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