Subject: Confusion about Burst RAM..
Posted by akbsol on Tue, 30 Dec 2008 13:03:37 GMT

Hi everyone,

I have a small 128 MB VPS with 1 GB burstable ram. 128 MB seemed more than sufficient to me as its for personal use and I intend to run just lighttpd, tinydns and xmail on it. The memory usage shown in HyperVM when only the former 2 applications are run remains between 20-30MB. But as soon as I run Xmail, the usage jumps to 115-120MB with just 4-5 MB free RAM. The ps command shows that it allocates about 70-80 MB of RAM (VSZ) although uses just 1-2MB (RSS).

Currently used oomguarpages = 9681
Currently used privvmpages = 32358

So in such a scenario in which "free" command shows 120MB used and 4MB free, what will happen if I start another application like for example mysql which demands 5-15 MB in low configuration? Will it start using burstable memory?

My basic question is that: is memory allocated (and not used) by an application counted against my total memory usage? If I kill this one application, my usage drops to 20-25 MB. Some applications like XMail, MSQL etc allocate a huge memory but use only 1-2MB in real. This is how they work. So tell me how do I check whether I am going over my limits or not.

Please help me overcome these confusions.
Thanks.

-Regards,
Akash