Subject: Re: OOM didn't save the machine
Posted by maratrus on Wed, 01 Apr 2009 15:59:11 GMT
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I have to admit that I'm a little bit confused.
The only assumption for now is the following.
The memory freeing process takes place in two steps:
- uncharging beancounters
- freeing memory with kfree via RCU.

If some process is stuck inside kernel space, RCU will never be scheduled and thus the second step will never be done. Hence, user_beancounters output shows nothing interesting (everything is ok) but slab cache consumes a huge amount of memory.

So, we have to single out the process that is stuck inside kernel space. You mentioned that you'd look at the wchan output but it is not the reliable way of debugging.

So, the ideal situation would be a serial console
http://wiki.openvz.org/Remote_console_setup
and alt-sysrq-
- p (twice the number of CPUs)
- w (several times)
- t (for all processes calltrace. this is a time consuming operation)