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Subject: Re: How to prevent total unavailability due Unable to fork

Posted by [Ales](#) on Sun, 09 Mar 2014 11:59:28 GMT

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Unable to fork means that your VM's resources are exhausted and the programs within are experiencing fatal errors because of it.

The reason why this doesn't rectify itself after the resource usage has lowered is that the programs have actually already crashed because they couldn't operate normally. When this happens to crucial parts of the OS, the only solution is a restart.

I mean, even if some websites appear to work, it doesn't mean they are working properly. Your apache might be serving some of the pages, while the database back-end could already be in a broken state. Any number of serious errors might happen, even such that corrupt the user's data permanently.

What you should do is monitor the beancounters actively and warn users as soon as you spot first failures. If the user constantly experience such problems, tell them to upgrade to a bigger VM as a precaution.

If they don't want to upgrade, tell them it's their responsibility and they should live with the consequences. It's as simple as that, really.

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