
Subject: Real memory versus virtual memory: is there a difference?

Posted by [hvdkamer](#) on Thu, 17 Aug 2006 16:25:11 GMT

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I'm trying to create very light servers. The following are the main parameters:

```
VMGUARPAGES="4096:9223372036854775807"  
OOMGUARPAGES="8192:9223372036854775807"  
PRIVVMPAGES="32768:36864"
```

It boils down to approximately a 128 MiB machine, right? There is 2 GiB of physical memory on the hardware node and only a few VE's. At this moment it is a PoC, so the VE is able to burst up to at least 128 MiB. However if I do an aptitude (the VE's are running Debian) it runs out of memory as seen by the failcnt of privvmpages.

So aptitude is memory hungry? Not on a real machine where it runs with just half of the memory! The only explanation I can think of is that in the VE through free the real memory can be seen, so aptitude doesn't believe the 128 MiB I have given it? Something like that?

At least there is a discrepancy between a real machine with low amounts of memory and a VE with twice as much...
