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Subject: \*CLOSED\* Can OpenVZ work w/o OOM killer?

Posted by [akie](#) on Mon, 16 Oct 2006 11:05:00 GMT

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Hi,

Is it possible to turn OOM killer mode off on the server with OpenVZ? Can OpenVZ work w/o it?

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Subject: Re: Can OpenVZ work w/o OOM killer?

Posted by [dev](#) on Tue, 17 Oct 2006 11:24:18 GMT

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what is the problem you are experiencing with OOM killer?

it is possible to turn strict overcommit imho, however, in this case memory can be used much less effecient.

Also it is possible to increase UBC oomguarpages limit, making sure, that VE is not killed if it is below the limit.

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Subject: Re: Can OpenVZ work w/o OOM killer?

Posted by [akie](#) on Tue, 17 Oct 2006 11:41:57 GMT

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I have some very imporant processes that can by no means be killed. For example, PostgreSQL. The thing is that it's impossible to predict exact upper memory limit needed for it, and, on the other hand, the situtaion when it's being killed regullary is completely abnormal. The normal situation is when OOM occurs, forked postgres processes cannot obtain memory fragments - in these cases Postgres says "out of memory" to the `_new_` sessions, while `_old_` sessions still work and database is alive.

Shortly, I do not want to have even miserable probability of killing of critical processes in the system.

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Subject: Re: Can OpenVZ work w/o OOM killer?

Posted by [akie](#) on Tue, 17 Oct 2006 11:45:26 GMT

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but the question is still open.

Is OOM killer a requirement for OpenVZ?

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Subject: Re: Can OpenVZ work w/o OOM killer?

Posted by [dev](#) on Tue, 17 Oct 2006 11:48:18 GMT

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you can simply set oomguarpages limit higher then vmprivvmpages. In this case postgres will get NULL on mmap() before OOM guarantee hit.

However, there is still one situation when OOM can happen - global memory shortage. In this case OOM selects any VE processes to kill. But this can not happen if you do not overcommit your node.

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Subject: Re: Can OpenVZ work w/o OOM killer?

Posted by [dev](#) on Tue, 17 Oct 2006 12:40:27 GMT

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No, it is not a \_requirement\_ for OpenVZ. Just a good to have thing, because in case of global shortage nothing except for OOM can help for machine to return to responding state.

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