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Subject: Recommendations for setting overcommit\_memory

Posted by [mustardman](#) on Thu, 30 Jan 2014 19:35:49 GMT

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Just discovered I have a problem with oom killer and overcommit\_memory setting. I wasn't aware this could be a problem but now that I have run out of memory it apparently is.

I thought I had plenty of memory because although physical ram is all used up, Swap is not and there is no heavy swap usage. This is not an overselling situation trust me. No more VPS's are being added to this node.

However I seem to be right on the edge and I just realized that oom killer has been running around deciding who lives and dies. I thought by default Linux was smart enough to know it still has plenty of swap to not do that but apparently not.

Turns out overcommit\_memory...at least on CE6/OVZ 2.6.32 defaults to 0 which takes a heuristic approach that seems to be getting it wrong.

Long story short, what is the recommended setting for overcommit\_memory to prevent oom killer from shutting down processes when there is still plenty of swap? Right now I am testing setting it at 2. If I understand RH's explanation correctly, combined with the overcommit\_ratio default of 50, it will not use oom killer until I get to SWAP + 50% RAM which is quite a bit higher than where I am at now with oom killer initiating. That should prevent this problem right?

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