

---

Subject: Re: [PATCH][usercr]: Ghost tasks must be detached  
Posted by [Oren Laadan](#) on Sat, 05 Feb 2011 18:55:23 GMT  
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---

Suka,

This patch - and the corresponding kernel patch - are wrong (I should have noticed it in the review!). It turns out that ghost (and dead) tasks are `_not_` auto-reaped anymore.

There are only two way for tasks to be auto-reaped: one is if their parent explicitly says so in its sighand information (but then it applies to all children). The other way is if they have `->exit_signal==-1`. From userspace this happens only when cloning with `CLONE_THREAD`. Using `0xFF` for the `@flags` argument to `clone()` syscall instead results in `->exit_signal = 255 ...`

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> This can lead to a kernel crash if the container-init pre-deceases a  
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Is this still a problem in 2.6.37 ?

Oren.

On 01/10/2011 08:51 PM, Oren Laadan wrote:

>  
> Applied to user-cr.  
>  
> Thanks,  
>  
> Oren.  
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> On 12/10/2010 10:35 PM, Sukadev Bhattiprolu wrote:  
>>  
>> From: Sukadev Bhattiprolu <[sukadev@linux.vnet.ibm.com](mailto:sukadev@linux.vnet.ibm.com)>  
>> Date: Fri, 10 Dec 2010 19:23:58 -0800  
>> Subject: [PATCH 1/1] Ghost tasks must be detached  
>>

```

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> Containers@lists.linux-foundation.org
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---

Containers mailing list  
Containers@lists.linux-foundation.org  
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---

Subject: Re: [PATCH][usercr]: Ghost tasks must be detached  
Posted by [Sukadev Bhattiprolu](#) on Sat, 05 Feb 2011 21:40:32 GMT  
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Oren Laadan [orenl@cs.columbia.edu] wrote:

| Suka,

| This patch - and the corresponding kernel patch - are wrong

Ah, I see that now.

But am not sure about the kernel part though. We were getting a crash reliably (with older kernels) because of the `->exit_signal = -1` in `do_ghost_task()`.

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Subject: Re: [PATCH][usercr]: Ghost tasks must be detached  
Posted by [Oren Laadan](#) on Sat, 05 Feb 2011 22:02:51 GMT  
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On 02/05/2011 04:40 PM, Sukadev Bhattiprolu wrote:

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> | This patch - and the corresponding kernel patch - are wrong
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So far I'm convinced it's userspace - working on it. Will post  
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Subject: Re: [PATCH][usercr]: Ghost tasks must be detached

Posted by [Oren Laadan](#) on Sat, 05 Feb 2011 22:33:15 GMT

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> there are ghost/dead tasks. It may be the same one you are seeing.
> So far I'm convinced it's userspace - working on it. Will post
> patches once solved.
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Actually - scratch that. The bug was related to the new pids-as-objs patches to user-cr.

Now, given the complexity of that patchset, I don't want to spend time on picking fixes that require backporting to the current user-cr. So let's try to focus testing and debugging efforts on kernel/user that includes those patches ?

Thanks,

Oren.

---

Containers mailing list  
Containers@lists.linux-foundation.org  
<https://lists.linux-foundation.org/mailman/listinfo/containers>

---

Subject: Re: [PATCH][usercr]: Ghost tasks must be detached  
Posted by [Sukadev Bhattiprolu](#) on Wed, 09 Feb 2011 02:09:43 GMT  
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Oren Laadan [orenl@cs.columbia.edu] wrote:

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commit 9cd80bbb07fcd6d4d037fad4297496d3b132ac6b  
Author: Oleg Nesterov <oleg@redhat.com>  
Date: Thu Dec 17 15:27:15 2009 -0800

But if that is true, I need to investigate why Louis Rilling was getting the crash in Jun 2010 - which he tried to fix here:

<http://lkml.org/lkml/2010/6/16/295>

Even if we are not currently not getting the crash, I think user-space actions can result in the container-init being unable to forcibly kill all its children and exit.

Eg: if ghost tasks are pushed into a child pid namespace (by intentionally setting ->piddepth in usercr/restart.c), we can have a situation where the ghost task exits silently, the parent (i.e container-init can be left hanging).

It can be argued that the incorrect changes in usercr code result in the application hang.

But pid namespace is supposed to guarantee that if a container-init is terminated, it will take the pid namespace down. But some userspace actions can result in kill -9 of container-init leaving the container-init hung forever.

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| (Actually, I never experienced that crash here even with  
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Yes, it needed some "accidental" usercr change to expose the crash :-)

(I will try to send a patch to existing usercr and a test case to repro  
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Subject: Re: [PATCH][usercr]: Ghost tasks must be detached  
Posted by [Oren Laadan](#) on Wed, 09 Feb 2011 03:35:20 GMT  
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> Oren Laadan [oren@cs.columbia.edu] wrote:  
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> But if that is true, I need to investigate why Louis Rilling was getting  
> the crash in Jun 2010 - which he tried to fix here:  
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> <http://lkml.org/lkml/2010/6/16/295>

I see. So basically there is a kernel bug that can be potentially exposed by the c/r code. Therefore, we need to fix the kernel bug... (and until such a fix makes it to mainline, we'll add it as part of the linux-cr patchset).

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> Even if we are not currently not getting the crash, I think user-space  
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> Eg: if ghost tasks are pushed into a child pid namespace (by intentionally  
> setting ->piddepth in usercr/restart.c), we can have a situation where the  
> ghost task exits silently, the parent (i.e container-init can be left hanging).

I don't quite understand what you mean here. Basically, the ghost tasks are only alive during restart and are gone when the restart completes. Therefore they cannot affect whether the init task of the new pidns will hang or terminate -- that init task has no knowledge of ghost tasks.

Let's consider the two possible scenarios:

- (1) container restart (that includes the container init)
- (2) subtree restart in a new pidns (that does not include the init task, and instead user-cr provides an init process to hold the new pidns alive).

Case 1: the (restarted) init task was part of the checkpoint. Typically it would "wait()" in a loop for children until it gets ECHILD and then exits (the container). Ghost tasks are not a factor here.

Case 2: the (injected) init task was not part of the checkpoint. It does the same as the typical init in case 1: loop until wait() says no more children, then exits. In this case, there will be at least one child of

that init task, because at least one task was restarted ... Typically, when that child exits, our injected init task will exit. Again, ghost tasks do not participate.

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> terminated, it will take the pid namespace down. But some userspace  
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So I guess I don't quite understand the concern. Can you describe a concrete example ?

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Containers mailing list  
Containers@lists.linux-foundation.org

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Subject: Re: [PATCH][usercr]: Ghost tasks must be detached

Posted by [Louis Rilling](#) on Wed, 09 Feb 2011 12:01:00 GMT

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> Author: Oleg Nesterov <oleg@redhat.com>

> Date: Thu Dec 17 15:27:15 2009 -0800

I don't think that this introduced the bug. The bug triggers with EXIT\_DEAD tasks, for which wait() must ignore (see below). So, the bug looks still there in 2.6.37.

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> the crash in Jun 2010 - which he tried to fix here:

>

> <http://lkml.org/lkml/2010/6/16/295>

I was getting the crash on Kerrighed, which heavily patches the 2.6.30 kernel. I could reproduce it on vanilla Linux of the moment (2.6.35-rc3), but only after introducing artificial delays in release\_task().

IIRC, what triggers the crash is some exiting detached task in the

pid\_namespace, which goes EXIT\_DEAD, and as such cannot be reaped by zap\_pid\_ns\_processes()->sys\_wait4(). So with some odd timing, the detached task can call proc\_flush\_task() after container init does, which triggers the proc\_mnt crash.

Container init                      Some detached task in the ctr

```
                                exit_notify()
                                ->exit_state = EXIT_DEAD
exit_notify()
forget_original_parent()
find_new_reaper()
zap_pid_ns_processes()
sys_wait4()
/* cannot reap EXIT_DEAD tasks */
/* reparents EXIT_DEAD tasks to global init */
```

Container reaper

```
release_task()
proc_flush_task()
pid_ns_release_proc()
                                release_task()
                                proc_flush_task()
                                proc_flush_task_mnt()
                                KABOOM
```

Thanks,

Louis

```
>
> Even if we are not currently not getting the crash, I think user-space
> actions can result in the container-init being unable to forcibly kill
> all its children and exit.
>
> Eg: if ghost tasks are pushed into a child pid namespace (by intentionally
> setting ->piddepth in usercr/restart.c), we can have a situation where the
> ghost task exits silently, the parent (i.e container-init can be left hanging).
>
> It can be argued that the incorrect changes in usercr code result in the
> application hang.
>
> But pid namespace is supposed to guarantee that if a container-init is
> terminated, it will take the pid namespace down. But some userspace
> actions can result in kill -9 of container-init leaving the container-init
> hung forever.
>
> | >
> | > One fix I was watching for was Eric Biederman's
```

> | >  
> | > <http://lkml.org/lkml/2010/7/12/213>  
> | >  
> | > which AFAICT has not been merged yet.  
> |  
> | If we need it and it isn't in mainline (any reason why ?) then  
> | we can just add it to our linux-cr tree, as a preparatory patch.  
> |  
> | >  
> | > Was there another change to 2.6.37 that would prevent the crash ?  
> |  
> | I don't know whether \*that\* crash still happens in 2.6.37 -  
> | because I still didn't test it with that kernel line back.  
> | (Actually, I never experienced that crash here even with  
> | earlier kernels).  
>  
> Yes, it needed some "accidental" usercr change to expose the crash :-)  
>  
> (I will try to send a patch to existing usercr and a test case to repro  
> this problem)  
>  
>  
> \_\_\_\_\_  
> Containers mailing list  
> Containers@lists.linux-foundation.org  
> <https://lists.linux-foundation.org/mailman/listinfo/containers>

--

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Containers mailing list  
Containers@lists.linux-foundation.org  
<https://lists.linux-foundation.org/mailman/listinfo/containers>

---

Subject: Re: [PATCH][usercr]: Ghost tasks must be detached  
Posted by [Oren Laadan](#) on Wed, 09 Feb 2011 12:18:49 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

On 02/09/2011 07:01 AM, Louis Rilling wrote:  
> On 08/02/11 18:09 -0800, Sukadev Bhattiprolu wrote:  
>> Oren Laadan [orenl@cs.columbia.edu] wrote:  
>> |  
>> |  
>> | On 02/05/2011 04:40 PM, Sukadev Bhattiprolu wrote:



```

>> | > Oren Laadan [orenl@cs.columbia.edu] wrote:
>> | > | Suka,
>> | > |
>> | > | This patch - and the corresponding kernel patch - are wrong
>> | >
>> | > Ah, I see that now.
>> | >
>> | > But am not sure about the kernel part though. We were getting a crash
>> | > reliably (with older kernels) because of the ->exit_signal = -1 in
>> | > do_ghost_task().
>> |
>> | Are we still getting it with 2.6.37 ?
>>
>> I am not currently getting the crash on 2.6.37 - I thought it was due to
>> the following commit which removed the check for task_detached() in
>> do_wait_thread().
>>
>> commit 9cd80bbb07fcd6d4d037fad4297496d3b132ac6b
>> Author: Oleg Nesterov <oleg@redhat.com>
>> Date: Thu Dec 17 15:27:15 2009 -0800
>
> I don't think that this introduced the bug. The bug triggers with EXIT_DEAD
> tasks, for which wait() must ignore (see below). So, the bug looks still there
> in 2.6.37.
>
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>> But if that is true, I need to investigate why Louis Rilling was getting
>> the crash in Jun 2010 - which he tried to fix here:
>>
>> http://lkml.org/lkml/2010/6/16/295
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> I was getting the crash on Kerrighed, which heavily patches the 2.6.30 kernel.
> I could reproduce it on vanilla Linux of the moment (2.6.35-rc3), but
> only after introducing artificial delays in release_task().
>
> IIRC, what triggers the crash is some exiting detached task in the
> pid_namespace, which goes EXIT_DEAD, and as such cannot be reaped by
> zap_pid_ns_processes()->sys_wait4(). So with some odd timing, the detached
> task can call proc_flush_task() after container init does, which triggers the
> proc_mnt crash.
>
> Container init                Some detached task in the ctrn
>                                exit_notify()
>                                ->exit_state = EXIT_DEAD
> exit_notify()
> forget_original_parent()
> find_new_reaper()
> zap_pid_ns_processes()

```

```

> sys_wait4()
> /* cannot reap EXIT_DEAD tasks */
> /* reparents EXIT_DEAD tasks to global init */
>
> Container reaper
> release_task()
> proc_flush_task()
> pid_ns_release_proc()
>
>         release_task()
>         proc_flush_task()
>         proc_flush_task_mnt()
>         KABOOM

```

Louis, thanks for the explanation, and two follow-up questions:

1) Is there a patch circulating for this ? or even better, on the way to mainline ?

2) Would it suffice if the c/r code ensures that the init never exits before any EXIT\_DEAD tasks ?

Thanks,

Oren.

---

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Subject: Re: [PATCH][usercr]: Ghost tasks must be detached

Posted by [Louis Rilling](#) on Wed, 09 Feb 2011 12:35:50 GMT

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---

On 09/02/11 7:18 -0500, Oren Laadan wrote:

```

>
>
> On 02/09/2011 07:01 AM, Louis Rilling wrote:
> > On 08/02/11 18:09 -0800, Sukadev Bhattiprolu wrote:
> > > Oren Laadan [orenl@cs.columbia.edu] wrote:
> > > |
> > > |
> > > | On 02/05/2011 04:40 PM, Sukadev Bhattiprolu wrote:
> > > | > Oren Laadan [orenl@cs.columbia.edu] wrote:
> > > | > | Suka,
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> > > | > | This patch - and the corresponding kernel patch - are wrong
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> >> | > Ah, I see that now.
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> >> | > But am not sure about the kernel part though. We were getting a crash
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> >> I am not currently getting the crash on 2.6.37 - I thought it was due to
> >> the following commit which removed the check for task_detached() in
> >> do_wait_thread().
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> >> Author: Oleg Nesterov <oleg@redhat.com>
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> >
> > I don't think that this introduced the bug. The bug triggers with EXIT_DEAD
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> > in 2.6.37.
> >
> >>
> >> But if that is true, I need to investigate why Louis Rilling was getting
> >> the crash in Jun 2010 - which he tried to fix here:
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```

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> > release_task()
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>
> Louis, thanks for the explanation, and two follow-up questions:
>
> 1) Is there a patch circulating for this ? or even better, on the
> way to mainline ?
```

We finally agreed on a patch from Eric, but for some unknown reason, it has not been finalized(?) and routed to mainline yet.

<https://lkml.org/lkml/2010/7/12/213>

```
>
> 2) Would it suffice if the c/r code ensures that the init never
> exits before any EXIT_DEAD tasks ?
```

That's what Eric's patch does: make zap\_pid\_ns\_processes() wait until all other tasks (EXIT\_DEAD or whatever) have passed  
release\_task()->\_\_exit\_signal()->\_\_unhash\_process().

Thanks,

Louis

--

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

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Subject: Re: [PATCH][usercr]: Ghost tasks must be detached  
Posted by [Louis Rilling](#) on Wed, 09 Feb 2011 12:37:37 GMT  
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---

Oops, failed to add Eric properly in Cc...

Louis

On 09/02/11 13:35 +0100, Louis Rilling wrote:

> On 09/02/11 7:18 -0500, Oren Laadan wrote:

> >

> >

> > On 02/09/2011 07:01 AM, Louis Rilling wrote:

> > > On 08/02/11 18:09 -0800, Sukadev Bhattiprolu wrote:

> > > > Oren Laadan [orenl@cs.columbia.edu] wrote:

> > > > |

> > > > |

> > > > | On 02/05/2011 04:40 PM, Sukadev Bhattiprolu wrote:

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> > > > | > |

> > > > | > | This patch - and the corresponding kernel patch - are wrong

> > > > | >

> > > > | > Ah, I see that now.

> > > > | >

> > > > | > But am not sure about the kernel part though. We were getting a crash

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> > > > Author: Oleg Nesterov <oleg@redhat.com>

> > > > Date: Thu Dec 17 15:27:15 2009 -0800

> > > >

> > > > I don't think that this introduced the bug. The bug triggers with EXIT\_DEAD

> > > > tasks, for which wait() must ignore (see below). So, the bug looks still there

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> > > >

> > > >

> > > > But if that is true, I need to investigate why Louis Rilling was getting

> > > > the crash in Jun 2010 - which he tried to fix here:

> > > >

> > > > <http://lkml.org/lkml/2010/6/16/295>

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> > > > I could reproduce it on vanilla Linux of the moment (2.6.35-rc3), but

> > > > only after introducing artificial delays in release\_task().

> > > >

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```
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> > >   ->exit_state = EXIT_DEAD  
> > > exit_notify()  
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> > > find_new_reaper()  
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> > > sys_wait4()  
> > > /* cannot reap EXIT_DEAD tasks */  
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> > >  
> > > Container reaper  
> > > release_task()  
> > > proc_flush_task()  
> > > pid_ns_release_proc()  
> > >                               release_task()  
> > >                               proc_flush_task()  
> > >                               proc_flush_task_mnt()  
> > >                               KABOOM
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> > Louis, thanks for the explanation, and two follow-up questions:

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> > way to mainline ?

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> We finally agreed on a patch from Eric, but for some unknown reason, it has not  
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> <https://lkml.org/lkml/2010/7/12/213>

>  
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> That's what Eric's patch does: make zap\_pid\_ns\_processes() wait until all other  
> tasks (EXIT\_DEAD or whatever) have passed  
> release\_task()->\_\_exit\_signal()->\_\_unhash\_process().

>  
> Thanks,

>  
> Louis

>  
> --

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

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Subject: Re: [PATCH][usercr]: Ghost tasks must be detached  
Posted by [Sukadev Bhattiprolu](#) on Wed, 09 Feb 2011 19:02:16 GMT  
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---

Louis Rilling [Louis.Rilling@kerlabs.com] wrote:

| > | Are we still getting it with 2.6.37 ?  
| >  
| > I am not currently getting the crash on 2.6.37 - I thought it was due to  
| > the following commit which removed the check for task\_detached() in  
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| > Author: Oleg Nesterov <oleg@redhat.com>  
| > Date: Thu Dec 17 15:27:15 2009 -0800  
|  
| I don't think that this introduced the bug. The bug triggers with EXIT\_DEAD  
| tasks, for which wait() must ignore (see below). So, the bug looks still there  
| in 2.6.37.

Sorry, I did not mean to imply that the above commit caused the crash  
you saw in Jun 2010.

I can reproduce a crash with 2.6.32 - where if container-init terminates  
before a detached child, we get a crash when the detached child calls  
proc\_flush\_mnt(). I suspected it was because do\_wait\_thread() skipped  
over detached tasks (in 2.6.32).

The same test case does not crash on 2.6.37 - which includes the above commit.  
The removes the check for detached tasks, my initial guess is that the above

commit, may have contributed to `_fixing_` the crash in 2.6.37.

Sukadev

---

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Subject: Re: [PATCH][usercr]: Ghost tasks must be detached  
Posted by [Sukadev Bhattiprolu](#) on Thu, 10 Feb 2011 02:44:30 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Oren Laadan [orenl@cs.columbia.edu] wrote:

```
|  
|  
| > But if that is true, I need to investigate why Louis Rilling was getting  
| > the crash in Jun 2010 - which he tried to fix here:  
| >  
| > http://lkml.org/lkml/2010/6/16/295  
|  
| I see. So basically there is a kernel bug that can be potentially  
| exposed by the c/r code. Therefore, we need to fix the kernel bug...  
| (and until such a fix makes it to mainline, we'll add it as part of  
| the linux-cr patchset).
```

Yes, but there is more than one problem (at least in our C/R kernel).

There is the bug that Louis Rilling reported and Eric has a fix for.  
Even if we apply Eric's fix to the C/R kernel, we still will have  
another problem if `do_ghost_task()` sets `->exit_signal` to -1.

Consider this in 2.6.37:

Container-init:    Ghost child of container-init

```
    do_ghost_task()  
zap_pid_ns..  
    Send SIGKILL  
  
do_wait()  
- adds self to ->wait_chldexit queue  
- goes through do_wait_thread() - finds that  
  it has at least one child (on tsk->children),  
  but it has not yet exited  
- so waits for the child to exit  
  wakes up for SIGKILL  
->exit_signal = -1
```



do\_exit()

Note that exit\_notify() does not notify parent when the ghost process exits, because ->exit\_signal is -1.

So you may ask how did the container-init have a ghost child. That was due to a bug in usercr :-).

But my point is such a userspace bug can leave the above container init unkillable.

Note that this does not happen with normal threads which set ->exit\_signal to -1 . That is because of the following two pieces of code in copy\_process():

```
/* ok, now we should be set up.. */
p->exit_signal = (clone_flags & CLONE_THREAD) ? -1 : (clone_flags & CSIGNAL);
```

and

```
/* CLONE_PARENT re-uses the old parent */
if (clone_flags & (CLONE_PARENT|CLONE_THREAD)) {
    p->real_parent = current->real_parent;
    p->parent_exec_id = current->parent_exec_id;
```

With this our container-init above will not have any children to wait for in do\_wait\_thread().

Sukadev

---

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

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---

Subject: Re: [PATCH][usercr]: Ghost tasks must be detached  
Posted by [Oren Laadan](#) on Thu, 10 Feb 2011 03:53:56 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

On 02/09/2011 09:44 PM, Sukadev Bhattiprolu wrote:

> Oren Laadan [orenl@cs.columbia.edu] wrote:

> |

> |

> | > But if that is true, I need to investigate why Louis Rilling was getting

> | > the crash in Jun 2010 - which he tried to fix here:

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> | > <http://lkml.org/lkml/2010/6/16/295>

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```

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> Even if we apply Eric's fix to the C/R kernel, we still will have
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> Container-init:   Ghost child of container-init
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>   Send SIGKILL
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>   do_wait()
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>     it has at least one child (on tsk->children),
>     but it has not yet exited
>   - so waits for the child to exit
>     wakes up for SIGKILL
>   ->exit_signal = -1
>   do_exit()
>
> Note that exit_notify() does not notify parent when the ghost process
> exits, because ->exit_signal is -1.

```

I see.. nice catch :)

To address this, initially I thought that we could make ghosts take the tasklist\_lock (write) when they change their ->exit\_signal.

But that's not enough because the parent may already be blocked in wait (so it's too late). Therefore, we also need to have ghosts wake-up their parent through \_\_wake\_up\_parent().

so something like:

```

void ghost_auto_reapable()
{
    write_lock(&tasklist_lock);
    current->exit_signal = -1;
    __wake_up_sync_key(current, current->parent);
    write_unlock(&tasklist_lock);
}

```

}

If the parent wasn't at all waiting for us, no harm done...

>  
> So you may ask how did the container-init have a ghost child. That was  
> due to a bug in usercr :-).

You don't need a bug: the ghost flag is used for both ghost and dead tasks (the former used to instantiate specific pids, the latter to make other tasks orphans). So restarting a container that had orphan tasks is guaranteed to do this.

Oren.

>  
> But my point is such a userspace bug can leave the above container init  
> unkillable.  
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> Note that this does not happen with normal threads which set ->exit\_signal  
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> /\* ok, now we should be set up.. \*/  
> p->exit\_signal = (clone\_flags & CLONE\_THREAD) ? -1 : (clone\_flags & CSIGNAL);  
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> /\* CLONE\_PARENT re-uses the old parent \*/  
> if (clone\_flags & (CLONE\_PARENT|CLONE\_THREAD)) {  
> p->real\_parent = current->real\_parent;  
> p->parent\_exec\_id = current->parent\_exec\_id;  
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> With this our container-init above will not have any children to wait  
> for in do\_wait\_thread().  
>  
> Sukadev  
>

---

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

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Subject: Re: [PATCH][usercr]: Ghost tasks must be detached  
Posted by [Sukadev Bhattiprolu](#) on Thu, 10 Feb 2011 06:17:30 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Oren Laadan [orenl@cs.columbia.edu] wrote:

| To address this, initially I thought that we could make ghosts take  
| the tasklist\_lock (write) when they change their ->exit\_signal.

| But that's not enough because the parent may already be blocked in  
| wait (so it's too late). Therefore, we also need to have ghosts  
| wake-up their parent through \_\_wake\_up\_parent().

| so something like:

```
| void ghost_auto_reapable()  
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|   write_lock(&tasklist_lock);  
|   current->exit_signal = -1;  
|   __wake_up_sync_key(current, current->parent);  
|   write_unlock(&tasklist_lock);
```

You meant \_\_wake\_up\_parent() here I guess.

But if we do this in do\_ghost\_task(), the parent could wakeup, find  
that it still has a live child (this ghost) and go back to sleep before  
the ghost becomes EXIT\_DEAD right ?

If so, we would still have the problem ?

i.e we must stop being a child of the cinit for it to not wait for us.

Or we might need to detect that the pidns is going away, so signalling  
the parent won't cause any harm. But that is racy too :-(

| }

| If the parent wasn't at all waiting for us, no harm done...

| >

| > So you may ask how did the container-init have a ghost child. That was  
| > due to a bug in usercr :-).

| You don't need a bug: the ghost flag is used for both ghost and dead  
| tasks (the former used to instantiate specific pids, the latter to  
| make other tasks orphans). So restarting a container that had orphan  
| tasks is guaranteed to do this.

Ah, that's a good point.

---

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Subject: Re: [PATCH][usercr]: Ghost tasks must be detached  
Posted by [Louis Rilling](#) on Thu, 10 Feb 2011 10:23:12 GMT  
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---

On 09/02/11 11:02 -0800, Sukadev Bhattiprolu wrote:

> Louis Rilling [Louis.Rilling@kerlabs.com] wrote:  
> | > | Are we still getting it with 2.6.37 ?  
> | >  
> | > I am not currently getting the crash on 2.6.37 - I thought it was due to  
> | > the following commit which removed the check for task\_detached() in  
> | > do\_wait\_thread().  
> | >  
> | > commit 9cd80bbb07fcd6d4d037fad4297496d3b132ac6b  
> | > Author: Oleg Nesterov <oleg@redhat.com>  
> | > Date: Thu Dec 17 15:27:15 2009 -0800  
> |  
> | I don't think that this introduced the bug. The bug triggers with EXIT\_DEAD  
> | tasks, for which wait() must ignore (see below). So, the bug looks still there  
> | in 2.6.37.  
>  
> Sorry, I did not mean to imply that the above commit caused the crash  
> you saw in Jun 2010.  
>  
> I can reproduce a crash with 2.6.32 - where if container-init terminates  
> before a detached child, we get a crash when the detached child calls  
> proc\_flush\_mnt(). I suspected it was because do\_wait\_thread() skipped  
> over detached tasks (in 2.6.32).  
>  
> The same test case does not crash on 2.6.37 - which includes the above commit.  
> The removes the check for detached tasks, my initial guess is that the above  
> commit, may have contributed to \_fixing\_ the crash in 2.6.37.

Hm, I don't see how this commit changed things for detached tasks, unless ptrace  
is involved. Detached tasks go atomically  
from ->exit\_state == 0 to ->exit\_state == EXIT\_DEAD in exit\_notify(),  
because tracehook\_notify\_death() returns DEATH\_REAP for all not ptraced detached  
tasks.

What do you think has changed precisely?

Thanks,

Louis

--

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Subject: Re: [PATCH][usercr]: Ghost tasks must be detached  
Posted by [Oren Laadan](#) on Thu, 10 Feb 2011 14:56:28 GMT  
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---

On 02/10/2011 01:17 AM, Sukadev Bhattiprolu wrote:

> Oren Laadan [orenl@cs.columbia.edu] wrote:

> |  
> | To address this, initially I thought that we could make ghosts take  
> | the tasklist\_lock (write) when they change their ->exit\_signal.  
> |  
> | But that's not enough because the parent may already be blocked in  
> | wait (so it's too late). Therefore, we also need to have ghosts  
> | wake-up their parent through \_\_wake\_up\_parent().  
> |  
> | so something like:  
> |  
> | void ghost\_auto\_reapable()  
> | {  
> | write\_lock(&tasklist\_lock);  
> | current->exit\_signal = -1;  
> | \_\_wake\_up\_sync\_key(current, current->parent);  
> | write\_unlock(&tasklist\_lock);  
> |  
> |  
> You meant \_\_wake\_up\_parent() here I guess.

Yes...

>  
> But if we do this in do\_ghost\_task(), the parent could wakeup, find  
> that it still has a live child (this ghost) and go back to sleep before  
> the ghost becomes EXIT\_DEAD right ?

You are right again...

>  
> If so, we would still have the problem ?  
>  
> i.e we must stop being a child of the cinit for it to not wait for us.  
> Or we might need to detect that the pidns is going away, so signalling  
> the parent won't cause any harm. But that is racy too :-(

So instead, we can call `__wake_up_parent()` from `exit_checkpoint()` if indeed we are already reaped there:

```
exit_checkpoint()
{
    ...
    if (current->flags & PF_RESTARTING) {
        ...
        /* either zombie or reaped ghost/dead */
        if (current->exit_state == EXIT_DEAD)
            __wake_up_parent(...); /* probably need lock */
        ...
    }
    ...
}
```

and to avoid userspace misuse, disallow non-thread-group-leader ghosts.

?

Oren.

```
>
> | }
> |
> | If the parent wasn't at all waiting for us, no harm done...
> |
> | >
> | > So you may ask how did the container-init have a ghost child. That was
> | > due to a bug in usercr :-).
> |
> | You don't need a bug: the ghost flag is used for both ghost and dead
> | tasks (the former used to instantiate specific pids, the latter to
> | make other tasks orphans). So restarting a container that had orphan
> | tasks is guaranteed to do this.
>
> Ah, thats a good point.
>
```

---

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Subject: Re: [PATCH][usercr]: Ghost tasks must be detached  
Posted by [Sukadev Bhattiprolu](#) on Thu, 10 Feb 2011 17:42:18 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Oren Laadan [orenl@cs.columbia.edu] wrote:

| On 02/10/2011 01:17 AM, Sukadev Bhattiprolu wrote:

| > Oren Laadan [orenl@cs.columbia.edu] wrote:

| > |

| > | To address this, initially I thought that we could make ghosts take  
| > | the tasklist\_lock (write) when they change their ->exit\_signal.

| > |

| > | But that's not enough because the parent may already be blocked in  
| > | wait (so it's too late). Therefore, we also need to have ghosts  
| > | wake-up their parent through \_\_wake\_up\_parent().

| > |

| > | so something like:

| > |

| > | void ghost\_auto\_reapable()

| > | {

| > | write\_lock(&tasklist\_lock);

| > | current->exit\_signal = -1;

| > | \_\_wake\_up\_sync\_key(current, current->parent);

| > | write\_unlock(&tasklist\_lock);

| > |

| > | You meant \_\_wake\_up\_parent() here I guess.

Hmm, can we have the above wakeup and, like in 2.6.32, have do\_wait\_thread()  
skip over detached tasks ? Since we set ->exit\_signal above,  
do\_wait\_thread() should not wait for us.

I will go through Oleg's patch earlier again. But my guess, without C/R  
do\_wait\_thread() had no reason to have a detached child in do\_wait\_thread()  
which is probably why Oleg removed it.

I will look at the exit\_checkpoint() change you mention later today.

Sukadev

---

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Subject: Re: [PATCH][usercr]: Ghost tasks must be detached  
Posted by [Sukadev Bhattiprolu](#) on Thu, 10 Feb 2011 17:54:09 GMT  
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---

Louis Rilling [Louis.Rilling@kerlabs.com] wrote:

| > I can reproduce a crash with 2.6.32 - where if container-init terminates

| > before a detached child, we get a crash when the detached child calls



| > proc\_flush\_mnt(). I suspected it was because do\_wait\_thread() skipped  
 | > over detached tasks (in 2.6.32).  
 | >  
 | > The same test case does not crash on 2.6.37 - which includes the above commit.  
 | > The removes the check for detached tasks, my initial guess is that the above  
 | > commit, may have contributed to \_fixing\_ the crash in 2.6.37.  
 |  
 | Hm, I don't see how this commit changed things for detached tasks, unless ptrace  
 | is involved. Detached tasks go atomically  
 | from ->exit\_state == 0 to ->exit\_state == EXIT\_DEAD in exit\_notify(),  
 | because tracehook\_notify\_death() returns DEATH\_REAP for all not ptraced detached  
 | tasks.  
 |  
 | What do you think has changed precisely?

Well, one of the changes in the commit is this:

```
@@ -1551,14 +1554,9 @@ static int do_wait_thread(struct wait_opts *wo, struct task_struct *tsk)
    struct task_struct *p;

    list_for_each_entry(p, &tsk->children, sibling) {
-        /*
-         * Do not consider detached threads.
-         */
-        if (!task_detached(p)) {
-            int ret = wait_consider_task(wo, 0, p);
-            if (ret)
-                return ret;
-        }
+        int ret = wait_consider_task(wo, 0, p);
+        if (ret)
+            return ret;
    }

    return 0;
```

---

If it was a detached task, do\_wait\_thread() skipped over it. In the C/R kernel we were setting the ->exit\_signal to -1 for a "ghost" process. I assumed that the container-init exited without waiting for the "ghost" and we were getting the crash in proc\_flush\_mnt() when the ghost exited.

Sukadev

---

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Subject: Re: [PATCH][usercr]: Ghost tasks must be detached

Posted by [Louis Rilling](#) on Thu, 10 Feb 2011 18:04:33 GMT

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---

On 10/02/11 9:54 -0800, Sukadev Bhattiprolu wrote:

> Louis Rilling [Louis.Rilling@kerlabs.com] wrote:

> | > I can reproduce a crash with 2.6.32 - where if container-init terminates

> | > before a detached child, we get a crash when the detached child calls

> | > proc\_flush\_mnt(). I suspected it was because do\_wait\_thread() skipped

> | > over detached tasks (in 2.6.32).

> | >

> | > The same test case does not crash on 2.6.37 - which includes the above commit.

> | > The removes the check for detached tasks, my initial guess is that the above

> | > commit, may have contributed to \_fixing\_ the crash in 2.6.37.

> |

> | Hm, I don't see how this commit changed things for detached tasks, unless ptrace

> | is involved. Detached tasks go atomically

> | from ->exit\_state == 0 to ->exit\_state == EXIT\_DEAD in exit\_notify(),

> | because tracehook\_notify\_death() returns DEATH\_REAP for all not ptraced detached

> | tasks.

> |

> | What do you think has changed precisely?

>

> Well, one of the changes in the commit is this:

>

> @@ -1551,14 +1554,9 @@ static int do\_wait\_thread(struct wait\_opts \*wo, struct task\_struct  
\*tsk)

> struct task\_struct \*p;

>

> list\_for\_each\_entry(p, &tsk->children, sibling) {

> - /\*

> - \* Do not consider detached threads.

> - \*/

> - if (!task\_detached(p)) {

> - int ret = wait\_consider\_task(wo, 0, p);

> - if (ret)

> - return ret;

> - }

> + int ret = wait\_consider\_task(wo, 0, p);

> + if (ret)

> + return ret;

> }

>

> return 0;

>

> ---

> If it was a detached task, do\_wait\_thread() skipped over it. In the C/R

> kernel we were setting the ->exit\_signal to -1 for a "ghost" process.

> I assumed that the container-init exited without waiting for the "ghost"

> and we were getting the crash in proc\_flush\_mnt() when the ghost exited.

The point is that wait\_consider\_task() skips detached tasks as soon as they are not ptraced. So removing the check in do\_wait\_thread() should not have changed the behavior. Am I missing something?

Thanks,

Louis

--

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Subject: Re: [PATCH][usercr]: Ghost tasks must be detached  
Posted by [Sukadev Bhattiprolu](#) on Thu, 10 Feb 2011 22:31:59 GMT  
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---

Louis Rilling [Louis.Rilling@kerlabs.com] wrote:  
| On 10/02/11 9:54 -0800, Sukadev Bhattiprolu wrote:  
| > Louis Rilling [Louis.Rilling@kerlabs.com] wrote:

| > If it was a detached task, do\_wait\_thread() skipped over it. In the C/R  
| > kernel we were setting the ->exit\_signal to -1 for a "ghost" process.  
| > I assumed that the container-init exited without waiting for the "ghost"  
| > and we were getting the crash in proc\_flush\_mnt() when the ghost exited.

| The point is that wait\_consider\_task() skips detached tasks as soon as they are  
| not ptraced. So removing the check in do\_wait\_thread() should not have changed  
| the behavior. Am I missing something?

No. I was :-). You are right that it did not change the behavior. I still need to investigate why the crash does not occur on 2.6.37 even without Eric's fix.

Sukadev

---

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Subject: Re: [PATCH][usercr]: Ghost tasks must be detached  
Posted by [Sukadev Bhattiprolu](#) on Wed, 16 Feb 2011 20:10:20 GMT  
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---

Oren Laadan [orenl@cs.columbia.edu] wrote:

```
| So instead, we can call __wake_up_parent() from exit_checkpoint()
| if indeed we are already reaped there:
|
| exit_checkpoint()
| {
| ...
| if (current->flags & PF_RESTARTING) {
| ...
| /* either zombie or reaped ghost/dead */
| if (current->exit_state = EXIT_DEAD)
|   __wake_up_parent(...); /* probably need lock */
| ...
| }
| ...
| }
|
| and to avoid userspace misuse, disallow non-thread-group-leader ghosts.
|
| ?
```

Well, I don't see a problem as such, but notice one inconsistency.

By the time the ghost task calls `exit_checkpoint()` it would have gone through `release_task()/__exit_signal()/__unhash_process()` so it is no longer on the parent's `->children` list. We will be accessing the task's `->parent` pointer after this.

I am looking to see if anything prevents the parent from itself going through `release_task()`, after the child does the `release_task()` but before the child does the `exit_checkpoint()`.

In 2.6.38, I don't see specifically where a task's `->parent` pointer is invalidated. The `task->parent` and `task->parent->signal` are freed in the final `__put_task_struct()`. So its probably safe to access them, even if the parent itself is exiting and has gone through `release_task()`.

But in 2.6.32 i.e RHEL5, `tsk->signal` is set to `NULL` in `__exit_signal()`. So, I am trying to rule out the following scenario:

Child (may not be a ghost)    Parent

```
-----
- exit_notify(): is EXIT_DEAD
- release_task():
- drops task_list_lock
```

- itself proceeds to exit.
- enters `release_task()`
- sets `own->signal = NULL`  
(in 2.6.32, `__exit_signal()`)

- enters `exit_checkpoint()`
- `__wake_up_parent()`  
access `parents->signal NULL ptr`

Not sure if holding `task_list_lock` here is needed or will help.

Sukadev

---

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Subject: Re: [PATCH][usercr]: Ghost tasks must be detached

Posted by [Louis Rilling](#) on Thu, 17 Feb 2011 15:21:16 GMT

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On 16/02/11 12:10 -0800, Sukadev Bhattiprolu wrote:

> Oren Laadan [orenl@cs.columbia.edu] wrote:

> | So instead, we can call `__wake_up_parent()` from `exit_checkpoint()`

> | if indeed we are already reaped there:

> |

> | `exit_checkpoint()`

> | {

> | ...

> | if (`current->flags & PF_RESTARTING`) {

> | ...

> | /\* either zombie or reaped ghost/dead \*/

> | if (`current->exit_state == EXIT_DEAD`)

> | `__wake_up_parent(...);` /\* probably need lock \*/

> | ...

> | }

> | ...

> | }

> |

> | and to avoid userspace misuse, disallow non-thread-group-leader ghosts.

> |

> | ?

>

> Well, I don't see a problem as such, but notice one inconsistency.

>

> By the time the ghost task calls `exit_checkpoint()` it would have

> gone through `release_task()/__exit_signal()/__unhash_process()` so

> it is no longer on the parent's ->children list. We will be accessing  
> the task's ->parent pointer after this.  
>  
> I am looking to see if anything prevents the parent from itself going  
> through release\_task(), after the child does the release\_task() but before  
> the child does the exit\_checkpoint().  
>  
> In 2.6.38, I don't see specifically where a task's ->parent pointer is  
> invalidated. The task->parent and task->parent->signal are freed in the  
> final \_\_put\_task\_struct(). So its probably safe to access them, even if the  
> parent itself is exiting and has gone through release\_task().  
>  
> But in 2.6.32 i.e RHEL5, tsk->signal is set to NULL in \_\_exit\_signal().  
> So, I am trying to rule out the following scenario:  
>  
> Child (may not be a ghost)    Parent  
> -----                                -----  
> - exit\_notify(): is EXIT\_DEAD  
> - release\_task():  
>    - drops task\_list\_lock  
>      - itself proceeds to exit.  
>      - enters release\_task()  
>      - sets own->signal = NULL  
>        (in 2.6.32, \_\_exit\_signal())  
>  
> - enters exit\_checkpoint()  
> - \_\_wake\_up\_parent()  
> access parents->signal NULL ptr  
>  
> Not sure if holding task\_list\_lock here is needed or will help.

Giving my 2 cents since I've been Cc'ed.

AFAICS, holding tasklist\_lock prevents \_\_exit\_signal() from setting  
parent->signal to NULL in your back. So something like this should be safe:

```
read_lock(&tasklist_lock);
if (current->parent->signal)
    __wake_up_parent(...);
read_unlock(&tasklist_lock);
```

I haven't looked at the context, but of course this also requires that some  
get\_task\_struct() on current->parent has been done somewhere else before current  
has passed \_\_exit\_signal().

By the way, instead of checking current->parent->signal,  
current->parent->exit\_state would look cleaner to me. current->parent is not  
supposed to wait on ->wait\_chldexit after calling do\_exit(), right?

Louis

--

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Subject: Re: [PATCH][usercr]: Ghost tasks must be detached  
Posted by [Sukadev Bhattiprolu](#) on Mon, 21 Feb 2011 20:40:58 GMT  
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---

Louis Rilling [[Louis.Rilling@kerlabs.com](mailto:Louis.Rilling@kerlabs.com)] wrote:  
| > But in 2.6.32 i.e RHEL5, task->signal is set to NULL in \_\_exit\_signal().  
| > So, I am trying to rule out the following scenario:  
| >  
| > Child (may not be a ghost) Parent  
| > -----  
| > - exit\_notify(): is EXIT\_DEAD  
| > - release\_task():  
| > - drops task\_list\_lock  
| > - itself proceeds to exit.  
| > - enters release\_task()  
| > - sets own->signal = NULL  
| > (in 2.6.32, \_\_exit\_signal())  
| >  
| > - enters exit\_checkpoint()  
| > - \_\_wake\_up\_parent()  
| > access parents->signal NULL ptr  
| >  
| > Not sure if holding task\_list\_lock here is needed or will help.  
|  
| Giving my 2 cents since I've been Cc'ed.

Thanks, appreciate the input :-)

|  
| AFAICS, holding tasklist\_lock prevents \_\_exit\_signal() from setting  
| parent->signal to NULL in your back. So something like this should be safe:  
|  
| read\_lock(&tasklist\_lock);

```
| if (current->parent->signal)
|   __wake_up_parent(...);
| read_unlock(&tasklist_lock);
```

Yes, checking the parent->signal with task\_list\_lock would work.

```
|
| I haven't looked at the context, but of course this also requires that some
| get_task_struct() on current->parent has been done somewhere else before current
| has passed __exit_signal().
```

```
| By the way, instead of checking current->parent->signal,
| current->parent->exit_state would look cleaner to me. current->parent is not
| supposed to wait on ->wait_chldexit after calling do_exit(), right?
```

~~~~~

Hmm, do you mean exit\_notify() here ?

If so, yes checking the exit\_state is cleaner.

If the parent's exit\_state is set, then it can't be waiting for the ghost, so no need to wake\_up\_parent(). If exit state is not set, then it is safe to wake\_up\_parent() (parent->signal would not yet have been cleared for instance).

The one case where a parent in do\_exit() could still wait for the child is the container-init which waits on wait\_chldexit in do\_exit() -> zap\_pid\_ns\_processes() - but even in that case the \_\_wake\_up\_parent() call would be safe.

Sukadev

---

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Subject: Re: [PATCH][usercr]: Ghost tasks must be detached  
Posted by [Louis Rilling](#) on Tue, 22 Feb 2011 10:28:41 GMT  
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On 21/02/11 12:40 -0800, Sukadev Bhattiprolu wrote:  
> Louis Rilling [Louis.Rilling@kerlabs.com] wrote:  
> | > But in 2.6.32 i.e RHEL5, tsk->signal is set to NULL in \_\_exit\_signal().  
> | > So, I am trying to rule out the following scenario:  
> | >  
> | > Child (may not be a ghost) Parent  
> | > -----





>  
> If so, yes checking the exit\_state is cleaner.  
>  
> If the parent's exit\_state is set, then it can't be waiting for the ghost,  
> so no need to wake\_up\_parent(). If exit state is not set, then it is safe  
> to wake\_up\_parent() (parent->signal would not yet have been cleared for  
> instance).  
>  
> The one case where a parent in do\_exit() could still wait for the child is  
> the container-init which waits on wait\_chldexit in do\_exit() ->  
> zap\_pid\_ns\_processes() - but even in that case the \_\_wake\_up\_parent()  
> call would be safe.  
>  
> Sukadev  
> \_\_\_\_\_  
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> Containers@lists.linux-foundation.org  
> <https://lists.linux-foundation.org/mailman/listinfo/containers>

--

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