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Subject: [PATCH 0/5] Make nicer CONFIG\_NET\_NS=n case code  
Posted by [Pavel Emelianov](#) on Wed, 31 Oct 2007 18:17:47 GMT  
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Currently we have the NET\_NS config option, but the only change it makes is just return ERR\_PTR(-EINVAL) inside the cloning call thus introducing a bunch of a dead code and making the reference counting unneeded. This is not very good.

So clean the net\_namespace.c to fix this.

I have sent a set of patches to Andrew to make similar thing for other namespaces, which introduces the NAMESPACES option to turn all the namespaces off at once (to make embedded people suffer less). So after that stuff is in, there will be some more patches to tie all this together.

What is to be done after this set is to make the register\_pernet\_xxx stuff smaller. Currently this code weights approximately 500 bytes, so it worths reducing it, but I haven't found a good solution yet.

Signed-off-by: Pavel Emelianov <xemul@openvz.org>

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Subject: [PATCH 1/5][NETNS] Make the init/exit hooks checks outside the loop  
Posted by [Pavel Emelianov](#) on Wed, 31 Oct 2007 18:21:34 GMT  
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When the new pernet something (subsys, device or operations) is being registered, the init callback is to be called for each namespace, that currently exist in the system. During the unregister, the same is to be done with the exit callback.

However, not every pernet something has both calls, but the check for the appropriate pointer to be not NULL is performed inside the for\_each\_net() loop.

This is (at least) strange, so tune this.

Signed-off-by: Pavel Emelianov <xemul@openvz.org>

---

```
diff --git a/net/core/net_namespace.c b/net/core/net_namespace.c
index 662e6ea..4e52921 100644
--- a/net/core/net_namespace.c
+++ b/net/core/net_namespace.c
@@ -187,29 +187,28 @@ static int register_pernet_operations(struct list_head *list,
```

```

struct net *net, *undo_net;
int error;

- error = 0;
  list_add_tail(&ops->list, list);
- for_each_net(net) {
-   if (ops->init) {
+   if (ops->init) {
+   for_each_net(net) {
      error = ops->init(net);
      if (error)
        goto out_undo;
    }
  }
-out:
- return error;
+ return 0;

out_undo:
/* If I have an error cleanup all namespaces I initialized */
list_del(&ops->list);
- for_each_net(undo_net) {
-   if (undo_net == net)
-     goto undone;
-   if (ops->exit)
+   if (ops->exit) {
+   for_each_net(undo_net) {
+     if (undo_net == net)
+       goto undone;
+     ops->exit(undo_net);
+   }
  }
undone:
- goto out;
+ return error;
}

static void unregister_pernet_operations(struct pernet_operations *ops)
@@ -217,8 +216,8 @@ static void unregister_pernet_operations(struct pernet_operations *ops)
  struct net *net;

  list_del(&ops->list);
- for_each_net(net)
-   if (ops->exit)
+   if (ops->exit)
+   for_each_net(net)
      ops->exit(net);
}

```

--

1.5.3.4

---

---

Subject: [PATCH 2/5] Relax the reference counting of init\_net\_ns

Posted by [Pavel Emelianov](#) on Wed, 31 Oct 2007 18:23:25 GMT

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---

When the CONFIG\_NET\_NS is n there's no need in refcounting the initial net namespace. So relax this code by making a stupid stubs for the "n" case.

Signed-off-by: Pavel Emelyanov <xemul@openvz.org>

---

```
diff --git a/include/net/net_namespace.h b/include/net/net_namespace.h
index 5279466..1fd449a 100644
--- a/include/net/net_namespace.h
+++ b/include/net/net_namespace.h
@@ -51,13 +51,12 @@ static inline struct net *copy_net_ns(unsigned long flags, struct net
 *net_ns)
 }
#endif

+#ifdef CONFIG_NET_NS
extern void __put_net(struct net *net);

static inline struct net *get_net(struct net *net)
{
-#ifdef CONFIG_NET
    atomic_inc(&net->count);
-#endif
    return net;
}

@@ -75,26 +74,44 @@ static inline struct net *maybe_get_net(struct net *net)

static inline void put_net(struct net *net)
{
-#ifdef CONFIG_NET
    if (atomic_dec_and_test(&net->count))
        __put_net(net);
-#endif
}

static inline struct net *hold_net(struct net *net)
```



The namespace creation/destruction code is never called if the CONFIG\_NET\_NS is n, so it's OK to move it under appropriate ifdef.

The copy\_net\_ns() in the "n" case checks for flags and returns -EINVAL when new net ns is requested. In a perfect world this stub must be in net\_namespace.h, but this function need to know the CLONE\_NEWNET value and thus requires sched.h. On the other hand this header is to be injected into almost every .c file in the networking code, and making all this code depend on the sched.h is a suicidal attempt.

Signed-off-by: Pavel Emelyanov <xemul@openvz.org>

---

```
diff --git a/net/core/net_namespace.c b/net/core/net_namespace.c
index 4e52921..d5bf8b2 100644
```

```
--- a/net/core/net_namespace.c
```

```
+++ b/net/core/net_namespace.c
```

```
@@ -22,65 +22,6 @@ static struct kmem_cache *net_cachep;
struct net init_net;
EXPORT_SYMBOL_GPL(init_net);
```

```
-static struct net *net_alloc(void)
```

```
-{
- return kmem_cache_zalloc(net_cachep, GFP_KERNEL);
-}
```

```
-
```

```
-static void net_free(struct net *net)
```

```
-{
- if (!net)
- return;
-
- if (unlikely(atomic_read(&net->use_count) != 0)) {
- printk(KERN_EMERG "network namespace not free! Usage: %d\n",
- atomic_read(&net->use_count));
- return;
- }
-}
```

```
-
```

```
- kmem_cache_free(net_cachep, net);
```

```
-}
```

```
-
```

```
-static void cleanup_net(struct work_struct *work)
```

```
-{
- struct pernet_operations *ops;
- struct net *net;
```

```

-
- net = container_of(work, struct net, work);
-
- mutex_lock(&net_mutex);
-
- /* Don't let anyone else find us. */
- rtnl_lock();
- list_del(&net->list);
- rtnl_unlock();
-
- /* Run all of the network namespace exit methods */
- list_for_each_entry_reverse(ops, &pernet_list, list) {
- if (ops->exit)
- ops->exit(net);
- }
-
- mutex_unlock(&net_mutex);
-
- /* Ensure there are no outstanding rcu callbacks using this
- * network namespace.
- */
- rcu_barrier();
-
- /* Finally it is safe to free my network namespace structure */
- net_free(net);
-}
-
-
-void __put_net(struct net *net)
-{
- /* Cleanup the network namespace in process context */
- INIT_WORK(&net->work, cleanup_net);
- schedule_work(&net->work);
-}
-EXPORT_SYMBOL_GPL(__put_net);
-
-/*
- * setup_net runs the initializers for the network namespace object.
- */
@@ -117,6 +58,12 @@ out_undo:
    goto out;
}

#ifdef CONFIG_NET_NS
static struct net *net_alloc(void)
+{
+ return kmem_cache_zalloc(net_cachep, GFP_KERNEL);
+}

```

```

+
struct net *copy_net_ns(unsigned long flags, struct net *old_net)
{
    struct net *new_net = NULL;
@@ -127,10 +74,6 @@ struct net *copy_net_ns(unsigned long flags, struct net *old_net)
    if (!(flags & CLONE_NEWNET))
        return old_net;

-#ifndef CONFIG_NET_NS
- return ERR_PTR(-EINVAL);
-#endif
-
    err = -ENOMEM;
    new_net = net_alloc();
    if (!new_net)
@@ -157,6 +100,68 @@ out:
    return new_net;
}

+static void net_free(struct net *net)
+{
+ if (!net)
+ return;
+
+ if (unlikely(atomic_read(&net->use_count) != 0)) {
+ printk(KERN_EMERG "network namespace not free! Usage: %d\n",
+ atomic_read(&net->use_count));
+ return;
+ }
+
+ kmem_cache_free(net_cachep, net);
+}
+
+static void cleanup_net(struct work_struct *work)
+{
+ struct pernet_operations *ops;
+ struct net *net;
+
+ net = container_of(work, struct net, work);
+
+ mutex_lock(&net_mutex);
+
+ /* Don't let anyone else find us. */
+ rtnl_lock();
+ list_del(&net->list);
+ rtnl_unlock();
+
+ /* Run all of the network namespace exit methods */

```

```

+ list_for_each_entry_reverse(ops, &pernet_list, list) {
+   if (ops->exit)
+     ops->exit(net);
+ }
+
+ mutex_unlock(&net_mutex);
+
+ /* Ensure there are no outstanding rcu callbacks using this
+  * network namespace.
+  */
+ rcu_barrier();
+
+ /* Finally it is safe to free my network namespace structure */
+ net_free(net);
+}
+
+void __put_net(struct net *net)
+{
+ /* Cleanup the network namespace in process context */
+ INIT_WORK(&net->work, cleanup_net);
+ schedule_work(&net->work);
+}
+EXPORT_SYMBOL_GPL(__put_net);
+
+#else
+struct net *copy_net_ns(unsigned long flags, struct net *old_net)
+{
+ if (flags & CLONE_NEWNET)
+   return ERR_PTR(-EINVAL);
+ return old_net;
+}
+#endif
+
+static int __init net_ns_init(void)
+{
+   int err;
+
+   --
+}
+
+1.5.3.4

```

---

Subject: [PATCH 4/5] Mark the setup\_net as \_\_net\_init  
 Posted by [Pavel Emelianov](#) on Wed, 31 Oct 2007 18:29:45 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

The setup\_net is called for the init net namespace only (int the CONFIG\_NET\_NS=n of course) from the \_\_init function, so mark it as \_\_net\_init to disappear with the caller after the boot.



Yet again, in the perfect world this has to be under `#ifdef CONFIG_NET_NS`, but it isn't guaranteed that every subsystem is registered *after* the `init_net_ns` is set up. After we are sure, that we don't start registering them before the `init net` setup, we'll be able to move this code under the `ifdef`.

Signed-off-by: Pavel Emelyanov <xemul@openvz.org>

---

```
diff --git a/net/core/net_namespace.c b/net/core/net_namespace.c
index d5bf8b2..a044e2d 100644
--- a/net/core/net_namespace.c
+++ b/net/core/net_namespace.c
@@ -25,7 +25,7 @@ EXPORT_SYMBOL_GPL(init_net);
/*
 * setup_net runs the initializers for the network namespace object.
 */
-static int setup_net(struct net *net)
+static __net_init int setup_net(struct net *net)
{
    /* Must be called with net_mutex held */
    struct pernet_operations *ops;
--
1.5.3.4
```

---

Subject: [PATCH 5/5] Hide the `net_ns` `kmem` cache  
Posted by [Pavel Emelianov](#) on Wed, 31 Oct 2007 18:30:53 GMT  
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---

This cache is only required to create new namespaces,  
but we won't have them in `CONFIG_NET_NS=n` case.

Hide it under the appropriate `ifdef`.

Signed-off-by: Pavel Emelyanov <xemul@openvz.org>

---

```
diff --git a/net/core/net_namespace.c b/net/core/net_namespace.c
index a044e2d..e9f0964 100644
--- a/net/core/net_namespace.c
+++ b/net/core/net_namespace.c
@@ -17,8 +17,6 @@ static DEFINE_MUTEX(net_mutex);
```

```

LIST_HEAD(net_namespace_list);

-static struct kmem_cache *net_cachep;
-
struct net init_net;
EXPORT_SYMBOL_GPL(init_net);

@@ -59,6 +57,8 @@ out_undo:
}

#ifdef CONFIG_NET_NS
+static struct kmem_cache *net_cachep;
+
static struct net *net_alloc(void)
{
    return kmem_cache_zalloc(net_cachep, GFP_KERNEL);
@@ -167,9 +167,11 @@ static int __init net_ns_init(void)
int err;

    printk(KERN_INFO "net_namespace: %zd bytes\n", sizeof(struct net));
+
#ifdef CONFIG_NET_NS
    net_cachep = kmem_cache_create("net_namespace", sizeof(struct net),
        SMP_CACHE_BYTES,
        SLAB_PANIC, NULL);
+
#endif
    mutex_lock(&net_mutex);
    err = setup_net(&init_net);

--
1.5.3.4

```

---



---

Subject: Re: [PATCH 0/5] Make nicer CONFIG\_NET\_NS=n case code  
 Posted by [Eric Dumazet](#) on Wed, 31 Oct 2007 18:49:24 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

On Wed, 31 Oct 2007 22:19:43 +0300  
 Pavel Emelyanov <xemul@openvz.org> wrote:

```

> Currently we have the NET_NS config option, but the only change it
> makes is just return ERR_PTR(-EINVAL) inside the cloning call thus
> introducing a bunch of a dead code and making the reference counting
> unneeded. This is not very good.
>
> So clean the net_namespace.c to fix this.
>
> I have sent a set of patches to Andrew to make similar thing for
> other namespaces, which introduces the NAMESPACES option to turn

```

> all the namespaces off at once (to make embedded people suffer  
> less). So after that stuff is in, there will be some more patches  
> to tie all this together.  
>  
> What is to be done after this set is to make the register\_pernet\_xxx  
> stuff smaller. Currently this code weights approximately 500 bytes,  
> so it worths reducing it, but I haven't found a good solution yet.

Definitely wanted here. Thank you.  
One more refcounting on each socket creation/deletion was expensive.

Maybe we can add a macro to get nd\_net from a "struct net\_device"  
so that every instance of

```
if (dev->nd_net != &init_net)
    goto drop;
```

can also be optimized away if !CONFIG\_NET\_NS

```
extern inline netdev_get_ns(struct netdevice *dev)
{
#ifdef CONFIG_NET_NS
    return dev->nd_net;
#else
    return &init_net;
#endif
}
```

...

```
if (netdev_get_ns(dev) != &init_net)
    goto drop;
```

---

Subject: Re: [PATCH 0/5] Make nicer CONFIG\_NET\_NS=n case code  
Posted by [Daniel Lezcano](#) on Wed, 31 Oct 2007 21:35:51 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Eric Dumazet wrote:

> On Wed, 31 Oct 2007 22:19:43 +0300  
> Pavel Emelyanov <xemul@openvz.org> wrote:  
>  
>> Currently we have the NET\_NS config option, but the only change it  
>> makes is just return ERR\_PTR(-EINVAL) inside the cloning call thus  
>> introducing a bunch of a dead code and making the reference counting  
>> unneeded. This is not very good.  
>>  
>> So clean the net\_namespace.c to fix this.

```

>>
>> I have sent a set of patches to Andrew to make similar thing for
>> other namespaces, which introduces the NAMESPACES option to turn
>> all the namespaces off at once (to make embedded people suffer
>> less). So after that stuff is in, there will be some more patches
>> to tie all this together.
>>
>> What is to be done after this set is to make the register_pernet_xxx
>> stuff smaller. Currently this code weights approximately 500 bytes,
>> so it worths reducing it, but I haven't found a good solution yet.
>
> Definitely wanted here. Thank you.
> One more refcounting on each socket creation/deletion was expensive.
>
> Maybe we can add a macro to get nd_net from a "struct net_device"
> so that every instance of
>
> if (dev->nd_net != &init_net)
>     goto drop;
>
> can also be optimized away if !CONFIG_NET_NS
>
> extern inline netdev_get_ns(struct netdevice *dev)
> {
> #ifdef CONFIG_NET_NS
>     return dev->nd_net;
> #else
>     return &init_net;
> #endif
> }

```

Or something like:

```

#ifdef CONFIG_NET_NS
static inline int init_net_dev(struct net_device *dev)
{
    return dev->nd_net == &init_net;
}
#else
static inline int init_net_dev(struct net_device *dev)
{
    return 1;
}
#endif

```

By the way, this kind of test will disappear when the network namespace will be complete and take into account the different protocols.

---



---

Subject: Re: [PATCH 0/5] Make nicer CONFIG\_NET\_NS=n case code  
Posted by [Daniel Lezcano](#) on Wed, 31 Oct 2007 21:37:11 GMT  
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---

Pavel Emelyanov wrote:

- > Currently we have the NET\_NS config option, but the only change it
- > makes is just return ERR\_PTR(-EINVAL) inside the cloning call thus
- > introducing a bunch of a dead code and making the reference counting
- > unneeded. This is not very good.
- >
- > So clean the net\_namespace.c to fix this.
- >
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- > other namespaces, which introduces the NAMESPACES option to turn
- > all the namespaces off at once (to make embedded people suffer
- > less). So after that stuff is in, there will be some more patches
- > to tie all this together.
- >
- > What is to be done after this set is to make the register\_pernet\_xxx
- > stuff smaller. Currently this code weights approximately 500 bytes,
- > so it worths reducing it, but I haven't found a good solution yet.

Did you had time to check the impact of your patch with the rest of the network namespaces not yet included in mainline, belonging to Eric's git tree ?

ps: can you cc' emails concerning the network namespace to the containers mailing list too ? thx.

---

Subject: Re: [PATCH 0/5] Make nicer CONFIG\_NET\_NS=n case code  
Posted by [ebiederm](#) on Wed, 31 Oct 2007 22:05:46 GMT  
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---

Eric Dumazet <dada1@cosmosbay.com> writes:

- > Definitely wanted here. Thank you.
- > One more refcounting on each socket creation/deletion was expensive.

Really? Have you actually measured that? If the overhead is measurable and expensive we may want to look at per cpu counters or something like that. So far I don't have any numbers that say any of the network namespace work inherently has any overhead.

- > Maybe we can add a macro to get nd\_net from a "struct net\_device"
- > so that every instance of
- >

```
> if (dev->nd_net != &init_net)
>     goto drop;
>
> can also be optimized away if !CONFIG_NET_NS
```

Well that extra check should be removed once we finish converting those code paths. So I'm not too worried.

If this becomes a big issue I can dig up my old code that replaced struct net \* with a net\_t typedef and used functions for all of the comparisons and allowed everything to be compiled away.

Trouble was it was sufficiently different that it was just enough different that people could not immediately understand the code.

Eric

---

Subject: Re: [PATCH 0/5] Make nicer CONFIG\_NET\_NS=n case code  
Posted by [Eric Dumazet](#) on Wed, 31 Oct 2007 22:40:59 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

```
> Eric Dumazet <dada1@cosmosbay.com> writes:
>
>
>> Definitely wanted here. Thank you.
>> One more refcounting on each socket creation/deletion was expensive.
>
> Really? Have you actually measured that? If the overhead is
> measurable and expensive we may want to look at per cpu counters or
> something like that. So far I don't have any numbers that say any
> of the network namespace work inherently has any overhead.
```

It seems that on some old opterons (two 246 for example),  
"if (atomic\_dec\_and\_test(&net->count))" is rather expensive yes :(

I am not sure per cpu counters help : I tried this and got no speedup. (This was on net\_device refcnt at that time)

(on this machines, the access through fs/gs selector seems expensive too)

Maybe a lazy mode could be done, ie only do a atomic\_dec(), as done in dev\_put() ?

Also, "count" sits in a cache line that contains mostly read and shared fields, you might want to put it in a separate cache line in SMP, to avoid cache line ping-pongs.

>  
>> Maybe we can add a macro to get nd\_net from a "struct net\_device"  
>> so that every instance of  
>>  
>> if (dev->nd\_net != &init\_net)  
>> goto drop;  
>>  
>> can also be optimized away if !CONFIG\_NET\_NS  
>  
> Well that extra check should be removed once we finish converting  
> those code paths. So I'm not too worried.

OK. Since the conditional test can be predicted by cpu, it certainly doesn't matter.

>  
> If this becomes a big issue I can dig up my old code that  
> replaced struct net \* with a net\_t typedef and used functions  
> for all of the comparisons and allowed everything to be compiled  
> away.

>  
> Trouble was it was sufficiently different that it was just enough  
> different that people could not immediately understand the code.  
>

---

Subject: Re: [PATCH 0/5] Make nicer CONFIG\_NET\_NS=n case code  
Posted by [davem](#) on Wed, 31 Oct 2007 23:31:46 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

From: Eric Dumazet <dada1@cosmosbay.com>  
Date: Wed, 31 Oct 2007 23:40:59 +0100

> > Eric Dumazet <dada1@cosmosbay.com> writes:  
> >  
> >  
> >> Definitely wanted here. Thank you.  
> >> One more refcounting on each socket creation/deletion was expensive.  
> >  
> > Really? Have you actually measured that? If the overhead is  
> > measurable and expensive we may want to look at per cpu counters or  
> > something like that. So far I don't have any numbers that say any

> > of the network namespace work inherently has any overhead.  
>  
> It seems that on some old opteron (two 246 for example),  
> "if (atomic\_dec\_and\_test(&net->count))" is rather expensive yes :(

P4 chips are generally very poor at mispredicted branches and atomics. So every atomic you remove from the socket paths gives a noticable improvement on them.

Network device reference counting is such a stupid problem. There has to be a way to get rid of it on the packet side.

I think we could get rid of all of the device refcounting from packets if we:

1) Formalize "SKB roots". This is every place a packet could sit in the transmit path.

2) On device unregister:

- a) wait for RCU quiesce period
- b) stop\_machine\_run(skb\_walk\_roots, netdev, NR\_CPUS);

skb\_walk\_roots is a function that walks all the places in #1, rewriting the packet to point to loopback or whatever instead of 'netdev' which we are trying to unregister.

This gives us two things.

First, we no longer would need to recount net devices for packet references.

Second, we have a debugging framework for all those dreaded SKB leaks that keep devices from being unloadable. As we walk the roots we'll see where all packets referencing a device actually are.

---

Subject: Re: [PATCH 0/5] Make nicer CONFIG\_NET\_NS=n case code  
Posted by [ebiederm](#) on Thu, 01 Nov 2007 00:51:54 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Eric Dumazet <dada1@cosmosbay.com> writes:

>> Eric Dumazet <dada1@cosmosbay.com> writes:  
>>  
>>  
>>> Definitely wanted here. Thank you.



>>> One more refcounting on each socket creation/deletion was expensive.  
>>  
>> Really? Have you actually measured that? If the overhead is  
>> measurable and expensive we may want to look at per cpu counters or  
>> something like that. So far I don't have any numbers that say any  
>> of the network namespace work inherently has any overhead.  
>  
> It seems that on some old opteron (two 246 for example),  
> "if (atomic\_dec\_and\_test(&net->count))" is rather expensive yes :(

I won't argue that atomic\_dec\_and\_test is costly. My gut feel is that socket creation/destruction is sufficiently rare that such a test would be lost in the noise. Doing anything more sophisticated is likely to be less readable, and unless we can measure some overhead my preference right now is to keep the code stupid and simple. Which usually has a good icache footprint.

> I am not sure per cpu counters help : I tried this and got no speedup. (This was  
> on net\_device refcnt at that time)  
>  
> (on this machines, the access through fs/gs selector seems expensive too)  
>  
> Maybe a lazy mode could be done, ie only do a atomic\_dec(), as done in dev\_put()  
> ?  
>  
> Also, "count" sits in a cache line that contains mostly read and shared fields,  
> you might want to put it in a separate cache line in SMP, to avoid cache line  
> ping-pongs.

As for cache lines I could reverse the order 'list' and 'work' which should split the read-only and the writable fields in practice for that part of the structure.

Eric

---

Subject: Re: [PATCH 0/5] Make nicer CONFIG\_NET\_NS=n case code  
Posted by [ebiederm](#) on Thu, 01 Nov 2007 00:58:28 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

David Miller <davem@davemloft.net> writes:

> From: Eric Dumazet <dada1@cosmosbay.com>  
> Date: Wed, 31 Oct 2007 23:40:59 +0100  
>

>> > Eric Dumazet <dada1@cosmosbay.com> writes:  
>> >

```

>> >
>> >> Definitely wanted here. Thank you.
>> >> One more refcounting on each socket creation/deletion was expensive.
>> >
>> > Really? Have you actually measured that? If the overhead is
>> > measurable and expensive we may want to look at per cpu counters or
>> > something like that. So far I don't have any numbers that say any
>> > of the network namespace work inherently has any overhead.
>>
>> It seems that on some old opteron (two 246 for example),
>> "if (atomic_dec_and_test(&net->count))" is rather expensive yes :(
>
> P4 chips are generally very poor at mispredicted branches and
> atomics. So every atomic you remove from the socket paths
> gives a noticable improvement on them.

```

Interesting.

```

> Network device reference counting is such a stupid problem. There has
> to be a way to get rid of it on the packet side.
>
> I think we could get rid of all of the device refcounting from packets
> if we:
>
> 1) Formalize "SKB roots". This is every place a packet
>    could sit in the transmit path.

```

Yes there are very few of these, and I think they are generally in interrupt or at least bottom half context aren't they?

I think the OpenVz version of network namespaces may have already identified all of these.

```

> 2) On device unregister:
>
> a) wait for RCU quiesce period
> b) stop_machine_run(skb_walk_roots, netdev, NR_CPUS);

```

RCU sounds sufficient but possibly overkill to achieve what we need to do here.

```

> skb_walk_roots is a function that walks all the places in
> #1, rewriting the packet to point to loopback or whatever
> instead of 'netdev' which we are trying to unregister.
>
> This gives us two things.
>
> First, we no longer would need to recount net devices

```

> for packet references.  
>  
> Second, we have a debugging framework for all those dreaded SKB leaks  
> that keep devices from being unloadable. As we walk the roots  
> we'll see where all packets referencing a device actually are.

Sounds quite useful. Grrr. The brain cache locality that gets us to rewrite things while we are refactoring them to have more functionality.... It just keeps the problem from being straight forward ;)

Eric

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Subject: Re: [PATCH 0/5] Make nicer CONFIG\_NET\_NS=n case code  
Posted by [Eric Dumazet](#) on Thu, 01 Nov 2007 06:58:59 GMT  
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> Eric Dumazet <dada1@cosmosbay.com> writes:  
>

>>> Eric Dumazet <dada1@cosmosbay.com> writes:  
>>>  
>>>  
>>>> Definitely wanted here. Thank you.  
>>>> One more refcounting on each socket creation/deletion was expensive.  
>>> Really? Have you actually measured that? If the overhead is  
>>> measurable and expensive we may want to look at per cpu counters or  
>>> something like that. So far I don't have any numbers that say any  
>>> of the network namespace work inherently has any overhead.  
>> It seems that on some old opteron (two 246 for example),  
>> "if (atomic\_dec\_and\_test(&net->count))" is rather expensive yes :(  
>  
> I won't argue that atomic\_dec\_and\_test is costly. My gut feel is that  
> socket creation/destruction is sufficiently rare that such a test  
> would be lost in the noise. Doing anything more sophisticated is  
> likely to be less readable, and unless we can measure some overhead  
> my preference right now is to keep the code stupid and simple. Which  
> usually has a good icache footprint.

I agree with you that with current state, this atomic\_inc/atomic\_dec\_and\_test won't come in profiles unless a trivial bench is written

```
for(;;){close(socket(...));}
```

If David or another dev can eliminate the atomic inc/dec on device refcount cost for each packet traveling, the socket creation/destruction would

certainly raise.

Other contention points is the `mnt_count` (yet another refcount) in "struct `vfsmount`", a truly useless refcount as I never had (and nobody had) to un-mount `sock_mnt` :)

---

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Subject: Re: [PATCH 0/5] Make nicer CONFIG\_NET\_NS=n case code

Posted by [davem](#) on Thu, 01 Nov 2007 07:02:38 GMT

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From: Eric Dumazet <dada1@cosmosbay.com>

Date: Thu, 01 Nov 2007 07:58:59 +0100

> I agree with you that with current state, this `atomic_inc/atomic_dec_and_test`  
> wont come in profiles unless a trivial bench is written  
>  
> for(;;){close(socket(...));}

Just add one packet send and one packet receive in there and you have a transaction workload. It's really not that unrealistic.

---

---

Subject: Re: [PATCH 1/5][NETNS] Make the init/exit hooks checks outside the loop

Posted by [davem](#) on Thu, 01 Nov 2007 07:43:07 GMT

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From: Pavel Emelyanov <xemul@openvz.org>

Date: Wed, 31 Oct 2007 22:23:35 +0300

> When the new pernet something (subsys, device or operations) is  
> being registered, the init callback is to be called for each  
> namespace, that currently existst in the system. During the  
> unregister, the same is to be done with the exit callback.  
>  
> However, not every pernet something has both calls, but the  
> check for the appropriate pointer to be not NULL is performed  
> inside the `for_each_net()` loop.  
>  
> This is (at least) strange, so tune this.  
>  
> Signed-off-by: Pavel Emelyanov <xemul@openvz.org>

Applied.

---

Subject: Re: [PATCH 2/5] Relax the reference counting of init\_net\_ns  
Posted by [davem](#) on Thu, 01 Nov 2007 07:43:58 GMT  
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From: Pavel Emelyanov <xemul@openvz.org>  
Date: Wed, 31 Oct 2007 22:25:18 +0300

> When the CONFIG\_NET\_NS is n there's no need in refcounting  
> the initial net namespace. So relax this code by making a  
> stupid stubs for the "n" case.  
>  
> Signed-off-by: Pavel Emelyanov <xemul@openvz.org>

Applied.

---

---

Subject: Re: [PATCH 3/5] Hide the dead code in the net\_namespace.c  
Posted by [davem](#) on Thu, 01 Nov 2007 07:45:06 GMT  
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From: Pavel Emelyanov <xemul@openvz.org>  
Date: Wed, 31 Oct 2007 22:28:51 +0300

> The namespace creation/destruction code is never called  
> if the CONFIG\_NET\_NS is n, so it's OK to move it under  
> appropriate ifdef.  
>  
> The copy\_net\_ns() in the "n" case checks for flags and  
> returns -EINVAL when new net ns is requested. In a perfect  
> world this stub must be in net\_namespace.h, but this  
> function need to know the CLONE\_NEWNET value and thus  
> requires sched.h. On the other hand this header is to be  
> injected into almost every .c file in the networking code,  
> and making all this code depend on the sched.h is a  
> suicidal attempt.  
>  
> Signed-off-by: Pavel Emelyanov <xemul@openvz.org>

Applied.

---

---

Subject: Re: [PATCH 4/5] Mark the setup\_net as \_\_net\_init  
Posted by [davem](#) on Thu, 01 Nov 2007 07:46:16 GMT  
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From: Pavel Emelyanov <xemul@openvz.org>  
Date: Wed, 31 Oct 2007 22:31:46 +0300

> The setup\_net is called for the init net namespace  
> only (int the CONFIG\_NET\_NS=n of course) from the \_\_init  
> function, so mark it as \_\_net\_init to disappear with the  
> caller after the boot.  
>  
> Yet again, in the perfect world this has to be under  
> #ifdef CONFIG\_NET\_NS, but it isn't guaranteed that every  
> subsystem is registered \*after\* the init\_net\_ns is set  
> up. After we are sure, that we don't start registering  
> them before the init net setup, we'll be able to move  
> this code under the ifdef.  
>  
> Signed-off-by: Pavel Emelyanov <xemul@openvz.org>

Applied.

---

---

Subject: Re: [PATCH 5/5] Hide the net\_ns kmem cache  
Posted by [davem](#) on Thu, 01 Nov 2007 07:47:05 GMT  
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From: Pavel Emelyanov <xemul@openvz.org>  
Date: Wed, 31 Oct 2007 22:32:55 +0300

> This cache is only required to create new namespaces,  
> but we won't have them in CONFIG\_NET\_NS=n case.  
>  
> Hide it under the appropriate ifdef.  
>  
> Signed-off-by: Pavel Emelyanov <xemul@openvz.org>

Applied.

---