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Subject: Re: [PATCHSET] Sysfs cleanups from Eric W. Biederman  
Posted by [ebiederm](#) on Wed, 22 Aug 2007 15:51:35 GMT  
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Tejun Heo <[htejun@gmail.com](mailto:htejun@gmail.com)> writes:

> Hello,  
>  
> Eric W. Biederman wrote:  
>>> \* fix-i\_mutex-locking-in-sysfs\_get\_dentry patch is added at the top  
>>> and #14-Don't-use-lookup\_one\_len\_kern and  
>>> #15-vfs-Remove-lookup\_one\_len\_kern are dropped. This is because #14  
>>> contained had a bug where it might created dentry/inode for an  
>>> already deleted sysfs\_dirent. I think it's beneficial to keep  
>>> single lookup path.  
>>  
>> I think I disagree with the bug spotting.  
>>  
>> At least in net we the sysfs\_rename\_mutex which keeps parent  
>> directories from disappearing. Further we have a reference  
>> to the leaf sysfs\_dirent and are actively manipulating it, so  
>> the sysfs\_dirent should not disappear on us.  
>  
> sysfs\_rename\_mutex() keeps out renaming and moving not removing. Also,  
> reference prevents sysfs\_dirent from being released not from being  
> removed. The different in lookup path is that it searches the children  
> list - sd's are unlinked from children list on removal.

True. I guess what I was seeing was not a code but a usages restriction which may not be enforced.

If we are using sysfs\_get\_dentry the sd is not deleted because it is alive and being used, likewise the path to it should also be alive. Once you add in classic unix delete behaviour allowing for alive but deleted files this no longer applies. But I don't think that makes sense for sysfs, but I may be confused.

>>> \* Rewrote simplify-sysfs\_get\_dentry patch and  
>>> #08-Implement-\_\_sysfs\_get\_dentry,  
>>> #09-Move-sysfs\_get\_dentry-below-\_\_sysfs\_get\_dentry and  
>>> #10-Rewrite-sysfs\_get\_dentry-in-terms-of-\_\_sysfs\_get\_dentry are  
>>> omitted as \_\_sysfs\_get\_dentry() isn't used by anyone.  
>>  
>> Right. \_\_sysfs\_get\_dentry is an optimization that has makes  
>> the best case for sysfs\_get\_dentry O(1) instead of O(depth).  
>> However this doesn't matter because sysfs\_get\_dentry is not  
>> on any fast path and the maximum depth of sysfs directories  
>> is fairly shallow and programmer controlled.

>  
> The reason why sysfs\_get\_dentry() climbed up first then climbed down was  
> not because of performance. It was to support the original shadow  
> implementation. Because there was no reliable way to reach a leaf node  
> from the root, dentries of all shadows are pinned such that they can  
> serve as the starting point for dentry lookup and the climbing up was to  
> reach that starting point. Now that the dentry-multiplexing shadow  
> support is gone, there's no need to do the climbing up.

Reasonable. The reason I kept the climbing up was the performance benefit I saw.

>> The only user other user of \_\_sysfs\_get\_dentry is in the tagged  
>> directory support, and even that user doesn't strictly need it.  
>> Although it is a bit silly to populate the dcache just so you  
>> can invalidate it a moment later...  
>  
> Yeah, actually the only essential user of that kind of look up is  
> sysfs\_drop\_dentry() which is in deletion path and can't fail due to  
> allocation failure and has the logic open-coded. I have nothing against  
> \_\_sysfs\_get\_dentry(). It was just not needed by the patches I forwarded  
> this time. Feel free to include it as you see fit.

Sure.

> I'm currently working on kobj/sysfs separation. As most internal  
> implementation is sd based already, the changes are mostly confined to  
> interface functions but it's still a big change. I think I'll be able  
> to post the patches in this week or early next week at the latest.

Ok.

I'd like to make certain we have a path to tagged support or something like it if we can.

Eric

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Containers mailing list  
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