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Linux Detecting: Second CPU / Processor

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Q. I've single CPU server system. If another CPU is added to my server, will CentOS Linux recognize it automatically on the next boot? Do I need to configure something?

A. If you are using SMP kernel, then Linux should detect 2nd CPU after reboot. Symmetric multiprocessing or SMP involves a multiprocessor computer architecture where two or more identical processors can connect to a single shared main memory. Most common multiprocessor systems today use an SMP architecture. In case of multi-core processors, the SMP architecture applies to the cores, treating them as separate processors.

[1]

SMP systems allow any processor to work on any task no matter where the data for that task are located in memory; with proper operating system support, SMP systems can easily move tasks between processors to balance the workload efficiently.

To see if the SMP kernel is installed on a system, execute the following command under CentOS:

```
# rpm -q kernel-smp
```

Most modern Linux distro by default installed SMP kernel.

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