

Linux on System z Problem Determination: Real customer cases

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Agenda

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- **Parallel IPL of many guests causes network problems**
- **IPL problems after zipl invocation**
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- **Daily network recoveries**
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- **Closing remarks**

Introduction

- **Problem analysis looks straight forward on the charts but it might have taken weeks to get it done.**
A problem does not necessarily show up on the place of origin
- **The more information is available, the sooner the problem can be solved, because gathering and submitting additional information again and again usually introduces delays.**
- **This presentation can only introduce some tools and how the tools can be used, comprehensive documentation on their capabilities is to be found in the documentation of the corresponding tool.**
- **Do not forget to update your systems**

DASD maintenance halts system (1/4)

- **Configuration:**

- ▶ SLES11 system running under z/VM
- ▶ DASD volumes attached

- **Problem description:**

- ▶ For maintenance, some DASD CHPIDs were set offline
- ▶ System halted

- **Tools used for problem determination:**

- ▶ `dbginfo.sh`

DASD maintenance halts system (2/4)

lscss output:

Device	Subchan.	DevType	CU	Type	Use	PIM	PAM	POM	CHPIDs
0.0.0100	0.0.0000	3390/0c	3990/e9			80	80	ff	e0000000 00000000
0.0.0101	0.0.0001	3390/0c	3990/e9	yes		80	80	ff	e0000000 00000000
0.0.0700	0.0.0002	0000/00	3215/00	yes		80	80	ff	e0000000 00000000
0.0.0592	0.0.0003	3390/0c	3990/e9			80	80	ff	e0000000 00000000
0.0.000c	0.0.0015	0000/00	2540/00			80	80	ff	e0000000 00000000
0.0.000d	0.0.0016	0000/00	2540/00			80	80	ff	e0000000 00000000
0.0.000e	0.0.0017	0000/00	1403/00			80	80	ff	e0000000 00000000
0.0.0190	0.0.0018	3390/0c	3990/e9			80	80	ff	e0000000 00000000
0.0.019d	0.0.0019	3390/0c	3990/e9			80	80	ff	e0000000 00000000

What's interesting?

DASD maintenance halts system (3/4)

lscss output:

Device	Subchan.	DevType	CU	Type	Use	PIM	PAM	POM	CHPIDs
0.0.0100	0.0.0000	3390/0c	3990/e9			80	80	ff	e0000000 00000000
0.0.0101	0.0.0001	3390/0c	3990/e9	yes		80	80	ff	e0000000 00000000
0.0.0700	0.0.0002	0000/00	3215/00	yes		80	80	ff	e0000000 00000000
0.0.0592	0.0.0003	3390/0c	3990/e9			80	80	ff	e0000000 00000000
0.0.000c	0.0.0015	0000/00	2540/00			80	80	ff	e0000000 00000000
0.0.000d	0.0.0016	0000/00	2540/00			80	80	ff	e0000000 00000000
0.0.000e	0.0.0017	0000/00	1403/00			80	80	ff	e0000000 00000000
0.0.0190	0.0.0018	3390/0c	3990/e9			80	80	ff	e0000000 00000000
0.0.019d	0.0.0019	3390/0c	3990/e9			80	80	ff	e0000000 00000000

That's interesting!

DASD maintenance halts system (4/4)

■ **Problem cause:**

- ▶ Devices with no real physical CHPID are “attached” to a physical one
 - Puncher
 - Reader
 - Console
- ▶ When CHPID needs to be “configured off” for maintenance, all attached devices are lost
- ▶ When console is disconnected, system is down

■ **Problem solution:**

- ▶ Check your CHPID assignments before maintenance to prevent outages
- ▶ z/VM working on APAR to pick free CHPID for such devices

Parallel IPL of many guests causes network problems (1/4)

▪ **Configuration:**

- ▶ SLES11 SP1 system running under z/VM
- ▶ A (relative) high number of IFLs per Linux (four in this case)
- ▶ Regular maintenance window where all guests are IPLed at the same time
- ▶ At least two network interfaces configured to layer 3

▪ **Problem description:**

- ▶ When all servers are booted at the same time, some servers cannot bring up all networking interface correctly (one comes up in layer 3, one comes up in layer 2 ↔ conflict with z/VM VSWITCH configuration)
- ▶ Second reboot of problem-servers resolves the situation

▪ **Tools used for problem determination:**

- ▶ `dbginfo.sh`

Parallel IPL of many guests causes network problems (2/4)

- **Looks like an easy catch:**

- ▶ Customer running stock SLES11 SP1 kernel and misses some fixes
- ▶ e.g. one bug “*qeth: wait for recovery finish in open function*” which seems likely
- ▶ Customer upgraded to latest kernel
- ▶ Next maintenance window: problem still occurring

- **Further investigation**

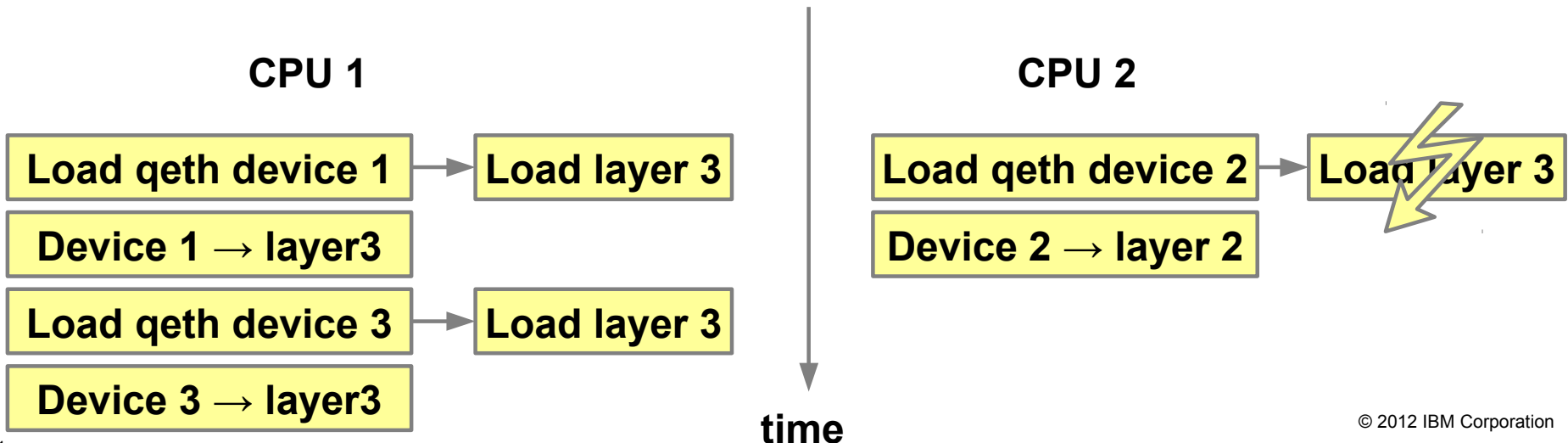
- ▶ Problem only occurs on servers with low priority in z/VM
- ▶ Resource problem, race condition?

Parallel IPL of many guests causes network problems (3/4)

Console output during IPL:

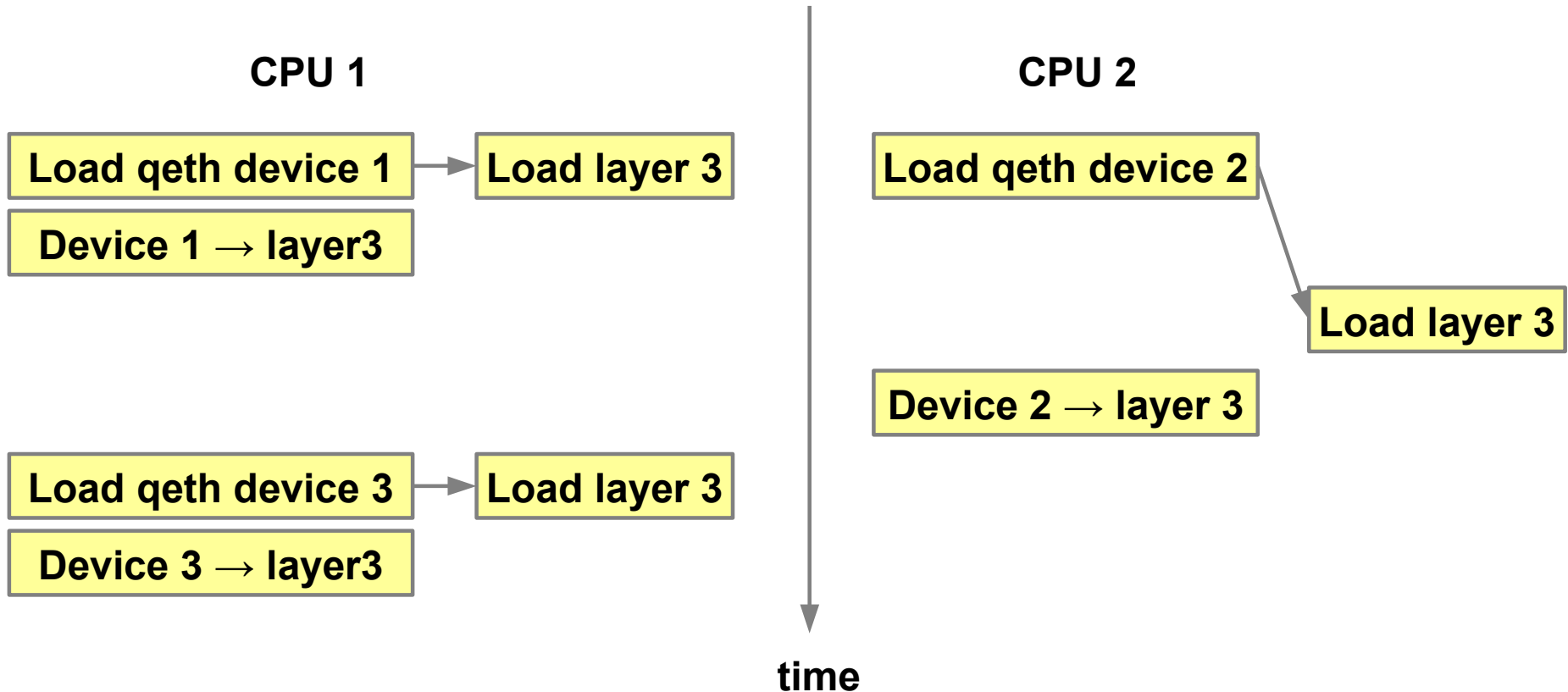
```

qeth.87067b: loading core functions
qeth_l3: module is already loaded
qeth.21a074: 0.0.1400: There is no kernel module to support
discipline 0 0 = layer 3
qeth.2c6def: register layer 3 discipline
qeth.933eb7: register layer 2 discipline
qeth.5cb8a3: 0.0.1400: The qeth device is not configured for the
OSI layer required by z/VM
qeth.3acf0c: 0.0.1400: The qeth device driver failed to recover
an error on the device
  
```



Parallel IPL of many guests causes network problems (4/4)

- **Solution: Introduce Locking in loading of layer 3 module**



- **Kernel update available via Maintweb shortly**

IPL problems after zipl invocation (1/7)

- **Configuration:**

- ▶ SLES11 SP1 system running under native LPAR on a z10
- ▶ Scripted procedure to run “zipl”

- **Problem description:**

- ▶ zipl is called by a script
- ▶ Sometimes error messages are encountered after invocation
- ▶ After those error messages, the system comes up with a wrong kernel or does not come up at all

- **Tools used for problem determination:**

- ▶ Debug output from server (captured with dbginfo.sh and terminal logs)
- ▶ C program to reproduce problem


IPL problems after zipl invocation (2/7)

- 1) change `/proc/cio_ignore` to recognize the target dasd devices.
- 2) set the target dasd devices online by using `chccwdev` command.
- 3) `vgscan`
- 4) set the target VG active by using `vgchange` command.
- 5) mount the root file system
- 6) edit system config files
(`/etc/fstab`, `/etc/udev/rules.d/xxxx`)
- 7) execute `mkinitrd`
- 8) edit `/etc/zipl.conf`
- 9) execute `zipl` command
- 10) `umount`
- 11) deactivate the VG
- 12) set the device offline by using `chccwdev` command

IPL problems after zipl invocation (3/7)

- 1) change /proc/cio_ignore
- 2) make the target dasd device
- 3) vgscan
- 4) mount the root file system
- 5) make the target VG active
- 6) edit system config files (/etc/fstab, /etc/udev/rules.d)
- 7) execute mkinitrd
- 8) edit /etc/zipl.conf
- 9) execute zipl command
- 10) umount
- 11) deactivate the VG
- 12) make the device offline by using chccwdev command

```
# zipl
Using config file ' /etc/zipl.conf
Building bootmap in '/boot/zipl'
Building menu 'menu'
Adding #1: IPL section
'ipl_prod' (default)
Preparing boot device: dasdt (1048).
Done.           (means RC=0, successful)
```



IPL problems after zipl invocation (4/7)

- 1) change /proc/cio_ignore
- 2) make the target dasd d
- 3) vgscan
- 4) mount the root file syst
- 5) make the target VG acti
- 6) edit system config files (/etc/fstab, /etc/udev/r
- 7) execute mkinitrd
- 8) edit /etc/zipl.conf

```
# zipl
Using config file ' /etc/zipl.conf
Building bootmap in '/boot/zipl'
Building menu 'menu'
Adding #1: IPL section
'ipl_prod' (default)
Preparing boot device: dasdt (1048).
Done.           (means RC=0, succesful)
```

But, in syslog:

```
Nov 12 17:12:50 prod_serv zipl: Boot loader written to dasdt (1048) - 5e:340
Nov 12 17:12:55 prod_serv kernel: end_request: I/O error, dev dasdt, sector 8
Nov 12 17:12:55 prod_serv kernel: Buffer I/O error on device dasdt, logical block 1
Nov 12 17:12:55 prod_serv kernel: lost page write due to I/O error on dasdt
Nov 12 17:12:55 prod_serv kernel: end_request: I/O error, dev dasdt, sector 24
Nov 12 17:12:55 prod_serv kernel: Buffer I/O error on device dasdt, logical block 3
Nov 12 17:12:55 prod_serv kernel: end_request: I/O error, dev dasdt, sector 24
```


IPL problems after zipl invocation (5/7)

■ Possible problem causes:

- ▶ Read only dasd
 - Customer insisted this was not happening
- ▶ zipl does not “sync” properly
 - Checked code: zipl syncs
- ▶ “sync” is not working correctly
 - Man page says:

According to the standard specification (e.g., POSIX.1-2001), sync() schedules the writes, but may return before the actual writing is done. However, since version 1.3.20 Linux does actually wait. (This still does not guarantee data integrity: modern disks have large caches.)

■ Created C Program to reproduce situation

IPL problems after zipl invocation (6/7)

```
#include <sys/types.h>
#include <sys/stat.h>
#include <fcntl.h>
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
main(int argc, char** argv)
{
    int fd, i;
    char *a;
    int count = atoi(argv[1]);
    a = malloc(2048);
    fd = open("/dev/dasdbc", O_RDWR | O_CREAT);
    for(i = 0; i < count; i++)
        write(fd, a, 2048);
    close(fd);
    printf("before sync\n");
    sync();
    printf("after sync\n");
}
```

- Online disk
- Execute
- Offline disk
- Online disk
- Execute
- Offline Disk
- ...

IPL problems after zipl invocation (7/7)

- **In one out of 30 invocations the same error messages could be seen**
- **Problem cause:**
 - ▶ Calling zipl changes data in the filesystem but also writes on the device node. The build in sync call only flushes filesystem buffers. This did not ensure that data on the device node `/dev/dasdX`, e.g. the pointer to the bootmap, has been written. This could cause the wrong bootmap to be used during ipl and the wrong kernel to be loaded or even an unbootable system.
- **Problem fix:**
 - ▶ Adding an `fsync()` for all writable opened file descriptors solves this problem.
- **Patch integrated in SLES11 SP2**

Network connection stalls (1/6)

- Configuration:
 - ▶ z10
 - ▶ High network load (TSM Server under Linux)
 - ▶ Network (qeth) parameter `buffer_count = 128`
- Problem Description:
 - ▶ Network connection stalls regularly and sometimes recovers after about one hour
- Tools used for problem determination:
 - ▶ tcpdump / wireshark
 - ▶ crash/lcrash
 - ▶ dbginfo.sh
 - ▶ VM and HW traces

Network connection stalls (2/6)

- Various network traces with tcpdump showed missing arp packets
→ **initially thought to be the cause of the problem**
- Research done why ARP packages are missing
- Collected performance data

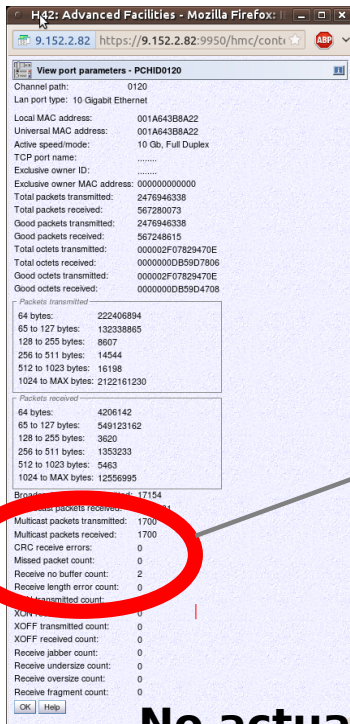
	CPU	%usr	%nice	%sys	%iowait	%steal	%irq	%soft	%guest	%idle
01:31:05	all	27.83	0.00	0.30	0.42	69.27	0.11	2.08	0.00	0.00
01:31:05	0	29.87	0.00	0.43	0.83	65.22	0.16	3.49	0.00	0.00
01:31:05	1	25.79	0.00	0.14	0.02	73.34	0.04	0.67	0.00	0.00
01:32:04	all	57.50	0.00	0.31	0.02	38.13	0.20	3.86	0.00	0.00
01:32:04	0	53.82	0.00	0.33	0.00	40.38	0.30	5.16	0.00	0.00
01:32:04	1	61.13	0.00	0.30	0.03	35.86	0.12	2.55	0.00	0.00

→ performance bottle neck

- Assumption:
HW has to discard incoming packets because Linux has no resources, missing ARP packets cause connection stalls

Network connection stalls (3/6)

- Attempt to prove with OSA traces via Single Object Operations, card specific advanced facilities:



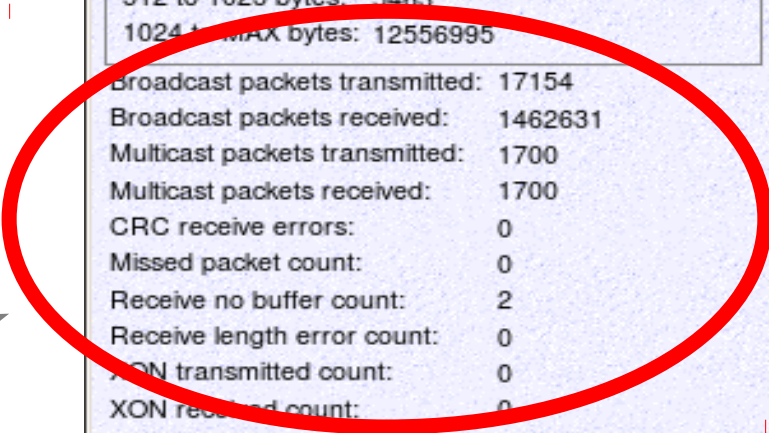
Good packets transmitted: 2476346855
Good packets received: 567248615
Total octets transmitted: 000002F07829470E
Total octets received: 0000000DB59D7806
Good octets transmitted: 000002F07829470E
Good octets received: 0000000DB59D4708

Packets transmitted

64 bytes:	222406894
65 to 127 bytes:	132338865
128 to 255 bytes:	8607
256 to 511 bytes:	14544
512 to 1023 bytes:	16198
1024 to MAX bytes:	2122161230

Packets received

64 bytes:	4206142
65 to 127 bytes:	549123162
128 to 255 bytes:	3620
256 to 511 bytes:	1353233
512 to 1023 bytes:	5463
1024 to MAX bytes:	12556995



Broadcast packets transmitted: 17154
Broadcast packets received: 1462631
Multicast packets transmitted: 1700
Multicast packets received: 1700
CRC receive errors: 0
Missed packet count: 0
Receive no buffer count: 2
Receive length error count: 0
XON transmitted count: 0
XON received count: 0
XOFF transmitted count: 0
XOFF received count: 0
Receive jabber count: 0
Receive undersize count: 0
Receive oversize count: 0
Receive fragment count: 0

No actual customer screenshot

Network connection stalls (4/6)

- CPU resources added to VM and Linux
- Performance data looked better, steal time vanished
- **Problem persisted**
- Started further debugging with `dbginfo.sh` and captured a dump during the time of the stall
- Dump looked suspicious – one bit (DSCI – device state change indicator) indicating that new packets arrived was not set
- Did Linux reset it by accident? Did the HW / OSA Card or VM forget to set it?
→ beginning of extensive concurrent data collection in Linux, VM and HW

Network connection stalls (5/6)

- Long process, circumvention needed for customer
- Created script which detects stall and recovers network device:

```
Get RX packets from ifconfig
Ping gateway
Wait one second
Get RX packets from ifconfig
If RX packets did not change AND ping not successful
    Start network recovery:
    echo 1 > /sys/bus/ccwgroup/drivers/qeth/$devno/recover
Start from beginning
```

- Detection and recovery was fast enough that TCP connections survived

Network connection stalls: Solution (6/6)

- After numerous data collections in Linux, VM and OSA card root cause was found in OSA firmware
- Buffers 127/128 have special treatment in OSA code which contained a bug
Temporary circumvention: use `buffer_count` of 125
- Fix released: DR79 bundle 46b, MCL N24398.005
(System z9 also affected and patched firmware available)
- Make sure that not only Linux and z/VM is up to date, but also Firmware levels

Lost access to SCSI storage during SVC maintenance (1/5)

▪ **Configuration:**

- ▶ SLES11 SP1 system running under z/VM 6.1
- ▶ SCSI storage via a two-node San Volume Controller
- ▶ z196

▪ **Problem description:**

- ▶ Maintenance was tested:
 - Power down SVC node one, reboot Node one
 - Power down SVC node two → disks offline

▪ **Tools used for problem determination:**

- ▶ Configuration file analysis

Lost access to SCSI storage during SVC maintenance (2/5)

multipath.conf:

```
defaults {
    polling_interval      30
    failback              immediate
    no_path_retry        5
    rr_min_io            100
    path_checker         tur
    user_friendly_names  yes
}
# SVC
    device {
        vendor           "IBM"
        product          "2145"
        path_grouping_policy group_by_prio
        prio_callout     "/sbin/mpath_prio_alua /dev/%n"
```

Lost access to SCSI storage during SVC maintenance (3/5)

Before node one power down:

```
# multipath -ll
mpathc (uuid...xxx) dm-4 IBM,2145
size=4.0G features='1 queue_if_no_path' hwhandler='0' wp=rw
|+- policy='round-robin 0' prio=50 status=active
| |- 0:0:3:2      sdj      8:144  active ready running
| |- 0:0:1:2      sdm      8:192  active ready running
| |- 1:0:1:2      sdz      65:144 active ready running
| `-- 1:0:0:2     sdac     65:192 active ready running
`--+- policy='round-robin 0' prio=10 status=enabled
   |- 0:0:2:2     sdg      8:96   active ready running
   |- 0:0:0:2     sdl      8:176  active ready running
   |- 1:0:3:2     sdx      65:112 active ready running
   `-- 1:0:2:2     sdaa    65:160 active ready running
```

Lost access to SCSI storage during SVC maintenance (4/5)

After node one power down:

```
# multipath -ll
mpathc (uuid...xxx) dm-4 IBM,2145
size=4.0G features='1 queue_if_no_path' hwhandler='0' wp=rw
`-+- policy='round-robin 0' prio=50 status=active
  |- 0:0:3:2      sdj      8:144  active ready running
  |- 0:0:1:2      sdm      8:192  active ready running
  |- 1:0:1:2      sdz      65:144 active ready running
  ` - 1:0:0:2      sdac     65:192 active ready running
```

Lost access to SCSI storage during SVC maintenance (5/5)

- **Problem: “no_path_retry 5”**
 - ▶ Device fails, 5 retries are started
 - ▶ If device comes back during that time, it will re re-instated
 - ▶ If not, paths are removed permanently
- **Solution:**
 - ▶ **Use “no_path_retry queue”**
 - ▶ Paths will also be marked as failed, but will not be removed
 - ▶ SVC to update online documentation

Daily network recoveries (1/4)

- Configuration:
 - ▶ z10, SLES11 SP1
 - ▶ High CPU load on z/VM as well as memory shortage
 - ▶ Guestlan Type Hiper
- Problem Description:
 - ▶ Network devices recover every night
- Tools used for problem determination:
 - ▶ dbginfo.sh
 - ▶ System tap
 - ▶ crash

Daily network recoveries: Symptom (2/4)

```

Jul  5 01:20:33 server1 -- MARK --
Jul  5 01:40:33 server1 -- MARK --
Jul  5 02:11:45 server1 kernel: qeth.f0b7c: 0.0.8000: A recovery process has been started for the device
Jul  5 02:11:45 server1 kernel: klogd 1.4.1, ----- state change -----
Jul  5 02:11:46 server1 kernel: qdio: 0.0.8002 HS on SC 5 using AI:1 QEBSM:0 PCI:0 TDD:1 SIGA: W AO
Jul  5 02:11:46 server1 kernel: qeth.26d434: 0.0.8000: Device is a Guest LAN Hiper card (level: V543)
Jul  5 02:11:46 server1 kernel: with link type GuestLAN Hiper.
Jul  5 02:11:46 server1 kernel: qeth.47953b: 0.0.8000: Hardware IP fragmentation not supported on hsi1
Jul  5 02:11:46 server1 kernel: qeth.066069: 0.0.8000: Inbound source MAC-address not supported on hsi1
Jul  5 02:11:46 server1 kernel: qeth.d7fdb4: 0.0.8000: VLAN enabled
Jul  5 02:11:46 server1 kernel: qeth.e90c78: 0.0.8000: Multicast enabled
Jul  5 02:11:46 server1 kernel: qeth.5a9d02: 0.0.8000: IPV6 enabled
Jul  5 02:11:46 server1 kernel: qeth.184d8a: 0.0.8000: Broadcast enabled
Jul  5 02:11:46 server1 kernel: qeth.dac2aa: 0.0.8000: Using SW checksumming on hsi1.
Jul  5 02:11:46 server1 kernel: qeth.9c4c89: 0.0.8000: Outbound TSO not supported on hsi1
Jul  5 02:11:46 server1 kernel: qeth.bad88b: 0.0.8000: Device successfully recovered!
Jul  5 02:31:46 server1 -- MARK --
Jul  5 02:51:46 server1 -- MARK --

```

- Application servers had problems if recovery was not fast enough
- Root cause needed to be found, SLES10 servers were not affected

Daily network recoveries (3/4)

- s390dbf output useless: debug area is cleared after device recovery
- Alternate method: We need to get a dump of the system *before* the recovery
- Idea: Use Systemtap
- After kernel panic: Create a dump

```
# Include the header that declares panic()
%{
#include <linux/kernel.h>
%}

# Wrap panic() in stap
function panic(msg:string) %{
    panic("%s", THIS->msg);
%}

# Tell the user what we're doing
probe begin {
    printf("panic on qeth_recover enabled\n")
}

probe end {
    printf("panic on qeth_recover disabled\n")
}

# probe the qeth_recover function
probe module("qeth").function("qeth_schedule_recovery") {
    panic("recovery triggered\n")
}
```

Daily network recoveries: Solution (4/4)

- Dump showed that a specific “busy” code was being returned by our (virtual) hardware
- If that was also the case 100 μ s later → trigger recovery
- 100 μ s too short in a shared environment
- SLES10 had longer timeouts → no recovery in SLES10
- Created patch, extended timeouts in SLES11

Timeouts in HA environment (1/3)

- **Configuration:**

- ▶ SLES11 HA systems running under z/VM
- ▶ Memory and CPU overcommitment in z/VM

- **Problem description:**

- ▶ HA environment migrated from AIX to Linux on System z
- ▶ Heartbeat timeouts
- ▶ Cluster separation

- **Tools used for problem determination:**

- ▶ sadc/sar
- ▶ dbginfo.sh

Timeouts in HA environment (2/3)

- **Default timeout: 3 seconds**
- **Every few days a cluster separation could be observed**
- **Linux sadc/sar data like this:**

Time	Device	%user	%nice	%system	%iowait	%steal	%idle
04:47:18 PM	CPU						
04:47:19 PM	all	46.23	0.00	0.50	0.00	4.02	49.25
04:47:20 PM	all	39.90	0.00	1.97	0.49	11.33	46.31
04:47:30 PM	all	1.41	0.00	0.10	0.05	97.38	1.07
04:47:31 PM	all	45.23	0.00	7.54	0.00	14.07	33.17
Average:	all	10.97	0.00	0.83	0.08	77.60	10.52

Timeouts in HA environment (2/3)

- **Default timeout: 3 seconds**
- **Every few days a cluster separation could be observed**
- **Linux sadc/sar data like this:**

04:47:18	PM	CPU	%user	%nice	%system	%iowait	%steal	%idle
04:47:19	PM	all	46.23	0.00	0.50	0.00	4.02	49.25
04:47:20	PM	all	39.90	0.00	1.97	0.49	11.33	46.31
04:47:30	PM	all	1.41	0.00	0.10	0.05	97.38	1.07
04:47:31	PM	all	45.23	0.00	7.54	0.00	14.07	33.17
Average:		all	10.97	0.00	0.83	0.08	77.60	10.52

... notice the gap

Time-outs in HA environment (3/3)

- **Due to memory and CPU constraints longer delays occurred in the guests**
- **OK for “normal” operations, but HA environments have special requirements**
- **After timer increase problems gone**
- **Think of the following:**
 - ▶ Virtualized environments are not real-time, response times are hard to predict
 - ▶ When migrating from distributed systems, timer configuration should be verified
- **Possible solutions:**
 - ▶ Increase time-out values
 - ▶ Do not over-commit too much in HA environments (easier said than done...)
 - ▶ Use z/VM tuning options such as “quick dispatch” for vital guests
 - ▶ LPAR might be an option for very large Linux guests

Closing remarks

- **Intention is not to scare you**
- **Linux on System z is a very reliable platform**
- **A very small fraction of PMRs result in a code fix / patch from us**
- **If you follow best practices (e.g. part of the “Problem determination” presentation) you are well prepared**
- **In case of problems, do not hesitate to contact me**