
Subject: How To Change the Amount of Memory It Takes to Run A Container?

Posted by [imatwb](#) on Tue, 26 Jul 2011 18:44:26 GMT

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I know I can set the resource limits inside of a container using the following commands before starting the container:

```
vzctl set $CID --physpages 0P:10000P --save  
vzctl set $CID --vmguarpages 0P:10000P --save  
vzctl set $CID --oomguarpages 0P:10000P --save
```

This does indeed set the resource limits inside the container as shown:

```
Tasks: 16 total,  1 running, 15 sleeping,  0 stopped,  0 zombie  
Cpu(s): 0.0%us, 0.0%sy, 0.0%ni,100.0%id, 0.0%wa, 0.0%hi, 0.0%si, 0.0%st  
Mem:  40000k total,  18220k used,  21780k free,    0k buffers  
Swap:    0k total,    0k used,    0k free,   9516k cached
```

However, running the top command from the host (the guy in charge of starting all of the containers) reveals this:

Before starting the container:

```
Tasks: 526 total,  2 running, 524 sleeping,  0 stopped,  0 zombie  
Cpu(s): 0.8%us, 0.3%sy, 0.0%ni, 98.8%id, 0.1%wa, 0.0%hi, 0.0%si, 0.0%st  
Mem: 12156848k total, 3698000k used, 8458848k free, 978368k buffers  
Swap: 2064376k total,    0k used, 2064376k free, 1661636k cached
```

After starting the container:

```
Tasks: 556 total,  1 running, 555 sleeping,  0 stopped,  0 zombie  
Cpu(s): 2.1%us, 0.1%sy, 0.0%ni, 97.8%id, 0.0%wa, 0.0%hi, 0.0%si, 0.0%st  
Mem: 12156848k total, 4392708k used, 7764140k free, 978368k buffers  
Swap: 2064376k total,    0k used, 2064376k free, 2302080k cached
```

So the container takes up about 700,000kb of memory to run (and only 40,000kb of that is actually allocated for it to use)

Is there a way I can decrease the 700,000kb of memory the container needs to run? I want to start 200 containers, but I only have 12 gb of ram. So at 700,000kb each, that's limits me to just 17 containers running total. Please advise. Thanks.
