
Subject: Re: mem leak

Posted by [vaverin](#) on Thu, 24 Apr 2008 06:40:55 GMT

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Hi Harald,

i would note that I do not see any kernel-related problems here:
linux kernel by design frees the memory only when it really required -- due performance optimisation reasons.

By this way kernel without any significant load will use all RAM, for example for disk cache. however when somebody will request new memory -- kernel will drop oldest cache entries (it is quite fast operations) and give this memory to application.

Therefore from kernel point of view the situation when kernel and running userspace programs eats together all memory -- is normal.

However from userspace point of view huge swap memory usage can point to memory leak in some application:

Huge swap usage points to huge userspace memory consumption (kernel do not use swap for kernel structures, swap contains only rarely used program's data). It may be normal, or may be caused by some memory leaks in applications.

thank you,
Vasily Averin
