

htop Cheat Sheet for DevOps

1. Top Section - System Info

- CPU bars (0,1,2...): Show usage per core with colors for user/system/iowait.
- Mem: Shows current RAM usage, e.g. 952M/3.7G.
- Swp: Swap memory usage, useful when RAM is full.
- Tasks: Total processes and threads running.
- Load average: 1, 5, and 15-minute CPU load stats.
- Uptime: How long the system has been running.

2. Process Table Columns

- PID: Process ID, uniquely identifies a process.
- USER: Owner of the process.
- PRI: Priority of the process.
- NI: Nice value; affects priority, default is 0.
- VIRT: Virtual memory the process uses.
- RES: Actual RAM used by the process.
- SHR: Shared memory used.
- CPU%: CPU usage percentage.
- MEM%: RAM usage percentage.
- TIME+: Total CPU time used by the process.
- Command: Name or path of the running program.

3. Function Keys

- F3: Search for a specific process.
- F4: Filter by process name.
- F5: Tree view to see parent-child relationships.
- F6: Sort by any column (CPU, memory, etc).
- F9: Kill a process.
- F10: Quit htop.

4. DevOps Use Cases

- Monitor application performance live.
- Identify high CPU/memory usage processes.
- Kill or debug unresponsive services.

- Monitor remote servers over SSH.
- Diagnose resource bottlenecks during deployment.