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Subject: ENOMEM errors

Posted by [pzttilde](#) on Sat, 07 Jun 2008 06:47:12 GMT

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Hey there, inside my machines I've been getting ENOMEM errors and I'm not quite sure how to handle it. The machine's 'host' has 8G of memory of which it caches everything but what is used at that point as soon as I start any container. Not sure if this behavior is intended or faulty. Inside the container only 256M seems to be available.

It's an Ubuntu Hardy install;

Linux merlin.\*\*\* 2.6.24-19-openvz #1 SMP Thu Jun 5 13:07:13 CEST 2008 x86\_64 GNU/Linux

This is the host:

# free -m

	total	used	free	shared	buffers	cached
Mem:	7981	7933	47	0	0	5850
-/+ buffers/cache:		2083	5897			
Swap:	22888	0	22888			

Inside container (the only one running at this point):

# free -m

	total	used	free	shared	buffers	cached
Mem:	256	60	195	0	0	0

# cat /proc/user\_beancounters | grep privv

privvmpages	15638	200464	73728	80362
486040				

# sysctl -a | grep overcommit

vm.overcommit\_memory = 0

vm.overcommit\_ratio = 50

vm.nr\_overcommit\_hugepages = 0

# ulimit -a

core file size (blocks, -c) 0  
data seg size (kbytes, -d) unlimited  
scheduling priority (-e) 0  
file size (blocks, -f) unlimited  
pending signals (-i) 71680  
max locked memory (kbytes, -l) 32  
max memory size (kbytes, -m) unlimited  
open files (-n) 1024  
pipe size (512 bytes, -p) 8  
POSIX message queues (bytes, -q) 819200  
real-time priority (-r) 0  
stack size (kbytes, -s) 8192

cpu time (seconds, -t) unlimited  
max user processes (-u) 71680  
virtual memory (kbytes, -v) unlimited  
file locks (-x) unlimited

Feel like I'm just doing something essential wrong or that I've stumbled upon a bug. Any advice would be appreciated.

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Subject: Re: ENOMEM errors  
Posted by [maratrus](#) on Sat, 07 Jun 2008 09:48:48 GMT  
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Hello,

excuse me but I don't understand what's your problem?  
Do you want to increase privvmpages parameter or what?

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Subject: Re: ENOMEM errors  
Posted by [pzttilde](#) on Sun, 08 Jun 2008 07:50:55 GMT  
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maratrus wrote on Sat, 07 June 2008 05:48Hello,

excuse me but I don't understand what's your problem?  
Do you want to increase privvmpages parameter or what?

Well, thanks to this error sometimes the vm just crashes because the host is out of memory. And less bad (but still very annoying.), inside the vm applications have the same issue.

For example:

```
# vzctl enter 10  
Unable to fork: Cannot allocate memory
```

Are my values strange? I haven't really changed them much. And is it normal for the host to cache all the memory like that?

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Subject: Re: ENOMEM errors  
Posted by [maratrus](#) on Sun, 08 Jun 2008 12:56:15 GMT  
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Try to increase the value of privvmpages.  
For example, you can do it via vzctl (man vzctl):

```
vzctl set CT_ID --privvmpages [barrier]:[limit] --save
```

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Subject: Re: ENOMEM errors  
Posted by [pzttilde](#) on Thu, 12 Jun 2008 18:32:10 GMT  
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maratrus wrote on Sun, 08 June 2008 08:56Try to increase the value of privvmpages.  
For example, you can do it via vzctl (man vzctl):

```
vzctl set CT_ID --privvmpages [barrier]:[limit] --save
```

That was indeed the issue, thanks. Is it normal for 'free' to not understand the actual memory available to the system? It always shows 256 for me, even though a lot more is actually used.

On another note, I'm quite impressed by openvz!

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