Documentation for /proc/sys/user/

kernel version 4.9.0

This file contains the documentation for the sysctl files in /proc/sys/user.

The files in this directory can be used to override the default limits on the number of namespaces and other objects that have per user per user namespace limits.

The primary purpose of these limits is to stop programs that malfunction and attempt to create a ridiculous number of objects, before the malfunction becomes a system wide problem. It is the intention that the defaults of these limits are set high enough that no program in normal operation should run into these limits.

The creation of per user per user namespace objects are charged to the user in the user namespace who created the object and verified to be below the per user limit in that user namespace.

The creation of objects is also charged to all of the users who created user namespaces the creation of the object happens in (user namespaces can be nested) and verified to be below the per user limits in the user namespaces of those users.

This recursive counting of created objects ensures that creating a user namespace does not allow a user to escape their current limits.

Currently, these files are in /proc/sys/user:

max_cgroup_namespaces

The maximum number of cgroup namespaces that any user in the current user namespace may create.

max_ipc_namespaces

The maximum number of ipc namespaces that any user in the current user namespace may create.

max_mnt_namespaces

The maximum number of mount namespaces that any user in the current user namespace may create.

max_net_namespaces

The maximum number of network namespaces that any user in the current user namespace may create.

max_pid_namespaces

The maximum number of pid namespaces that any user in the current user namespace may create.

max_time_namespaces

The maximum number of time namespaces that any user in the current user namespace may create.

max_user_namespaces

The maximum number of user namespaces that any user in the current user namespace may create.

max_uts_namespaces

The maximum number of user namespaces that any user in the current user namespace may create.