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Subject: [PATCH]: OOM can panic due to processes stuck in \_\_alloc\_pages()  
Posted by [Kirill Korotaev](#) on Mon, 13 Nov 2006 19:05:42 GMT

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OOM can panic due to the processes stuck in \_\_alloc\_pages() doing infinite rebalance loop while no memory can be reclaimed. OOM killer tries to kill some processes, but unfortunately, rebalance label was moved by someone below the TIF\_MEMDIE check, so buddy allocator doesn't see that process is OOM-killed and it can simply fail the allocation :/

Observed in reality on RHEL4(2.6.9)+OpenVZ kernel when a user doing some memory allocation tricks triggered OOM panic.

Signed-Off-By: Denis Lunev <den@sw.ru>

Signed-Off-By: Kirill Korotaev <dev@openvz.org>

```
--- ./mm/page_alloc.c.oomx 2006-11-08 17:44:16.000000000 +0300
```

```
+++ ./mm/page_alloc.c 2006-11-13 21:57:33.000000000 +0300
```

```
@@ -1251,6 +1251,7 @@ restart:
```

```
/* This allocation should allow future memory freeing. */
```

```
+rebalance:
```

```
if (((p->flags & PF_MEMALLOC) || unlikely(test_thread_flag(TIF_MEMDIE)))  
    && !in_interrupt()) {  
    if (!(gfp_mask & __GFP_NOMEMALLOC)) {  
@@ -1272,7 +1273,6 @@ nofail_alloc:  
    if (!wait)  
        goto nopage;
```

```
-rebalance:
```

```
cond_resched();
```

```
/* We now go into synchronous reclaim */
```

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Subject: Re: [PATCH]: OOM can panic due to processes stuck in \_\_alloc\_pages()  
Posted by [Andrew Morton](#) on Mon, 13 Nov 2006 22:56:38 GMT

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On Mon, 13 Nov 2006 22:13:47 +0300

Kirill Korotaev <dev@openvz.org> wrote:

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> doing infinite rebalance loop while no memory can be reclaimed.  
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> rebalance label was moved by someone below the TIF\_MEMDIE check,

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> Signed-Off-By: Denis Lunev <den@sw.ru>
> Signed-Off-By: Kirill Korotaev <dev@openvz.org>
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> --- ./mm/page_alloc.c.oomx 2006-11-08 17:44:16.000000000 +0300
> +++ ./mm/page_alloc.c 2006-11-13 21:57:33.000000000 +0300
> @@ -1251,6 +1251,7 @@ restart:
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> /* This allocation should allow future memory freeing. */
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> +rebalance:
> if (((p->flags & PF_MEMALLOC) || unlikely(test_thread_flag(TIF_MEMDIE)))
>     && !in_interrupt()) {
>     if (!(gfp_mask & __GFP_NOMEMALLOC)) {
> @@ -1272,7 +1273,6 @@ nofail_alloc:
>     if (!wait)
>         goto nopage;
>
> -rebalance:
>     cond_resched();
>
> /* We now go into synchronous reclaim */
```

Your patch reverts a change made by Nick's  
a457c255ae59b5f7f52f63fc88d5e530101772c6 two years ago.

It looks right to me, but the original change was unchangelogged and I wonder what it was aiming to do?

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