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Subject: Re: [PATCH][usercr]: Ghost tasks must be detached  
Posted by [Oren Laadan](#) on Sat, 05 Feb 2011 22:02:51 GMT  
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On 02/05/2011 04:40 PM, Sukadev Bhattiprolu wrote:

> Oren Laadan [oren@cs.columbia.edu] wrote:

> | Suka,

> |

> | This patch - and the corresponding kernel patch - are wrong

>

> Ah, I see that now.

>

> But am not sure about the kernel part though. We were getting a crash

> reliably (with older kernels) because of the ->exit\_signal = -1 in

> do\_ghost\_task().

Are we still getting it with 2.6.37 ?

>

> One fix I was watching for was Eric Biederman's

>

> <http://lkml.org/lkml/2010/7/12/213>

>

> which AFAICT has not been merged yet.

If we need it and it isn't in mainline (any reason why ?) then  
we can just add it to our linux-cr tree, as a preparatory patch.

>

> Was there another change to 2.6.37 that would prevent the crash ?

I don't know whether \*that\* crash still happens in 2.6.37 -  
because I still didn't test it with that kernel line back.  
(Actually, I never experienced that crash here even with  
earlier kernels).

>

> | (I should have noticed it in the review!). It turns out that

> | ghost (and dead) tasks are \_not\_ auto-reaped anymore.

> |

> | There are only two way for tasks to be auto-reaped: one is if

> | their parent explicitly says so in its sighand information (but

> | then it applies to all children). The other way is if they have

> | ->exit\_signal==-1. From userspace this happens only when cloning

> | with CLONE\_THREAD. Using 0xFF for the @flags argument to clone()

> | syscall instead results in ->exit\_signal = 255 ...

> |

> | The original motivation for this patch was:

> |

> | > The downside of marking the task detached in do\_ghost\_task() is that  
> | > with current/older kernels container-init does not wait for detached  
> | > tasks. See:  
> | >  
> | > <http://lkml.org/lkml/2010/6/16/272>  
> | > <http://lkml.org/lkml/2010/7/12/213>  
> | >  
> | > This can lead to a kernel crash if the container-init pre-deceases a  
> | > ghost task.  
> |  
> | Is this still a problem in 2.6.37 ?  
>  
> Well, some inadvertent userspace changes seemed to cause the crash (or  
> an application hang on some machines) during restart. By making those changes,  
> I seem to be getting an application hang 5 out of 6 times even with 2.6.37,  
> but did not get a crash. I will investigate this new hang next week.

I'm currently chasing down a bug that causes restart to hang when  
there are ghost/dead tasks. It may be the same one you are seeing.  
So far I'm convinced it's userspace - working on it. Will post  
patches once solved.

Thanks,

Oren.

>  
> |  
> | Oren.  
> |  
> |  
> | On 01/10/2011 08:51 PM, Oren Laadan wrote:  
> | >  
> | > Applied to user-cr.  
> | >  
> | > Thanks,  
> | >  
> | > Oren.  
> | >  
> | > On 12/10/2010 10:35 PM, Sukadev Bhattiprolu wrote:  
> | >>  
> | >> From: Sukadev Bhattiprolu <sukadev@linux.vnet.ibm.com>  
> | >> Date: Fri, 10 Dec 2010 19:23:58 -0800  
> | >> Subject: [PATCH 1/1] Ghost tasks must be detached  
> | >>  
> | >> Ghost processes are created only to help restore orphaned sessions/pgroups.  
> | >> As such once the session/pgroup is created the ghost must not send another

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> | >> SIGCHLD to the parent but exit silently. So create such tasks as
> | >> "detached".
> | >>
> | >> See also:
> | >>
> | >> https://lists.linux-foundation.org/pipermail/containers/2010-December/026076.html
> | >>
> | >> Signed-off-by: Sukadev Bhattiprolu <sukadev@linux.vnet.ibm.com>
> | >> ---
> | >> restart.c | 7 +++++++
> | >> 1 files changed, 7 insertions(+), 0 deletions(-)
> | >>
> | >> diff --git a/restart.c b/restart.c
> | >> index 9fb5e9f..d7ba26b 100644
> | >> --- a/restart.c
> | >> +++ b/restart.c
> | >> @@ -1744,6 +1744,13 @@ static pid_t ckpt_fork_child(struct ckpt_ctx *ctx, struct task
*child)
> | >>     flags |= CLONE_THREAD | CLONE_SIGHAND | CLONE_VM;
> | >>     else if (child->flags & TASK_SIBLING)
> | >>         flags |= CLONE_PARENT;
> | >> + else if (child->flags & (TASK_GHOST|TASK_DEAD)) {
> | >> + /*
> | >> +  * Ghosts must vanish silently (without signalling parent)
> | >> +  * when they are done.
> | >> + */
> | >> + flags = 0xFF;
> | >> + }
> | >>
> | >>     memset(&clone_args, 0, sizeof(clone_args));
> | >>     clone_args.nr_pids = 1;
> | >
> | > Containers mailing list
> | > Containers@lists.linux-foundation.org
> | > https://lists.linux-foundation.org/mailman/listinfo/containers
> | >
>

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