

CLI LINE MONITORING

I like linux, and I like my command line interface. It is like being king of an amazing kingdom. You can do just about anything - it's even more fun if you have the root password! But I digress... Anyway, there is now another tool to join the ranks of *iptraf*, *sysstat* and all the other useful monitoring CLI tools, its called *BWM-NG*, the "*Bandwidth Monitor*". It can be found [here](#), and has a couple of neat little tricks which make it deserviong of mention.

What is Needed?

Well you need linux (duh!) and then the *bwm-ng* package also needs the *libstatgrab* libraries (see [here](#)). These are installed after extraction with the usual *./configure && make && make install* process (You may need to add */usr/local/lib* to your */etc/ld.so.conf*, and the *ldconfig* - at least I had to). Then you can get the *bwm-ng* package..

```
wget http://www.gropp.org/bwm-ng/bwm-ng-0.5.tar.gz
```

...and then after extraction you do the --yep, you guessed it -- *./configure && make && make install*.

Using it

Using it is simple, just run *bwm-ng*, you should see something like..

bwm-ng v0.5 (probing every 0.500s), press 'h' for help			
input: /proc/net/dev type: rate			
\	iface	Rx	Tx
=====			
	lo:	0.00 KB/s	0.00 KB/s
	eth0:	9.15 KB/s	29.89 KB/s
	eth1:	29.37 KB/s	4.15 KB/s
	eth2:	0.00 KB/s	0.14 KB/s
	tap0:	0.00 KB/s	0.00 KB/s
	ppp0:	0.00 KB/s	0.10 KB/s

	total:	38.52 KB/s	34.28 KB/s
			72.80 KB/s

It can run in ascii, ncurses or even output as html (using the *-o* switch) which is useful for setting up monitoring pages. But lets stick with using it from the CLI, it then functions a lot like the *top* command. You can use various keys change the display, and rather then lay it out for you myself, here is the very helpful help screen (use the *h* key)..

```
bwm-ng v0.5 - Keybindings:-----
'h'  show this help
'q'  exit
'+'  increases timeout by 100ms
'-'  decreases timeout by 100ms
'd'  switch KB and auto assign Byte/KB/MB/GB
'a'  cycle: show all interfaces, only those which are up,
      only up and not hidden
's'  sum hidden ifaces to total aswell or not
'n'  cycle: input methods
'u'  cycle: bytes,bits,packets,errors
't'  cycle: current rate, max, sum since start, average for last 30s

press any key to continue... -----
```

Final Words

And thats about it. Easy, quick and very useful. Install this quickly and spend a lot of time using it.. the way good software should be. Have fun and learn.