
Subject: Naming the "Task containers" framework

Posted by [Paul Menage](#) on Wed, 05 Sep 2007 05:54:29 GMT

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At the mini-summit, and at other times, I've heard the repeated complaint that having the word "container" in the name of the "task container" framework leads to ambiguity. And separately from the complaints, I've seen the awkwardness that people end up with when they feel they have to distinguish between the "containers" abstract concept, and "Paul's containers" ...

With the hope/prospect of having the framework merged some time after the kernel summit, I guess now's a good time to bow to the pressure and find some compromise that everyone likes, before we actually hit mainline. (Maybe earlier would have been even better, but ...)

Of the various possible names that have been suggested, there are a couple that (to me) stand out as good options:

- control groups
- task sets

The former (coined by Eric during a brainstorming session yesterday) seems to capture the enforcement aspect of the framework (sysadmin can use it to control the behaviour of processes, processes can't escape from groups), without suggesting that it can only be used for resource controllers (as some alternative names such as "resource groups" imply) and would be a choice that I could be happy with.

Does anyone have strong views on other alternative names (or even the idea of keeping "task containers")?

Paul

Containers mailing list

Containers@lists.linux-foundation.org

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

Subject: Re: Naming the "Task containers" framework

Posted by [Cedric Le Goater](#) on Wed, 05 Sep 2007 09:55:07 GMT

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Paul Menage wrote:

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C.

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Subject: Re: Naming the "Task containers" framework
Posted by [Paul Menage](#) on Wed, 05 Sep 2007 10:13:21 GMT
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On 9/5/07, Cedric Le Goater <clg@fr.ibm.com> wrote:
> > - control groups

> > - task sets
>
> task controllers ?
>

Hmm. As a name for the framework, this doesn't seem to me quite as appropriate as "control groups". The framework itself doesn't actually control groups of tasks, it just provides the partitioning mechanism and user-space API to make it simple to add such controllers.

Paul

Containers mailing list
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Subject: Re: Naming the "Task containers" framework
Posted by [serue](#) on Tue, 11 Sep 2007 13:57:39 GMT
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Quoting Paul Menage (menage@google.com):

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> idea of keeping "task containers")?

Purely subjectively I prefer control groups, but task sets is more descriptive about the implementation.

So I'd have to vote for task sets.

I like 'task containers', but it really is a pain trying to keep clear which containers I'm talking about from one sentence to the next.

-serge

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Subject: Re: Naming the "Task containers" framework

Posted by [Paul Menage](#) on Tue, 11 Sep 2007 14:38:57 GMT

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On 9/11/07, Serge E. Hallyn <serue@us.ibm.com> wrote:

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I described it as "control groups" during the kernel summit presentation and no-one seemed to object to that name.

As far as I can tell, the general mood seems to be in favour of "control groups" - no-one else has expressed a preference for "task sets".

I think it's more important to express the overall intention of the feature rather than the implementation. Ted T'so (I think) asked at the summit whether things other than tasks could be first-class members of control groups - I said that currently they can't, but people may find interesting ways to conveniently make non-task objects first-class members in the future (rather than just holding reference counts the way pages do currently).

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> So I'd have to vote for task sets.
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> I like 'task containers', but it really is a pain trying to keep clear
> which containers I'm talking about from one sentence to the next.

Right, enough people have said this to me now, and I've seen the awkwardness that it entails - I don't want to add a subsystem to the kernel that's forever referred to as "Paul's containers" :-)

Paul

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Subject: Re: Naming the "Task containers" framework
Posted by [Cedric Le Goater](#) on Tue, 11 Sep 2007 15:04:42 GMT
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Paul Menage wrote:

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That's how I've been calling them for a while :)

Now that LWN has announced the name rebrand in the article :

<http://lwn.net/Articles/249080/>

I hope we can close the topic.

C.

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Posted by [serue](#) on Tue, 11 Sep 2007 15:09:21 GMT

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It works pretty well :)

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> <http://lwn.net/Articles/249080/>
>
> I hope we can close the topic.

Sure *now* you tell me. You had to wait until I provided yet one more
example of how my own preferences can be taken as a reliable indicator
of the inverse of the group consensus :)

-serge

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