Subject: Strange hiccups for new socket connections in Debian Lenny using 2.6.26-2-openvz-amd64
Posted by Pavel Shevaev on Mon, 28 Feb 2011 08:28:37 GMT
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Hi!

On a moderately busy server I've experienced a strange behavior - new socket connections from remote hosts to the server running in VE were established with large delays(3-5 seconds) from time to time. I've noticed this in php-fpm slow logs - mysqli_connect popped very frequently.

At first I thought it was MySQL to blame but it turned not to be the case. I also tested remote connections to Redis and some other daemons - and faced the same problem. Then I thought maybe I had too strict limits for the container but /proc/user_beancounters showed no failcounts. The host machine's dmesg and /var/log/messages also revealed nothing. Just to be on the safe side I set almost unlimited networking sysctl settings for the host server but nothing changed.

I wrote a simple PHP script which measured new connection time delays and run it on the remote server. Here it is:

```
<?php
$last = 0;
while(true) {
 $t1 = microtime(true);
 $link = mysqli_connect('92.x.x.x', 'root', 'xxxxx');
 $ts = microtime(true)-$t1;
 if($ts > 0.5) {
   echo  $ts . "(" . (time()-$last) . ")\n";
   $last = time();
 }
 mysqli_close($link);
 usleep(1000);
}
```

Here's its output after running it about a minute on the remote server:

```
$ php conn.php
5.001708984375(7)
5.0034439563751(6)
4.9977340698242(5)
5.0048727989197(8)
5.0043451786041(6)
5.00546002388(6)
5.0057151317596(14)
```

5.0037190914154(16)
5.0062158107758(8)
5.0030419826508(7)

As you can see connection slow time is almost identical in each case - about 5 seconds(the number in parenthesis shows how much time passed in seconds after the previous hiccup).

I had to do something ASAP with this situation and I started crazy experiments.... First I moved all VE daemons in question to the hardware node, nothing changed. Second, I...changed the kernel back to 2.6.26-2-amd64 and all hiccups are now gone!

I really love OpenVZ and I really want to have it running on the server. What would you recommend doing? Try another distribution with more recent version of OpenVZ kernel?

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Best regards, Pavel