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Subject: Re: [PATCH] fix bad behavior in use\_hierarchy file  
Posted by [Michal Hocko](#) on Tue, 26 Jun 2012 11:10:25 GMT  
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On Tue 26-06-12 14:31:51, Glauber Costa wrote:  
> On 06/26/2012 11:56 AM, Michal Hocko wrote:  
> >[Adding Ying to CC - they are using hierarchies AFAIU in their workloads]  
> >  
> >On Mon 25-06-12 13:49:08, Tejun Heo wrote:  
> >[...]  
> >>A bit of delta but is there any chance we can either deprecate  
> >>.use\_hierarchy or at least make it global toggle instead of subtree  
> >>thing?  
> >  
> >So what you are proposing is to have all subtrees of the root either  
> >hierarchical or not, right?  
> >  
> >>This seems needlessly complicated. :(  
> >  
> >Toggle wouldn't help much I am afraid. We would still have to  
> >distinguish (non)hierarchical cases. And I am not sure we can make  
> >everything hierarchical easily.  
> >Most users (from my experience) ignored use\_hierarchy for some reasons  
> >and the end results might be really unexpected for them if they used  
> >deeper subtrees (which might be needed due to combination with other  
> >controller(s)).  
> >  
> >Do we have any idea about who those users are, and how is their  
> >setup commonly done?

Well, most of them use memory controller with combination of other  
controller - usually cgroup or cpu - and memcg is used to cap the amount  
of memory for each respective group. As I said most of those users  
were not aware of use\_hierarchy at all.

> We can propose work arounds here, but not without first knowing work  
> arounds to what =p

No, please no workarounds. It will be even bigger mess.  
Maybe a global switch is the first step in the right direction (on by  
default). If somebody encounters any issue we can say it can be turned  
off (something like one time switch) or advise on how to fix their  
layout to fit hierarchy better. We can put WARN\_ON\_ONCE when the knob is  
set to 0 in the second stage and finally remove the whole knob.

> One thing that would really influence this, for instance, is whether  
> or not they limit at all levels in the tree, etc.

Yes and independently. But it's true that I haven't seen many of them to be honest, people usually use a flat structures.

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