
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.
