



Placement Empowerment Program

Cloud Computing and DevOps Centre

Day 09 – System Inventory Report Generator

Generate a report summarizing system info such as disk usage, memory, CPU, and running processes.

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Introduction

In modern Linux environments, keeping track of system performance and resource usage is essential for maintaining a healthy system. System administrators and developers often need quick access to critical system metrics such as disk usage, memory consumption, CPU information, and active processes.

This Proof of Concept (PoC) focuses on building a System Inventory Report Generator using a shell script. The script automates the collection of key system information and organizes it into a readable report. This helps users perform system audits, monitor performance, troubleshoot issues, or simply maintain logs for future reference.

By the end of this PoC, you will have a working automation script that can be scheduled to run periodically using cron and log the system state without manual intervention — a fundamental DevOps and Linux administration practice.

Overview

The System Inventory Report Generator is a shell script-based automation tool designed to collect and summarize essential system information on a Linux machine.

This includes:

- 1.Disk usage details (available and used space)
- 2.Memory usage statistics (RAM and swap)
- 3.CPU information (architecture, cores, model)
- 4. Top running processes by memory usage

This PoC demonstrates how to:

- 1. Automate system data collection using Linux commands
- 2. Format the output into a human-readable report
- 3. Schedule the script to run at defined intervals using cron
- 4. Store and log system reports for future reference or audits

This tool is lightweight, customizable, and ideal for system admins, DevOps engineers, and Linux users who want to maintain visibility into their system's health and performance.

Key steps in this PoC:

Launch the terminal to begin writing and executing the shell script.

Use a text editor (e.g., nano) to create a script named system_report.sh.

✓ Write Script Logic to Collect System Info

Use Linux commands like df, free, lscpu, and ps to gather:

Disk usage

Memory usage

CPU details

Top processes by memory usage

∜Format and Save the Report

Output the collected information to a timestamped .txt file.

✓ Make the Script Executable

Use chmod +x to give the script permission to run.

Run the script to generate the system report manually.

Objectives:

Automate System Information Collection

Create a shell script to automatically gather key system metrics like disk, memory, CPU, and processes.

⊘Generate Readable Inventory Reports

Output the collected information into a well-structured and timestamped text report.

⊗Improve System Visibility

Enable users or administrators to regularly monitor the system's health and performance.

Support Scheduled Monitoring

Integrate the script with cron to run at regular intervals (e.g., daily), ensuring ongoing monitoring without manual effort.

⊗Enhance Troubleshooting and Audit Readiness

Maintain historical system logs that help with identifying issues, capacity planning, or system audits.

Importance:

Real-Time System Monitoring

Regular system reports help you monitor your machine's health and identify performance issues early.

⊗Simplifies Troubleshooting

When something goes wrong, system logs and inventory reports provide valuable data for root cause analysis.

⊘ Improves Efficiency

Automating system reporting saves time compared to manually checking each resource using separate commands.

⊗Supports Preventive Maintenance

Helps in detecting problems such as low disk space or high memory usage before they impact system performance.

∜Useful in Audits and Documentation

Maintains historical logs of system state that can be used for audits, compliance, or system change tracking.

⊘ Essential for DevOps & System Admins

Automating routine health checks is a key practice in DevOps and systems administration for scalable environments.

Step-by-Step Overview

Step 1:Open Terminal

Launch a terminal window on your Linux system.

Step 2: Create the Shell Script File

```
hemas@Hema:/mnt/c/Users/hemas$ nano system_report.sh
```

This opens the nano editor for a new file named system_report.sh.

Step 3: Write the Monitoring Script

In the nano editor, Paste the following code:

```
GNU nano 7.2
                                                                            system_report.sh
# Set filename with timestamp
output="system_report_$(date +%Y%m%d_%H%M%S).txt"
echo "Generating System Inventory Report..."
  echo "===== SYSTEM INVENTORY REPORT ====="
echo "Date: $(date)"
echo "Hostname: $(hostname)"
   echo -e "\n--- DISK USAGE ---"
  echo -e "\n--- MEMORY USAGE ---" free -h
  echo -e "\n--- CPU INFO ---"
lscpu | grep -E '^Model name|^CPU\(s\)|^Architecture'
  echo -e "\n--- TOP 5 PROCESSES (by memory) ---" ps aux --sort=-%mem | head -n 6
     "$output"
echo "Report saved to $output"
                                                                       [ Read 27 lines
                       ^O Write Out
^R Read File
                                              ^W Where Is
^\ Replace
                                                                                                Execute
Justify
                                                                                                                       Location
```

Step 4: Save and Exit

Press Ctrl + O \rightarrow Enter (to save)

Press Ctrl + X (to exit)

Step 5: Make the Script Executable

Back in the terminal:

hemas@Hema:/mnt/c/Users/hemas\$ chmod +x system_report.sh
This gives the script permission to run as a program.

Step 6: Run the Script

```
hemas@Hema:/mnt/c/Users/hemas$ ./system_report.sh
Generating System Inventory Report...
Report saved to system_report_20250623_053919.txt
```

A new report file like system_report_20250623_053919.txt will be created.

Step 7: View the Report

```
| Dear | Month | Month
```

Outcomes:

⊘ System Inventory Shell Script Created

You successfully created a working system_report.sh script to collect disk, memory, CPU, and process details.

Solution Generated System Report Files

The script creates a structured and timestamped report file every time you run it manually.

⊘Learned Key Linux Monitoring Commands

Hands-on usage of **df**, **free**, **lscpu**, **ps**, and output redirection using shell scripting.

⊘Script Executable and Reusable

You made the script executable using **chmod** +x, allowing it to be reused anytime with:

```
bash
Copy code
  ./system report.sh
```

Report Saved for Documentation or Debugging

Output is saved as .txt files which can be used for system documentation, audits, or performance checks.

⊘Ready for Future Automation (Optional)

Though you haven't used cron yet, the script is compatible with cron jobs, so automation can be added later easily.