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Linux check memory usage

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Linux comes with different command to check memory usage. free command displays the total amount of free and used physical and swap memory in the system, as well as the buffers used by the kernel.

vmstat command reports information about processes, memory, paging, block IO, traps, and cpu activity.

Then you can use top command which provides a dynamic real-time view of a running system. It can display system summary information as well as a list of tasks currently being managed by the Linux kernel.

free command

Display free memory size in MB:

```
$ free -m
```

Output:

	total	used	free	shared	buffers	cached
Mem:	750	625	125	0	35	335
-/+ buffers/cache:		254	496			
Swap:	956	0	956			

Displays a line containing the totals memory in MB:

```
$ free -t -m
```

Output:

	total	used	free	shared	buffers	cached
Mem:	750	625	125	0	35	335
-/+ buffers/cache:		253	496			
Swap:	956	0	956			
Total:	1707	625	1082			

vmstat command

Type vmstat command at shell prompt:

```
$ vmstat
```

Output:

```
procs -----memory----- --swap-- -----io----- --system-- ----cpu-----
r  b  swpd   free   buff  cache   si   so    bi   bo    in    cs  us  sy  id  wa
1  0      0 131620  35432 341496    0    0   42   82  737  1364  15   3  81   1
```

top command

Type top command at shell prompt:

```
$ top
```

To exit from top command type q key.

Read man page of free, vmstat, top command for complete information.

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