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Subject: beancounter battle, high failcnt on privvmpages with Zimbra VE

Posted by [batfastad](#) on Thu, 17 Dec 2009 18:24:25 GMT

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Hi everyone

I've been tinkering with this for a few days and still not got anywhere.

Our server has 8GB physical memory and an 8GB swap partition running CentOS 5.4 on an Intel E7200 Core2Duo

Got 1 VE up and running which is our Apache/PHP/MySQL intranet... I ran `vzsplit -n 8` to generate this config so in theory this VE has 1/8th of the server resources

The 2nd VE is meant to be a Zimbra mail container - I already knew Zimbra was a bit of a memory beast.

But I just can't eliminate or even reduce the failcnt values I'm getting for this VE

I calculated most of the resource parameter values for the zimbra VE by multiplying the apache ones created above by 7... in theory giving me 7/8ths of the physical machine.

I noticed after various runs of `vzsplit` with different `-n` values that many of the paramters don't vary with the number of VEs so I kept those constant. I even tried `-n 1` to make sure my values were sensible.

`vzcfgvalidate` said that was ok so I started testing.

The first test I tried I noticed the failcnts on `privvmpages`

So I decided to up the limit of `privvmpages`, and again I got roughly the same number of failcnts

Then I decided to try upping the limit to something massive... per this wiki

[http://wiki.openvz.org/Zimbra\\_on\\_OpenVZ\\_on\\_CentOS](http://wiki.openvz.org/Zimbra_on_OpenVZ_on_CentOS)

I upped the barrier and limit of `privvmpages` to 2147483647 and still got roughly the same number for failcnt ~17600

Also the failcnt shoots up in the first 1-2mins of VE start

Here's the output of `/proc/user_beancounters` for that VE

[http://www.highbeeches.plus.com/zimbra\\_beancounters.txt](http://www.highbeeches.plus.com/zimbra_beancounters.txt)

And here's the zimbra VE conf

[http://www.highbeeches.plus.com/zimbra\\_ve\\_conf.txt](http://www.highbeeches.plus.com/zimbra_ve_conf.txt)

I'd read up on all this already but thought I'd have a look at the OpenVZ User Guide PDF again and there's this section which is interesting

Quote:vmguarpages: The memory allocation guarantee, in pages (one page is 4 Kb). VPS applications are guaranteed to be able to allocate additional memory so long as the amount of memory accounted as `privvmpages` (see the auxiliary parameters) does not exceed the configured barrier of the `vmguarpages` parameter. Above the barrier, additional memory allocation is not guaranteed and may fail in case of overall memory shortage.

Might that be my problem?

Initially my PRIVVMPAGES was set at 1225173:1347690 (see commented out lines of the zimbra\_ve\_conf linked above) which was above my VMGUARPAGES barrier of 785712

Can anyone suggest sensible values that I should try tweaking these too to get rid of these failcnt?

Just took a look in the conf generated by vzsplit -n 8 and it seems the PRIVVMPAGES barrier was also larger than the VMGUARPAGES barrier... but obviously our intranet VE is underconsuming the resources at the moment as failcnt is all 0

Any advice is appreciated - I really want to use OpenVZ as I've tested so many virt solutions to try and get this going and OpenVZ seems the most flexible and best performing

Cheers, B

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