
Subject: 2.6.32-042stab068.8 Memory / Swap Strangeness

Posted by [RickFL](#) on Mon, 07 Jan 2013 21:54:10 GMT

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Hi, I am running 2.6.32-042stab068.8 on a 64GB openvz host. The VMs use around 30GB and the rest is normally used for cache and buffers.

Since I updated to this latest kernel, the cached is varying from 1G-30G, and the swap usage wants to be at 100%. Normally I do not operate with a swap, and with the new kernel, swap is not required for vswap to operate. Despite this, I feel the kernel is not handling memory correctly.

For example:

```
# free -m
      total        used        free      shared    buffers     cached
Mem:    64279      41259      23019         0       1636      13282
-/+ buffers/cache:    26340      37938
Swap:    13960      13164       795
```

At this moment, the system is using all available swap and is seemingly wasting (23-13) 10GB of memory.

26G actively allocated

14GB swap

13G in cache

I have seen cache as low as 1G during normal operation and as high as 30G.

Is there any information I can provide? I feel the system is actively paging for no reason:

```
# vmstat 5
procs -----memory----- ---swap-- -----io----- --system-- -----cpu-----
 r b swpd free buff cache si so bi bo in cs us sy id wa st
13 0 13477960 25896824 1569724 11863328 18 17 1596 299 2 15 27 18 53 1 0
13 0 13476948 25793260 1571348 11917312 1817 749 12719 2451 38242 46278 22 22 55 0
0
17 0 13475376 25726484 1576488 12010956 1090 616 16008 2523 39493 47841 27 23 50 1
0
23 0 13475940 25649460 1578532 12048492 1138 624 12616 2127 37681 47869 23 22 55 0
0
50 0 13474484 24942544 1585728 12255912 1258 234 22306 4685 44994 51084 59 28 13 0
0
61 0 13473656 25173440 1590656 12200200 570 174 12005 3052 44041 49304 53 26 21 0 0
42 0 13473224 25148324 1595892 12273452 759 116 14708 4474 44522 45545 66 21 12 1 0
24 1 13473392 25088752 1602336 12315320 597 384 10159 2828 42608 47301 46 23 30 1 0
16 0 13474232 25132756 1605812 12394916 304 358 16398 3408 41422 46759 49 22 28 1 0
```

This issue was not exhibited on the previous kernel.

Rick

Subject: Re: 2.6.32-042stab068.8 Memory / Swap Strangeness

Posted by [mtaylor](#) on Wed, 16 Jan 2013 22:53:59 GMT

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Hey Rick,

We've been seeing similar issues, have you been able to fix this since?

Regards,
Matt.

Subject: Re: 2.6.32-042stab068.8 Memory / Swap Strangeness

Posted by [RickFL](#) on Wed, 16 Jan 2013 23:42:29 GMT

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No, the latest kernel has vswap improvement such that swap space is not necessary on HN, but seems less stable.

Rick
