

ES80 with loads of memory paging out processes

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My basic question is: Why do processes page out if there is plenty of free memory?

Detailed description of problem:

I have a new ES80 with Tru64 Unix V5.1B that has 32Gb of RAM. I'm only using about 12Gb for my database application, so I was surprised to see that, on a fairly regular basis, the process is getting paged out. My definition of "paged out" is that the process appears in the ps listing with square brackets – i.e. [process_name] instead of process_name. I pick this up because I have a monitoring script I wrote that checks to see if the process exists and notify me – I beefed it up a bit to notify me when the process has brackets around it.

I was doubly surprised to see that this is happening even when the application is doing something. Typically it is running a very long-running database query.

Why is Tru64 Unix doing this? Could it be a performance problem (i.e. slowing down the application)? I assume the "sticky bit" is the way to fix this phenomenon?

Much thanks!

Chris