

Re: malloc under linux

Source: http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/C_CPP/comp.lang.c/2007-10/msg00596.html

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 - *Date:* Wed, 03 Oct 2007 12:55:22 -0400
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jacob navia wrote On 10/03/07 12:39,:

Hi

I was working under linux today when I discovered this:

man malloc

<quote>
[snip pages]

BUGS

By default, Linux follows an optimistic memory allocation strategy. This means that when malloc() returns non-NULL there is no guarantee that the memory really is available. This is a really bad bug. In case it turns out that the system is out of memory, one or more processes will be killed by the infamous OOM killer. In case Linux is employed under circumstances where it would be less desirable to suddenly lose some randomly picked processes, and moreover the kernel version is sufficiently recent, one can switch off this overcommitting behavior using a command like
echo 2 > /proc/sys/vm/overcommit_memory
<end quote>

I just can't believe my eyes.

Old news. In fact, it's Question 7.14 in the FAQ.
See also <<http://lwn.net/Articles/104179/>>.

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