



Server Dead. Again.

The 32GB GCP devbox was supposed to be hardened. But nobody was home.

Status:
RUNNING

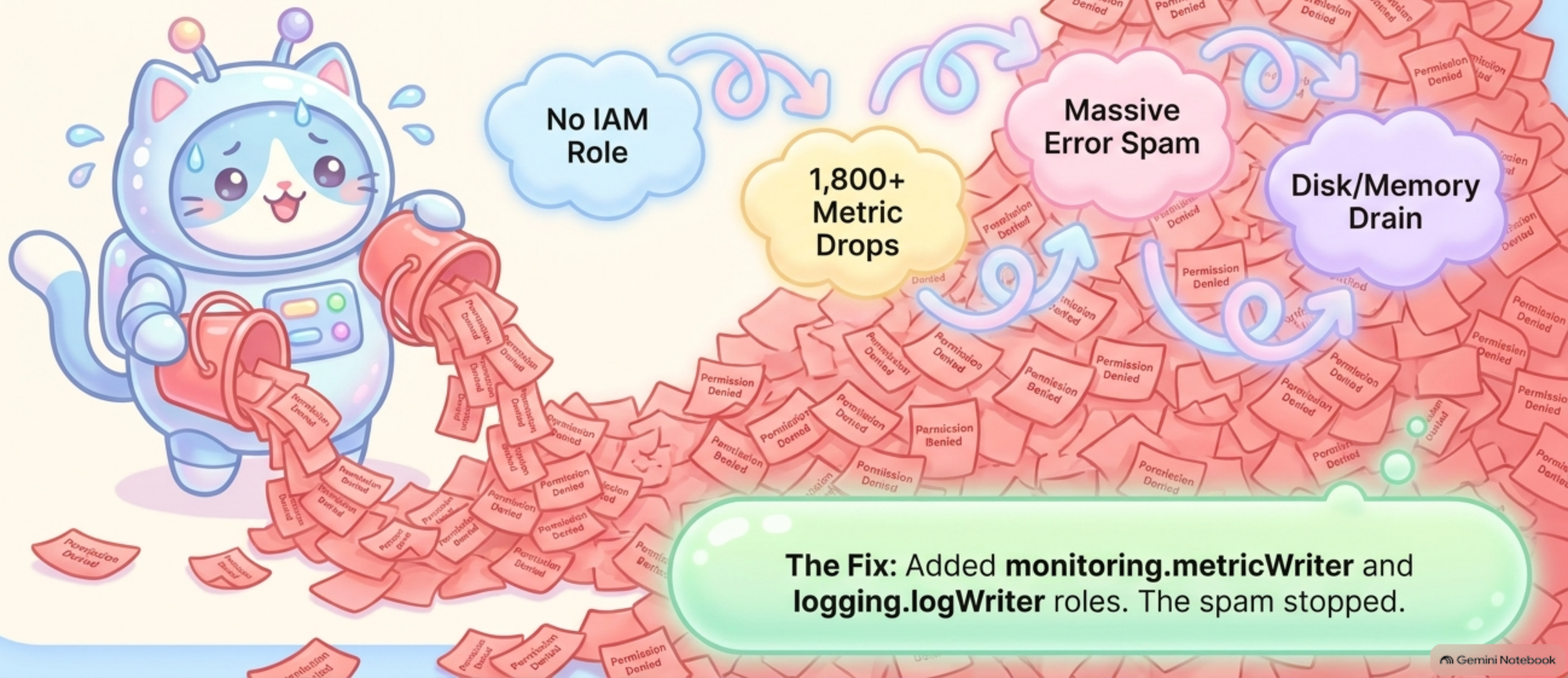
Kernel:
ALIVE

Userspace:
FROZEN

Symptom:
SSH Timeout

Friendly Fire from the Ops Agent

The GCP monitoring agent installed to prevent crashes lacked IAM permissions, compounding the memory pressure.



The Fix: Added `monitoring.metricWriter` and `logging.logWriter` roles. The spam stopped.

The 16GB Death Spiral

~20GB consumed on a 32GB machine.
Swap saturated.



The Twist: It Wasn't Claude

Subtext: V8's lazy garbage collection strikes again. Process names matter.



Assumption (Claude Code)

- Expected claude in process logs.
- Historically grows to 1-2GB over time.

Reality (Cursor Server)

- Logged generically as node.
- Spawns multiple workers (fileWatcher, ptyHost) with NO memory ceiling.
- Grows 6-7x over 15 hours due to V8's 4GB default heap limit.

The Cursor Memory Guard

Reconnectable architectures make aggressive memory guards viable.



Takeaway: What V8 refuses to garbage collect, we gently whack-a-mole.