All of the following occurred exactly the same on two distinct bare metal boxes:

- At the start we were running OpenVZ release 7.0.8 with the factory kernel version vzkernel-3.10.0-862.20.2.vz7.73.27.x86_64 (note that it was *only* the kernel on the factory version -- everything else was on release)
- We updated to 7.0.9 release version with matching release kernel 3.10.0-862.20.2.vz7.73.29 then reboot the machine
- System reboots successfully
- `journalctl --verify` running at 100% CPU and /var/log/messages had nothing new in it since the shutdown part of the reboot. (Presumably because of the in-progress verification)
- Within approximately 7-10 minutes the whole server froze and reboots would bring it back to the same state as in the above step
- On a reboot, and within that 7-10 minute grace period before freezing, we killed the journalctl --verify process on both machines, and the bare metal nodes remained stable -- no more freeze.

My guess would be that either:

1. journalctl's verify process has a bug in it that causes the freeze, or
2. The lack of logging that occurs while journalctl --verify is running causes something else on the box to freak out and lock up

We're curious to see if anyone else has experienced a similar issue with journalctl --verify causing hardware lock-ups after a reboot (or update and reboot).

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Subject: Re: Update to 7.0.9 release and journalctl verify system freeze
Posted by khorenko on Mon, 13 May 2019 10:36:37 GMT

We did not face this problem and for investigation we need a memory dump when the node is frozen.
Please crash it with "echo c > /proc/sysrq-trigger" or with Alt+SysRQ+c and file a bug with the dump at http://bugs.openvz.org

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Subject: Re: Update to 7.0.9 release and journalctl verify system freeze
Posted by bkbbkb on Mon, 20 May 2019 07:07:57 GMT

Please update to systemd-219-63.vl7.6
journalctl --verify is fixed there.
That's great, thank you!

bkbbkb wrote on Mon, 20 May 2019 04:07
Please update to systemd-219-63.vl7.6
journalctl --verify is fixed there.

Thanks bkbbkb! Updated to 7.0.10 release along with all release packages of vzlinux 7.5 and can confirm this issue is repaired :)