

Table Of Contents

Table Of Contents 1

Install bsdsar 2

Configure bsdsar 2

 bsdsar_gather command bsdsar_gather is used to collect data. You should see following cronjob entry at /etc/crontab 2

How do I view selected cumulative activity counters in the operating system? 2

sa command -- print system accounting statistics 4

 How do I view statistics 4

Show last commands executed 4

Further readings: 4

[Home](#) > [Faq](#) > [FreeBSD](#)

FreeBSD Accounting: Install and Configure System Activity Reporter (SAR)

Posted by [Vivek Gite](#) <vivek@nixcraft.com>



Q. How do I install sar command under FreeBSD to collect, report, or save system activity information? How can I setup freebsd accounting?

A. . sar, sa1, sa2 and sadc commands are for SysV system such as Linux.

You need to install a package called bsdsar under FreeBSD. It is a system activity reporter (SAR) for FreeBSD systems. It stores or shows information on network, cpu, memory, swap, and NFS usage. Data is polled at intervals - usually every 20minutes during the day, and hourly in evening/night hours and is stored for later usage.

Install bsdsar

Type the following commands to install bsdsar:

```
# portsnap fetch update
# cd /usr/ports/sysutils/bsdsar
# make install clean
```

Configure bsdsar

Open configuration file /usr/local/etc/bsdsar.conf:

```
# vi /usr/local/etc/bsdsar.conf
```

Usually you need to configure the data gathering section. To turn ON gathering of data, put the word "on" after the type of data to gather. To turn it off, put "off" after the data type to turn that gathering off. All is on by default. For example turn off nfs data gathering, modify as follows:

```
nfs = off
```

Here is my own working sample config file:

```
log_directory = /var/log
max_data_file_size = 4096000
cpu = on
disk = on
memory_swap = on
net = on
nfs = off
cpu_mem_processes = on
```

Save and close the file.

bsdsar_gather command

bsdsar_gather is used to collect data. You should see following cronjob entry at /etc/crontab file for collecting data:

20,40	8-18	*	*	*	root	/usr/local/bin/bsdsar_gather
0	*	*	*	*	root	/usr/local/bin/bsdsar_gather

How do I view selected cumulative activity counters in the operating system?

Simply use bsdsar command. To view network interface data, use:

```
# bsdsar -i
```

Sample output:

Time	In Pkts	In Errors	In Bytes	Out Pkts	Out Errors	Out Bytes	Coll
00:00	5930140	0	8741522861	3096503	0	250130450	(
01:00	5965075	0	8792550130	3114793	0	252111930	(
02:00	5965075	0	8792550130	3114793	0	252111930	(
03:00	5965078	0	8792550507	3114796	0	252112134	(
04:00	5965184	0	8792569021	3114902	0	252121128	(
05:00	6004005	0	8849450350	3135235	0	254298106	(
06:00	6004005	0	8849450350	3135235	0	254298106	(
07:00	6004005	0	8849450350	3135235	0	254298106	(
08:00	6004019	0	8849452569	3135249	0	254299292	(
08:20	6087369	0	8973393420	3178573	0	257870960	(
08:40	6087369	0	8973393420	3178573	0	257870960	(
09:00	6087369	0	8973393420	3178573	0	257870960	(
09:20	6087369	0	8973393420	3178573	0	257870960	(

Time	In Pkts	In Errors	In Bytes	Out Pkts	Out Errors	Out Bytes	Coll
00:00	87328207	0	124968895768	76277756	0	5447644061	(
01:00	87683130	0	125477348559	76595358	0	5470522718	(
02:00	88052370	0	126006376581	76926305	0	5494392360	(
03:00	88293028	0	126350982635	77142146	0	5509979199	(
04:00	88293452	0	126351062483	77142510	0	5510002594	(
05:00	88293927	0	126351095937	77142922	0	5510028116	(
06:00	88294276	0	126351120751	77143228	0	5510047768	(
07:00	88294694	0	126351149966	77143601	0	5510071725	(
08:00	88295045	0	126351176397	77143918	0	5510092600	(
08:20	88295174	0	126351185599	77144026	0	5510099546	(
08:40	88295291	0	126351193960	77144132	0	5510106599	(
09:00	88295411	0	126351202345	77144241	0	5510113604	(
09:20	88295514	0	126351209917	77144332	0	5510119530	(

To view cpu usage data, enter:

```
# bsdsar -u
```

Sample output:

Time	% User	% Sys	% Nice	% Intrpt	% Idle
00:00	1	1	0	0	98
01:00	0	0	0	0	100
02:00	0	0	0	0	100
03:00	0	0	0	0	100
04:00	3	7	0	0	89
05:00	0	1	0	0	99
06:00	0	0	0	0	100
07:00	0	0	0	0	100
08:00	1	5	0	0	93
08:20	0	0	0	0	100
08:40	0	0	0	0	100
09:00	0	0	0	0	100
09:20	0	0	0	0	100

To view top 5 cpu processes, enter:

```
# bsdsar -s
```

To view top 5 memory processes, enter:

```
# bsdsar -S
```

To get help, enter:

```
# bsdsar -h
```

sa command -- print system accounting statistics

sa is another preferred tool under FreeBSD to print system accounting statistics. First, you must turn on system accounting, open /etc/rc.conf file:

```
# vi /etc/rc.conf
```

Turn on accounting by entering following code:

```
accounting_enable="YES"
```

Save and close the file. Start accounting service

```
# /etc/rc.d/accounting start
```

How do I view statistics

To list all command names, including those containing unprintable characters and those used only once, enter:

```
# sa -a
```

Sort by the average number of disk I/O operations for each user command, enter:

```
# sa -d
```

To print total number of disk I/O operations, enter:

```
# sa -D
```

Show last commands executed

Use lastcomm command to display information on previously executed commands:

```
# lastcomm
```

Above command will display information about all the commands recorded during the current accounting file's lifetime. To print the exit time and elapsed time of each command, enter:

```
# lastcomm -Ee
```

To print user vivek's all command, enter:

```
# lastcomm vivek
```

Further readings:

- man pages sa, accton, rc.conf, lastcomm

4000+ howtos and counting! Want to read more Linux / UNIX howtos, tips and tricks? Subscribe to our [daily email](#) newsletter or [weekly newsletter](#) to make sure you don't miss a single tip/tricks. Alternatively, subscribe via [RSS/XML](#) feed.

Article printed from Frequently Asked Questions About Linux / UNIX: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/>

URL to article: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/freebsd-bsdsar-installation-configuration/>

URLs in this post:

[1] Image: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/faq/category/freebsd/>

Copyright © 2006-2010 [nixCraft](#). All rights reserved. This print / pdf version is for personal non-commercial use only. More details <http://www.cyberciti.biz/tips/copyright>.