

# top

## top

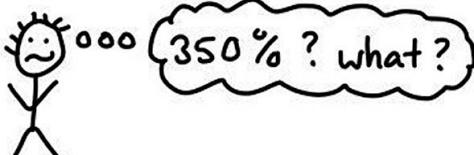
a live-updating summary of the top users of your system's resources



chrome  
obv

let's explain some numbers in top!

## % CPU



this column is given as % of a single core. If you have 4 cores, this can go up to 400%!

## load average

3 numbers that roughly reflect demand for your CPUs on the system (1, 5, 15 minutes)

if it's higher than the # of CPUs you have, that's often bad

## RES

this column is the "resident set size" aka how much memory your process is using.

**SHR** is how much of the RES is shared with other processes

## memory

4 numbers:

total / free / used / cached

One perhaps unexpected thing: total is not free + used!

total = free + used + cached  
A diagram showing a large blue bar labeled "total" at the top. Below it, a green bar is labeled "free", a yellow bar is labeled "used", and an orange bar is labeled "cached". An arrow points from the word "filesystem" to the "cached" bar.

## htop

a prettier version of top \*

1	[██████████]	10%
2	[██████████]	20%
3	[██]	5%
4	[██]	5%
mem	██████████	4176
swp	██████████	215G

used      cached