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vCenter /storage/seat partition becoming full

Article # 000010830   Last modified on **Mar 16th 2021**

Summary: vCenter /storage/seat partition is becoming full due to excessive SSH related events caused by CVMs (Controller VMs) attempting to log into ESXi hosts.

Versions affected: ESXi 7.0

VMware   ESX

Description:

Nutanix clusters generate SSH connections to ESXi hosts during cluster operations. In VMware ESXi 7.0, event logging has been changed to include ssh login and logout events. These events are captured and logged in *storage/seat* partition of vCenter Server Appliance. Sometimes, SSH connections from the Nutanix CVMs (Controller VMs) to the ESXi hosts generate many events that fill up the vCenter database.

The problem is observed only when the vCenter Appliance version is 7.0 or later and at least one of the clusters connected to the vCenter is running ESXi version 7.0 or later.

Symptoms

- Users might face issues logging in to the vCenter
- vCenter keeps crashing or fails to start
- df -h on the vCenter Server Appliance shows /storage/seat as 95% utilization or even more.

```
root@vcsa [ ~ ]# df -h
Filesystem Size Used Avail Use% Mounted on
devtmpfs 5.9G 0 5.9G 0% /dev
```

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```
tmpfs 5.9G 0 5.9G 0% /sys/fs/cgroup

/dev/sda3 46G 9.0G 35G 21% /

/dev/sda2 120M 24M 88M 22% /boot

/dev/mapper/lifecycle_vg-lifecycle 98G 3.2G 90G 4% /storage/lifecycle

/dev/mapper/vtsdblog_vg-vtsdblog 4.9G 52M 4.6G 2% /storage/vtsdblog

/dev/mapper/dblog_vg-dblog 15G 121M 14G 1% /storage/dblog

/dev/mapper/vtsdb_vg-vtsdb 9.8G 67M 9.2G 1% /storage/vtsdb

/dev/mapper/archive_vg-archive 49G 6.2G 41G 14% /storage/archive

/dev/mapper/updatemgr_vg-updatemgr 98G 93M 93G 1% /storage/updatemgr

/dev/mapper/seat_vg-seat 9.8G 8.8G 500M 95% /storage/seat

/dev/mapper/imagebuilder_vg-imagebuilder 9.8G 37M 9.3G 1% /storage/imag

/dev/mapper/autodeploy_vg-autodeploy 9.8G 37M 9.3G 1% /storage/autodepl

/dev/mapper/netdump_vg-netdump 985M 2.5M 915M 1% /storage/netdump

/dev/mapper/db_vg-db 9.8G 180M 9.1G 2% /storage/db

/dev/mapper/core_vg-core 25G 85M 24G 1% /storage/core

/dev/mapper/log_vg-log 9.8G 2.3G 7.0G 25% /storage/log

tmpfs 5.9G 4.8M 5.9G 1% /tmp
```

- Huge number of **esx.audit.ssh.session.opened** and **esx.audit.ssh.session.closed** events in vCenter database. Follow the instructions given below for checking the events.

Run the command to log in to the vCenter Server Appliance database:

```
root@vcsa [ ~ ]# /opt/vmware/vpostgres/current/bin/psql -d VCDB -U post
```

Now run this query to determine the number of events and the event type:

vCenter Server Appliance 6.0:

```
VCDB=# SELECT COUNT(EVENT_ID) AS NUMEVENTS, EVENT_TYPE, USERNAME FROM V
```

vCenter Server Appliance 6.5/6.7/7.0:

```
VCDB=# SELECT COUNT(EVENT_ID) AS NUMEVENTS
```

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```
VCDB=# SELECT COUNT(EVENT_ID) AS NUMEVENTS, EVENT_TYPE, USERNAME FROM V

numevents | event_type | username

-----------+-------------------------------------------+---------------

2010699 | esx.audit.ssh.session.closed |

2010645 | esx.audit.ssh.session.opened |

168473 | vim.event.UserLoginSessionEvent | root

168460 | vim.event.UserLogoutSessionEvent | root

13985 | com.vmware.vc.EventBurstCompressedEvent |

13985 | com.vmware.vc.EventBurstStartedEvent |

13985 | com.vmware.vc.EventBurstEndedEvent |

10744 | vim.event.UserLogoutSessionEvent | VSPHERE.LOCAL\vpxd-extension

10744 | vim.event.UserLoginSessionEvent | VSPHERE.LOCAL\vpxd-extension-

8815 | vim.event.UserLoginSessionEvent | VSPHERE.LOCAL\Administrator

(10 rows)
```

Solution:

Follow instructions from KB-2119809 /storage/seat disk 100% full on vCenter Server Appliance 6.x/7.x to reduce disk space usage of /storage/seat partition.

There are two options when it comes to preventing high disk space usage of */storage/seat* partition.

1. Configure the Database setting to reduce the retention window of the events (default value is 30 days). This affects all events stored in the system and currently there is no way to filter out specific events such as SSH events.

- Refer to Configure Database Settings for instructions.

2. Increase the disk space for the VMware vCenter Server Appliance partition /storage/seat

- Refer to KB-2145603 Increasing the disk space for the vCenter Server Appliance in vSphere 6.5, 6.7 and 7.0 for instructions.

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