Subject: More on debian hardware node crashes.
Posted by vobiscum on Thu, 01 Jun 2006 00:59:42 GMT
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A month or so ago I posted about the problems that I had been having with my Debian hardware node crashing. Due to the location of the server, I had trouble getting any further debugging information. However, I have now found a way to reliably crash the server.

In one of my virtual servers, I am running postfix 2.1.5 with mailman for a number of mailing lists. Generally, this works, however at the start of the month, mailman sends an individual message to every user on the mailing list, resulting in high load on the mail server. Within a few seconds of doing this, postfix starts spewing out the following error:

Jun 1 05:00:58 wright postfix/smtp[19551]: warning: smtp_connect_addr: socket: No buffer space available
Jun 1 05:00:58 wright postfix/smtp[19551]: socket to mx1.hotmail.com[??I??+]: No buffer space available (port 25)

This message is repeated until the server stops responding. Power cycling the server is the only way to get it back up and running again. The problem is, all the email is still in postfix's queue, and the cycle will start again as soon as postfix fires up. I have been able to work around this issue by setting postfix concurrent connection to a single destination to 1, essentially limiting the number of outgoing connection it makes.

I have tried setting the tcpsndbuf parameter to the following. Which did not help the problem:

tcpsndbuf	17408	233984	5242880	5242880	0

I am running 2.6.16 with the 026test009 patch. Are the some other tcp settings in the hardware node that I need to set. If one of the virtual servers is requesting more tcp send buffers than the hardware node can provide, what happens?

Later on I also noticed the following error in my hardware node:

Jun 1 09:52:59 corbusier kernel: TCP: too many of orphaned sockets
Jun 1 09:52:59 corbusier last message repeated 9 times

Any ideas about why this might be happing would be appreciated.

Ned