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Subject: Process Ids

Posted by [tscofield](#) on Fri, 30 Apr 2010 03:25:18 GMT

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On my hardware node I have set the pid\_max > 32768 in order to support a large number of virtual machines. I am running into an issue with some older applications that are failing when the pid they have is > 32768. Is there a way to force the VE to only use PID's < 32768 while still having an elevated pid\_max on the hardware node?

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Subject: Re: Process Ids

Posted by [maratrus](#) on Fri, 30 Apr 2010 12:42:55 GMT

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Hello,

could you please specify what kind of applications are falling with pids > 32768?

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Subject: Re: Process Ids

Posted by [tscofield](#) on Fri, 30 Apr 2010 13:40:42 GMT

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We initially set the pid\_max on the hw node to 128k. We were seeing two issues with that setting. One of the errors was either with sudo or ps.

```
$sudo ps -ef |grep 105753
```

```
stat: Value too large for defined data type
```

```
$
```

The other error is with a commercial application, BEA's Tuxedo while trying to run the tmshutdown command

```
tmshutdown: internal error: CMDTUX_CAT:766: ERROR: must run on master node
```

We have changed the pid\_max to 64k and we haven't seen the issue with sudo or ps, but the error with tmshutdown persists. If we drop the pid\_max back down to 32k the tmshutdown command works as expected.

Our hardware node is running RedHat Enterprise 5.3 and the 2.6.18-128.1.1.el5.028stab062.3 kernel

The VE is running RedHat Enterprise 3.9, below is the config

```
NUMPROC="8192:8192"
```

```
AVNUMPROC="41212:41212"
```

```
NUMTCPSOCK="82424:82424"
```

```
NUMOTHERSOCK="82424:82424"
```

```
VMGUARPAGES="3046400:9223372036854775807"
```

```
# Secondary parameters
KMEMSIZE="3376091955:3713701150"
TCPSNDBUF="787755281:1125363985"
TCPRCVBUF="787755281:1125363985"
OTHERSOCKBUF="393877640:731486344"
DGRAMRCVBUF="393877640:393877640"
OOMGUARPAGES="3046400:9223372036854775807"
PRIVVMPAGES="3046400:3145728"
```

```
# Auxiliary parameters
LOCKEDPAGES="164848:164848"
SHMPAGES="989089:989089"
PHYSPAGES="0:9223372036854775807"
NUMFILE="1318784:1318784"
NUMFLOCK="1000:1100"
NUMPTY="512:512"
NUMSIGINFO="1024:1024"
DCACHESIZE="737494741:759619584"
NUMIPTENT="200:200"
DISKSPACE="104857600:104857600"
DISKINODES="29301100:32231211"
CPUUNITS="900"
FEATURES="nfs:on "
IP_ADDRESS="10.152.106.39"
VE_ROOT="/vz/root/$VEID"
VE_PRIVATE="/vz/private/$VEID"
CPUS="2"
```

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Subject: Re: Process Ids  
Posted by [maratrus](#) on Fri, 30 Apr 2010 17:47:21 GMT  
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Hello,

I attached a patch against ovzkernel-2.6.18-164.15.1.el5.028stab068.9 kernel.

Could you please test it with your application?

#### File Attachments

1) [diff-ve-virt-pidmax-20100430](#), downloaded 372 times

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Subject: Re: Process Ids

Posted by [tscofield](#) on Tue, 04 May 2010 21:14:04 GMT

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We are still getting the error and the process ID's within the VE is still going above 32k. Are there any parameters that need to be set on the VE config file to limit the pid\_max?

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Subject: Re: Process Ids

Posted by [maratrus](#) on Wed, 05 May 2010 14:02:35 GMT

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Hello,

I suppose you to change pid\_max via sysctl pid\_max (/proc/sys/kernel/pid\_max). By default, pid\_max is the same

as on the HN but you can change it writing to the file mentioned above.

Does it suit you?

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Subject: Re: Process Ids

Posted by [tscofield](#) on Wed, 05 May 2010 16:21:14 GMT

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Running the "sysctl -w kernel.pid\_max=32768" command in the VE seems to have solved the problem. Is this a parameter that could be put in the config file or would it need to be part of the VE start script.

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Subject: Re: Process Ids

Posted by [maratrus](#) on Thu, 06 May 2010 08:50:57 GMT

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Hello,

this parameter is not a part of a VE's configuration file.

You'd better put it in VE's start script.

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Subject: Re: Process Ids

Posted by [tscofield](#) on Thu, 06 May 2010 15:12:50 GMT

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Thanks. When would you expect these patches to be incorporated into the stable kernel?

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Subject: Re: Process Ids  
Posted by [maratrus](#) on Fri, 07 May 2010 12:48:37 GMT  
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Could you please answer one more question?

Quote:

```
$sudo ps -ef |grep 105753  
stat: Value too large for defined data type
```

Do you run 32-bit VEs on the 64bit HN?

Quote:

Thanks. When would you expect these patches to be incorporated into the stable kernel?

Look, the feature you want to be in the kernel is not a widely demanded one. Frankly speaking, I cannot remember the case when it was needed. BUT, that doesn't mean that it will not be included in OpenVZ kernel. First of all. I suggest you to file a new bug report and describe the problem you have. You can also attach the patch I proposed you to use. It helps maintainers to include the feature much faster. Another point I want to note is that if you are running 32-bit VEs on the 64-bit HN and ps(!) complains about huge PID then such a bug **MUST BE** fixed. And dynamically adjusted pid\_max values is a possible solution.

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Subject: Re: Process Ids  
Posted by [tscofield](#) on Fri, 07 May 2010 12:52:48 GMT  
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Yes we are running 32 bit VE on a 64 bit HN. I will go ahead and open a bug as you suggested. Thanks.

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