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Why does Linux top command shows two CPU when I have only one processor?

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Q. I'm using CentOS Linux. I only have one processor (AMD 170 CPU) in my system, why does top command output report two processors?
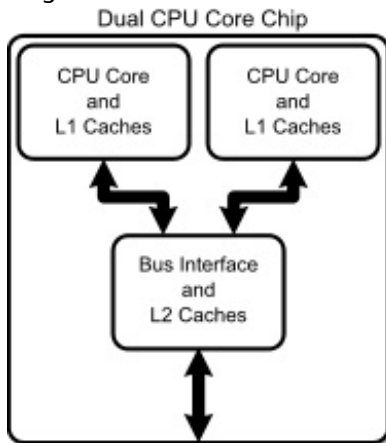
A. You have a DUAL core CPU. A dual-core CPU combines two independent processors and their respective caches and cache controllers onto a single silicon chip, or integrated circuit. Some Intel P4 system comes with hyperthreading (HT) built into it.

This is not an error, it is a normal result of the hyperthreading and dual core [2] CPU technology. This will improve system performance and will not harm any way to your server.

[1]

Various dual-core CPUs are being developed by companies such as Motorola, Intel and AMD. Following is the diagram of an Intel Core 2 dual core processor, with CPU-local Level 1 caches, and a shared, on-die Level 2 cache:

Photo credit Wikipedia [3]

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[1] Image: **http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/faq/category/linux/**
[2] dual core: **http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dual_core**
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