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Subject: Re: [-mm PATCH] Memory controller improve user interface

Posted by [Paul Menage](#) on Wed, 29 Aug 2007 15:28:56 GMT

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On 8/29/07, Balbir Singh <balbir@linux.vnet.ibm.com> wrote:

```
>
> Change the interface to use kilobytes instead of pages. Page sizes can vary
> across platforms and configurations. A new strategy routine has been added
> to the resource counters infrastructure to format the data as desired.
>
> Suggested by David Rientjes, Andrew Morton and Herbert Poetzl
>
> Signed-off-by: Balbir Singh <balbir@linux.vnet.ibm.com>
> ---
>
> Documentation/controllers/memory.txt | 7 +++--
> include/linux/res_counter.h          | 6 ++--
> kernel/res_counter.c                 | 24 ++++++++-----
> mm/memcontrol.c                     | 47 ++++++++-----
> 4 files changed, 64 insertions(+), 20 deletions(-)
>
> diff -puN mm/memcontrol.c~mem-control-make-ui-use-kilobytes mm/memcontrol.c
> --- linux-2.6.23-rc3/mm/memcontrol.c~mem-control-make-ui-use-kilobytes 2007-08-28
13:20:44.000000000 +0530
> +++ linux-2.6.23-rc3-balbir/mm/memcontrol.c 2007-08-29 14:36:07.000000000 +0530
> @@ -32,6 +32,7 @@
>
> struct container_subsys mem_container_subsys;
> static const int MEM_CONTAINER_RECLAIM_RETRIES = 5;
> +static const int MEM_CONTAINER_CHARGE_KB = (PAGE_SIZE >> 10);
>
> /*
>  * The memory controller data structure. The memory controller controls both
> @@ -312,7 +313,7 @@ int mem_container_charge(struct page *pa
>  * If we created the page_container, we should free it on exceeding
>  * the container limit.
>  */
> - while (res_counter_charge(&mem->res, 1)) {
> + while (res_counter_charge(&mem->res, MEM_CONTAINER_CHARGE_KB)) {
>     if (try_to_free_mem_container_pages(mem))
>         continue;
>
> @@ -352,7 +353,7 @@ int mem_container_charge(struct page *pa
>     kfree(pc);
>     pc = race_pc;
>     atomic_inc(&pc->ref_cnt);
> - res_counter_uncharge(&mem->res, 1);
> + res_counter_uncharge(&mem->res, MEM_CONTAINER_CHARGE_KB);
```

```

>         css_put(&mem->css);
>         goto done;
>     }
> @@ -417,7 +418,7 @@ void mem_container_uncharge(struct page_
>         css_put(&mem->css);
>         page_assign_page_container(page, NULL);
>         unlock_page_container(page);
> -         res_counter_uncharge(&mem->res, 1);
> +         res_counter_uncharge(&mem->res, MEM_CONTAINER_CHARGE_KB);
>
>         spin_lock_irqsave(&mem->lru_lock, flags);
>         list_del_init(&pc->lru);
> @@ -426,12 +427,37 @@ void mem_container_uncharge(struct page_
>     }
> }
>
> -static ssize_t mem_container_read(struct container *cont, struct cftype *cft,
> -                                 struct file *file, char __user *userbuf, size_t nbytes,
> -                                 loff_t *ppos)
> +int mem_container_read_strategy(unsigned long val, char *buf)
> +{
> +    return sprintf(buf, "%lu (kB)\n", val);
> +}
> +
> +int mem_container_write_strategy(char *buf, unsigned long *tmp)
> +{
> +    *tmp = memparse(buf, &buf);
> +    if (*buf != '\0')
> +        return -EINVAL;
> +
> +    *tmp = *tmp >> 10;          /* convert to kilobytes */
> +    return 0;
> +}

```

This seems a bit inconsistent - if you write a value to a limit file, then the value that you read back is reduced by a factor of 1024? Having the "(kB)" suffix isn't really a big help to automated middleware.

I'd still be in favour of just reading/writing 64-bit values representing bytes - simple, and unambiguous for programmatic use, and not really any less user-friendly than kilobytes for manual use (since the numbers involved are going to be unwieldy for manual use whether they're in bytes or kB).

Paul

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Containers mailing list

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Subject: Re: [-mm PATCH] Memory controller improve user interface

Posted by [Balbir Singh](#) on Wed, 29 Aug 2007 16:07:38 GMT

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Paul Menage wrote:

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> middleware.
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```

Why is that? Is it because you could write 4M and see it show up as 4096 kilobytes? We'll that can be fixed with another variant of the memparse() utility.

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- > representing bytes - simple, and unambiguous for programmatic use, and
- > not really any less user-friendly than kilobytes for manual use
- > (since the numbers involved are going to be unwieldy for manual use
- > whether they're in bytes or kB).
- >

64 bit might be an overkill for 32 bit machines. 32 bit machines with PAE cannot use 32 bit values, they need 64 bits. I think KiloBytes is an acceptable metric these days, everybody understands them.

> Paul

> \_\_\_\_\_

- > Containers mailing list
- > Containers@lists.linux-foundation.org
- > <https://lists.linux-foundation.org/mailman/listinfo/containers>

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Warm Regards,  
Balbir Singh  
Linux Technology Center  
IBM, ISTL

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<https://lists.linux-foundation.org/mailman/listinfo/containers>

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