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Subject: OpenVZ IO Isolation ?

Posted by [andre](#) on Thu, 28 Apr 2011 14:22:12 GMT

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Hello,

We have been working with OpenVZ for some years on some servers and have found a problematic behavior with one of our customers.

There are just 2 VE's on this hardware (let's call them VE1 and VE2). Each one with 25% of the resources (to give room for more 2 VEs that would be activated later). It is a Core2Quad with 8GB RAM and RAID1 SATA.

The problem:

VE1 is able to slow down the whole server, making IOWAIT for all VEs really high. To make sure it was not hardware related, we moved the VEs to another hardware (with latest stable kernel: 2.6.18-238.5.1.el5.028stab085.2) and got the same behavior.

Each VE has CPULIMIT=90% and CPUS=1

Reading "IOACCT", read/write/nice/etc information seems pretty "normal" but DIRTY BYTES is high.. So I thought: Could OpenVZ IO scheduler not be counting this ?

I am not a kernel expert (nor have basic kernel coding knowledge), just trying to understand what could cause this and if there are any solutions. At this moment we are keeping VE1 alone at a hardware so it won't impact other customers.

IOWAIT shows VE1's mysqld as the responsible. One VE's process being able to make the whole node near 100% IOWAIT is worrying

Thanks.

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