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Subject: Hitting the privvmpages limit

Posted by [John Kelly](#) on Wed, 15 Oct 2008 13:37:04 GMT

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Comapring openvz vs. xen, hitting the privvmpages limit is a serious disadvantage of openvz. Even with a generous plan at many providers, you still risk hitting the limit.

Is there any kernel work planned or in progress to integrate container memeory with swap, so that virtual memory allocation works more like a standard kernel with swap?

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Subject: Re: Hitting the privvmpages limit

Posted by [maratrus](#) on Wed, 15 Oct 2008 13:56:53 GMT

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Quote:

Comapring openvz vs. xen, hitting the privvmpages limit is a serious disadvantage of openvz. Even with a generous plan at many providers, you still risk hitting the limit.

1. privvmpages are not equal ro RAM pages.
2. privvmpages are equal to virtual pages.
3. virtual pages are equal to RAM + SWAP.

So, increasing privvmpages increase RAM+SWAP consumption of the VE.

Thus in can be concluded that current OpenVZ doesn't distinguish RAM and SWAP from inside the VE.

Quote:

Is there any kernel work planned or in progress to integrate container memeory with swap, so that virtual memory allocation works more like a standard kernel with swap?

Yes, of course. The development of such behavior is in progress.

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Subject: Re: Hitting the privvmpages limit

Posted by [John Kelly](#) on Wed, 15 Oct 2008 15:11:23 GMT

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maratrus wrote on Wed, 15 October 2008 09:56. privvmpages are equal to virtual pages.

Yes, but the problem is, many applications allocate virtual memory they never use. There may be enough real memory to run the app, but because they preallocate a large request of virtual

memory for later use, they fail.

Quotels there any kernel work planned or in progress to integrate container memeory with swap, so that virtual memory allocation works more like a standard kernel with swap?

Yes, of course. The development of such behavior is in progress.

I believe that should be one of the highest priorities for openvz development. It will make openvz much more appealing.

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Subject: Re: Hitting the privvmpages limit  
Posted by [khorenko](#) on Thu, 16 Oct 2008 10:39:15 GMT  
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Quote:Yes, but the problem is, many applications allocate virtual memory they never use. There may be enough real memory to run the app, but because they preallocate a large request of virtual memory for later use, they fail.  
i guess this situation can be easily workarounded by increasing privvmpages limits, right?

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Subject: Re: Hitting the privvmpages limit  
Posted by [John Kelly](#) on Thu, 16 Oct 2008 12:37:40 GMT  
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finist wrote on Thu, 16 October 2008 06:39  
i guess this situation can be easily workarounded by increasing privvmpages limits, right?

No, not when you're paying for a plan at a provider. If your answer is to pay more for a higher plan, then I'll switch to a xen provider and get more value for the same money.

If you don't want to improve openvz, users will seek alternatives.