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Subject: error using vi in VE but no beans?

Posted by [Steve Hodges](#) on Mon, 27 Aug 2007 01:00:34 GMT

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If I try to use vi in one of my VEs, I get an odd error, but the /proc/user\_beancounters don't show any errors, so I'm not sure what I'm exceeding.

Here is the error vi spits out:

E297: Write error in swap file

E303: Unable to open swap file for "rc.local", recovery impossible

"rc.local" 17 lines, 387 characters

Press ENTER or type command to continue

and here is my user\_beancounters immediately after I quit out of vi:

```
root@ftp:/var/run# cat /proc/user_beancounters
```

Version: 2.5

uid	resource	held	maxheld	barrier	limit
failcnt					
106:	kmemsize	1167508	1524641	2752512	
2936012	0				
	lockedpages	0	0	32	
32	0				
	privvmpages	14146	21232	40960	
81960	0				
	shmpages	57	57	8192	
8192	0				
	dummy	0	0	0	
0	0				
	numproc	30	39	96	
96	0				
	physpages	2798	3561	0	
2147483647	0				
	vmguarpages	0	0	6144	
2147483647	0				
	oomguarpages	2798	3561	6144	
2147483647	0				
	numtcpsock	6	8	80	
80	0				
	numflock	1	4	100	
110	0				
	numpty	1	1	16	
16	0				
	numsiginfo	0	2	256	
256	0				
	tcpsndbuf	0	51060	319488	

524288	0			
	tcprcvbuf	0	2220	319488
524288	0			
	othersockbuf	4440	10000	132096
336896	0			
	dgramrcvbuf	0	684	132096
132096	0			
	numothersock	4	12	120
120	0			
	dcachesize	0	0	1048576
1097728	0			
	numfile	582	731	2048
2048	0			
	dummy	0	0	0
0	0			
	dummy	0	0	0
0	0			
	dummy	0	0	0
0	0			
	numiptent	14	14	128
128	0			

It might be something really obvious, but I'm not seeing it :-)

This doesn't happen in all of my VE's so I guess it must be something to do with the amount of memory I have allocated to this one (or something), but nothing seems to be getting too close to the limit.

Steve

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Subject: Re: error using vi in VE but no beans?

Posted by [Gregor Mosheh](#) on Mon, 27 Aug 2007 01:16:35 GMT

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Steve Hodges wrote:

> E297: Write error in swap file

> E303: Unable to open swap file for "rc.local", recovery impossible

> "rc.local" 17 lines, 387 characters

That's vi saying that it can't save a backup of the file (yeah, "swap file" really intuitive) That's probably just a permissions issue. Are you able to manually create and then delete a fake swap file named .rc.local.swp ?

--

Gregor Mosheh / Greg Allensworth

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"Remember that no one cares if you can back up,  
only if you can restore." - AMANDA

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Subject: Re: error using vi in VE but no beans?

Posted by [Steve Hodges](#) on Mon, 27 Aug 2007 03:19:29 GMT

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On 27/08/2007 9:16 AM, Gregor Mosheh wrote:

> Steve Hodges wrote:

>> E297: Write error in swap file

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>

> That's vi saying that it can't save a backup of the file (yeah, "swap  
> file" really intuitive) That's probably just a permissions issue. Are  
> you able to manually create and then delete a fake swap file named  
> .rc.local.swp ?

>

It turned out to be a disk quota issue.

GOOD: the VE didn't chew up all the available disk space (as it would  
have in a couple of hours)

BAD: the violation of the disk quota doesn't show up in user\_beancounters

I discovered it when I tried to create a file using echo xxxxx > file

Steve

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Subject: Re: error using vi in VE but no beans?

Posted by [Gregor Mosheh](#) on Mon, 27 Aug 2007 04:07:26 GMT

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> It turned out to be a disk quota issue.

Sounds right. Glad you figured it out.

> BAD: the violation of the disk quota doesn't show up in user\_beancounters

Ah, quite true.

At my work site, we use Nagios to monitor all of our VEs for general  
health, as we would any other systems: check the free space, make sure

the database server is running, make sure that DNS is resolving, etc.  
Our VEs are leased out to untrusted customers who sometimes attempt amateur system administration, so some sanity/health checks are helpful on general principles. :)

--

Gregor Mosheh / Greg Allensworth  
System Administrator, HostGIS cartographic development & hosting services  
<http://www.HostGIS.com/>

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Subject: Re: error using vi in VE but no beans?  
Posted by [kir](#) on Mon, 27 Aug 2007 14:42:21 GMT  
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Steve Hodges wrote:

> On 27/08/2007 9:16 AM, Gregor Mosheh wrote:

>> Steve Hodges wrote:

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>>> E303: Unable to open swap file for "rc.local", recovery impossible

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> It turned out to be a disk quota issue.

>

> GOOD: the VE didn't chew up all the available disk space (as it would  
> have in a couple of hours)

> BAD: the violation of the disk quota doesn't show up in user\_beancounters

>

It shows in df (or df -i) -- standard UNIX/Linux tool; it is all  
described in [http://wiki.openvz.org/Resource\\_shortage](http://wiki.openvz.org/Resource_shortage) (which I guess I  
should add to "must read" category.

See, ff there is a standard way of seeing something, why invent  
something new and unique? For disk space there is such a tool, for  
beancounters there was no, since beancounters only appeared in OpenVZ.

>From the host system though there is a way to see all per-VE disk quotas  
and their usage -- cat /proc/vz/vzquota

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Subject: Re: error using vi in VE but no beans?  
Posted by [Gregor Mosheh](#) on Mon, 27 Aug 2007 16:14:08 GMT  
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Since we're on the topic, I thought I'd pipe up for Steve's benefit about a small matter which I found baffling for a few days...

If you run "df -k" in a VE, you will often get a different answer than vzquota. This is because vzquota doesn't keep to-the-moment statistics in its cache file. You must run "vzquota stat VEID" in order to have the cache updated; then vzquota will report the correct usage. This is in the Wiki, but I thought to save you some time. :)

--

Gregor Mosheh / Greg Allensworth  
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Subject: Re: error using vi in VE but no beans?  
Posted by [Steve Hodges](#) on Mon, 27 Aug 2007 17:52:59 GMT  
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On 28/08/2007 12:14 AM, Gregor Mosheh wrote:

> Since we're on the topic, I thought I'd pipe up for Steve's benefit  
> about a small matter which I found baffling for a few days...  
>  
> If you run "df -k" in a VE, you will often get a different answer than  
> vzquota. This is because vzquota doesn't keep to-the-moment statistics  
> in its cache file. You must run "vzquota stat VEID" in order to have  
> the cache updated; then vzquota will report the correct usage. This is  
> in the Wiki, but I thought to save you some time. :)

>  
Thanks :-)

And for the benefit of Kir, I wasn't intending the GOOD/BAD thing wasn't intended as a criticism of openvz. It was really only bad because I had become fixated on the user\_beancounters as a diagnostic and had forgotten about all the other good tools :-). The error from vi sort of pointed me at a memory issue which didn't help much either.

However I was extremely grateful that my silly error in causing the VE to consume about 8 GB per hour had stopped at the quota limit of 40 GB rather than consuming all free space on that partition.

Steve

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