
Subject: [PATCH v2] SUNRPC: skip dead but not buried clients on PipeFS events
Posted by [Stanislav Kinsbursky](#) on Fri, 20 Apr 2012 14:11:02 GMT

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v2: atomic_inc_return() was replaced by atomic_inc_not_zero().

These clients can't be safely dereferenced if their counter in 0.

Signed-off-by: Stanislav Kinsbursky <skinsbursky@parallels.com>

net/sunrpc/clnt.c | 3 ++-
1 files changed, 2 insertions(+), 1 deletions(-)

diff --git a/net/sunrpc/clnt.c b/net/sunrpc/clnt.c
index 6797246..d10ebc4 100644
--- a/net/sunrpc/clnt.c
+++ b/net/sunrpc/clnt.c
@@ -218,7 +218,8 @@ static struct rpc_clnt *rpc_get_client_for_event(struct net *net, int event)
if (((event == RPC_PIPEFS_MOUNT) && clnt->cl_dentry) ||
((event == RPC_PIPEFS_UMOUNT) && !clnt->cl_dentry))
continue;
- atomic_inc(&clnt->cl_count);
+ if (atomic_inc_not_zero(&clnt->cl_count) == 0)
+ continue;
spin_unlock(&sn->rpc_client_lock);
return clnt;
}

Subject: Re: [PATCH v2] SUNRPC: skip dead but not buried clients on PipeFS events

Posted by [bfields](#) on Wed, 25 Apr 2012 17:30:05 GMT

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On Fri, Apr 20, 2012 at 06:11:02PM +0400, Stanislav Kinsbursky wrote:

> v2: atomic_inc_return() was replaced by atomic_inc_not_zero().

>

> These clients can't be safely dereferenced if their counter in 0.

I'm pretty confused by how these notifiers work....

rpc_release_client decrements cl_count to zero temporarily, to have it immediately re-incremented by rpc_free_auth.

So if we're called concurrently with rpc_release_client then it's sort of random whether someone gets this callback.

Is that a problem?

Also, is this an existing bug? (In which case Trond should take it now.)

--b.

```
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Subject: Re: [PATCH v2] SUNRPC: skip dead but not buried clients on PipeFS events

Posted by [Myklebust, Trond](#) on Wed, 25 Apr 2012 18:54:55 GMT

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On Wed, 2012-04-25 at 13:30 -0400, J. Bruce Fields wrote:

```
> On Fri, Apr 20, 2012 at 06:11:02PM +0400, Stanislav Kinsbursky wrote:
> > v2: atomic_inc_return() was replaced by atomic_inc_not_zero().
> >
> > These clients can't be safely dereferenced if their counter in 0.
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> I'm pretty confused by how these notifiers work....
>
> rpc_release_client decrements cl_count to zero temporarily, to have it
> immediately re-incremented by rpc_free_auth.
>
```

> So if we're called concurrently with `rpc_release_client` then it's sort
> of random whether someone gets this callback.
>
> Is that a problem?

Not really. If we re-increment the client->cl_count in `rpc_free_auth()` then it would be so that we can send off a bunch of NULL rpc calls to destroy existing RPCSEC_GSS contexts. We shouldn't need to do any more upcalls in pipefs.

If we care, we could simply move the call to `rpc_unregister_client()` into `rpc_free_auth()` so that the pipefs notifier doesn't see us, or we could set a flag to have it ignore us.

> Also, is this an existing bug? (In which case Trond should take it
> now.)

--

Trond Myklebust
Linux NFS client maintainer

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www.netapp.com

Subject: Re: [PATCH v2] SUNRPC: skip dead but not buried clients on PipeFS events

Posted by [Stanislav Kinsbursky](#) on Wed, 25 Apr 2012 21:14:57 GMT

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> On Fri, Apr 20, 2012 at 06:11:02PM +0400, Stanislav Kinsbursky wrote:
>> v2: `atomic_inc_return()` was replaced by `atomic_inc_not_zero()`.
>>
>> These clients can't be safely dereferenced if their counter is 0.
> I'm pretty confused by how these notifiers work....

There were made as simple as possible - i.e. notifier holds a client while creating or destroying PipeFS dentries. But even in this case there were races.

> `rpc_release_client` decrements `cl_count` to zero temporarily, to have it
> immediately re-incremented by `rpc_free_auth`.

BTW, I'm really confused with these re-incrementing reference counter technic. It makes life-time of RPC client unpredictable.

Is this a real-world valid situation, when usage of it reached zero, but while we destroying auth, there can some other user of client appear and client become alive again?

It it was done just to make sure that client is still active while we destroying auth, then maybe we can just remove the client from the clients list before `rpc_free_auth`? It will simplify the notifier callback logic greatly...

> So if we're called concurrently with `rpc_release_client` then it's sort of random whether someone gets this callback.

>
> Is that a problem?

>
> Also, is this an existing bug? (In which case Trond should take it now.)

This is probably not a bug (I can't look at the code right now; because these dentries will be destroyed), but a flaw.

Today (without this patch) notifier can try to create dentries for clients, which are dead already (i.e. auth was destroyed and client is going to be destroyed very soon, but notifier gained lock first.

```
>
> --b.
>
>> Signed-off-by: Stanislav Kinsbursky<skinsbursky@parallels.com>
>>
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>> + continue;
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>> return clnt;
>> }
```

>>

Subject: Re: [PATCH v2] SUNRPC: skip dead but not buried clients on PipeFS events

Posted by [Stanislav Kinsbursky](#) on Thu, 26 Apr 2012 06:31:45 GMT

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> On Fri, Apr 20, 2012 at 06:11:02PM +0400, Stanislav Kinsbursky wrote:

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> of random whether someone gets this callback.

>

> Is that a problem?

>

> Also, is this an existing bug? (In which case Trond should take it

> now.)

Sorry, I was mistaken in previous letter.

Yes, this is an existent bug.

I.e. without this patch notifier can dereference a client, which is actually dead already, but haven't deleted itself from the client's list.

And then notifier will try to work with this client and even release it at the end.
