
Subject: 'nf_conntrack: table full, dropping packet' @ High packet rate openvz kernel despite unlimited conntrack

Posted by [Rick Blundell](#) on Fri, 26 Oct 2012 11:00:38 GMT

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Hi, I have a high openvz performance node with ~20k/s packet rate . I see this error almost constantly in kernel log and syslog:

nf_conntrack: table full, dropping packet

I have increased nf_conntrack_max values, by current usage i always well below the limit (9999999)

```
# /sbin/sysctl net.netfilter.nf_conntrack_count
net.netfilter.nf_conntrack_count = 95020
```

I checked the source code:

```
if (nf_conntrack_max && unlikely(atomic_read(&net->ct.count) >
nf_conntrack_max)) { unsigned int hash = hash_conntrack(orig); if
(!early_drop(net, hash)) { atomic_dec(&net->ct.count); if
(net_ratelimit()) printk(KERN_WARNING "nf_conntrack: table full,
dropping " " packet.\n"); return ERR_PTR(-ENOMEM); } }
```

I then set to nf_conntrack_max to 0 and I still get the dropped packets, which is expected given the first line of the code above.

I have not seen this on other Linux Kernels, although I have not tested this exact case on non openvz kernel (the vms are doing the traffic). Do you think this could be openvz specific? Should I boot this to kernel list? Below is info demonstrating my issue.

Thank you
Rick

```
#dmesg -c
# find /proc -name nf_conntrack_max
/proc/sys/net/netfilter/nf_conntrack_max
/proc/sys/net/nf_conntrack_max
cat /proc/sys/net/nf_conntrack_max
0
cat /proc/sys/net/netfilter/nf_conntrack_max
0
dmesg ; sleep 60
dmesg | tail -5
[248438.700906] nf_conntrack: table full, dropping packet.
[248438.833028] nf_conntrack: table full, dropping packet.
```

```
[248438.833289] nf_conntrack: table full, dropping packet.  
[248438.840900] nf_conntrack: table full, dropping packet.  
[248438.857631] nf_conntrack: table full, dropping packet.  
[248438.991957] nf_conntrack: table full, dropping packet.
```

```
[root@enterprise linux-2.6.32]# uname -a  
Linux 2.6.32-042stab062.2 #1 SMP Wed Oct 10 18:28:35 MSK 2012 x86_64  
x86_64 x86_64 GNU/Linux  
[root@enterprise linux-2.6.32]#
```
