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Subject: Re: occasional high loadavg without any noticeable cpu/memory/io load  
Posted by [kir](#) on Wed, 30 May 2012 15:09:20 GMT

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On 05/22/2012 01:06 PM, Rene C. wrote:

>  
> Actually I made a small shell script that loops through the list of  
> active containers and outputs the content of each containers  
> /proc/loadavg. It started out as a bit more elaborate script that was  
> intended to provide some of the functionality of a script vzstat, that  
> I used to use with Virtuozzo.  
>  
> You can download both scripts from  
> <https://www.ourhelpdesk.net/downloads/z.tgz>

vzlist have laverage field that might be of use. I.e.

vzlist -o ctid,laverage

>  
>  
>  
> On Tue, May 22, 2012 at 3:15 PM, Steffan <[general@ziggo.nl](mailto:general@ziggo.nl)>  
> <<mailto:general@ziggo.nl>>> wrote:  
>  
> Sorry dont have the answer for you  
>  
> But can you tell me what command you used to see all loads on your  
> node ?  
>  
> Thanxs Steffan  
>  
> \*Van:\*users-bounces@openvz.org <<mailto:users-bounces@openvz.org>>  
> [<mailto:users-bounces@openvz.org>  
> <<mailto:users-bounces@openvz.org>>] \*Namens \*Rene Dokbua  
> \*Verzonden:\* maandag 21 mei 2012 20:07  
> \*Aan:\* users@openvz.org <<mailto:users@openvz.org>>  
> \*Onderwerp:\* [Users] occasional high loadavg without any  
> noticeable cpu/memory/io load  
>  
> Hello,  
>  
> I occasionally get this extreme load on one of our VPS servers. It  
> is quite large, 4 full E31230 cores, 4 GB RAM and hosting ca. 400  
> websites + parked/addon/subdomains.  
>  
> The hardware node has 12 active VPS servers and most of the time  
> things are chugging along just fine, something like this.

```
>
> 1401: 0.00 0.00 0.00 1/23 4561
>
> 1402: 0.02 0.05 0.05 1/57 16991
>
> 1404: 0.01 0.02 0.00 1/73 18863
>
> 1406: 0.07 0.13 0.06 1/39 31189
>
> 1407: 0.86 1.03 1.14 1/113 31460
>
> 1408: 0.17 0.17 0.18 1/79 32579
>
> 1409: 0.00 0.00 0.02 1/77 21784
>
> 1410: 0.01 0.02 0.00 1/60 7454
>
> 1413: 0.00 0.00 0.00 1/46 18579
>
> 1414: 0.00 0.00 0.00 1/41 23812
>
> 1415: 0.00 0.00 0.00 1/45 9831
>
> 1416: 0.05 0.02 0.00 1/59 11332
>
> 12 active
>
> The problem VPS is 1407. As you can see below it only uses a bit
> of the cpu and memory.
>
> top - 17:34:12 up 32 days, 12:21, 0 users, load average: 0.78,
> 0.95, 1.09
>
> Tasks: 102 total, 4 running, 90 sleeping, 0 stopped, 8 zombie
>
> Cpu(s): 16.3%us, 2.9%sy, 0.4%ni, 78.5%id, 1.8%wa, 0.0%hi,
> 0.0%si, 0.1%st
>
> Mem: 4194304k total, 2550572k used, 1643732k free, 0k
> buffers
>
> Swap: 8388608k total, 105344k used, 8283264k free, 1793828k
> cached
>
> Also iostat and vmstat shows no particular io or swap activity.
>
> Now for the problem. Every once in a while the loadavg of this
> particular VPS shoots up to like crazy values, 30 or more and it
```

```

> becomes completely sluggish. The odd thing is load goes up for the
> VPS server, and starts spilling into other VPS servers on the same
> hardware node - but there are still no particular cpu/memory/io
> usage going on that I can see. No particular network activity.
> In this example load has fallen back to around 10 but it was much
> higher earlier.
>
> 16:19:44 up 32 days, 11:19, 3 users, load average: 12.87,
> 19.11, 18.87
>
> 1401: 0.01 0.03 0.00 1/23 2876
>
> 1402: 0.00 0.11 0.13 1/57 15334
>
> 1404: 0.02 0.20 0.16 1/77 14918
>
> 1406: 0.01 0.13 0.10 1/39 29595
>
> 1407: 10.95 15.71 15.05 1/128 13950
>
> 1408: 0.36 0.52 0.57 1/81 27167
>
> 1409: 0.09 0.26 0.43 1/78 17851
>
> 1410: 0.09 0.17 0.18 1/61 4344
>
> 1413: 0.00 0.03 0.00 1/46 16539
>
> 1414: 0.01 0.01 0.00 1/41 22372
>
> 1415: 0.00 0.01 0.00 1/45 8404
>
> 1416: 0.05 0.10 0.11 1/58 9292
>
> 12 active
>
> top - 16:20:02 up 32 days, 11:07, 0 users, load average: 9.14,
> 14.97, 14.82
>
> Tasks: 135 total, 1 running, 122 sleeping, 0 stopped, 12 zombie
>
> Cpu(s): 16.3%us, 2.9%sy, 0.4%ni, 78.5%id, 1.8%wa, 0.0%hi,
> 0.0%si, 0.1%st
>
> Mem: 4194304k total, 1173844k used, 3020460k free, 0k
> buffers
>
> Swap: 8388608k total, 115576k used, 8273032k free, 725144k cache

```

>  
> Notice how cpu is plenty idle, and only 1/4 of the available  
> memory is being used.  
>  
> <http://wiki.openvz.org/Ploop/Why> explains "One such property that  
> deserves a special item in this list is file system journal. While  
> journal is a good thing to have, because it helps to maintain file  
> system integrity and improve reboot times (by eliminating fsck in  
> many cases), it is also a bottleneck for containers. If one  
> container will fill up in-memory journal (with lots of small  
> operations leading to file metadata updates, e.g. file truncates),  
> all the other containers I/O will block waiting for the journal to  
> be written to disk. In some extreme cases we saw up to 15 seconds  
> of such blockage.". The problem I noticed last much longer than  
> 15 seconds though - typically 15-30 minutes, then load goes back  
> where it should be.  
>  
> Any suggestions where I could look for the cause of this? It's  
> not like it happens everyday, maybe once or twice per month, but  
> it's enough to cause customers to complain.  
>  
> Regards,  
> Rene  
>  
>  
>  
> \_\_\_\_\_  
> Users mailing list  
> [Users@openvz.org](mailto:Users@openvz.org) <<mailto:Users@openvz.org>>  
> <https://openvz.org/mailman/listinfo/users>  
>  
>

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