
Subject: Why does my total memory used not match all process rss sum?

Posted by [axelabs](#) on Tue, 20 Nov 2012 18:09:59 GMT

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This is on a VZ container that is reporting low free memory. I can't figure out what is using it. Free used is not even close to ps rss totals:

```
# free -m
```

| | total | used | free | shared | buffers | cached |
|--------------------|-------|-------|-------|--------|---------|--------|
| Mem: | 32163 | 31912 | 250 | 0 | 20 | 551 |
| -/+ buffers/cache: | | 31341 | 822 | | | |
| Swap: | 34239 | 9945 | 24294 | | | |

```
# ps -eo pid,rss,comm --sort rss|awk '{SUM=SUM+$2}END{print "Total rss mem  
used:",SUM/1024,"mb"}'
```

```
Total rss mem used: 1472.67 mb
```

Its not the cache/buffers that are consuming memory. What is it?

The host is running ovzkernel-2.6.18-194.8.1.el5.028stab070.2.
