

How to diagnose a mysterious process that's taking too much CPU, memory, IO, etc



ALEX XU

MAR 8, 2022

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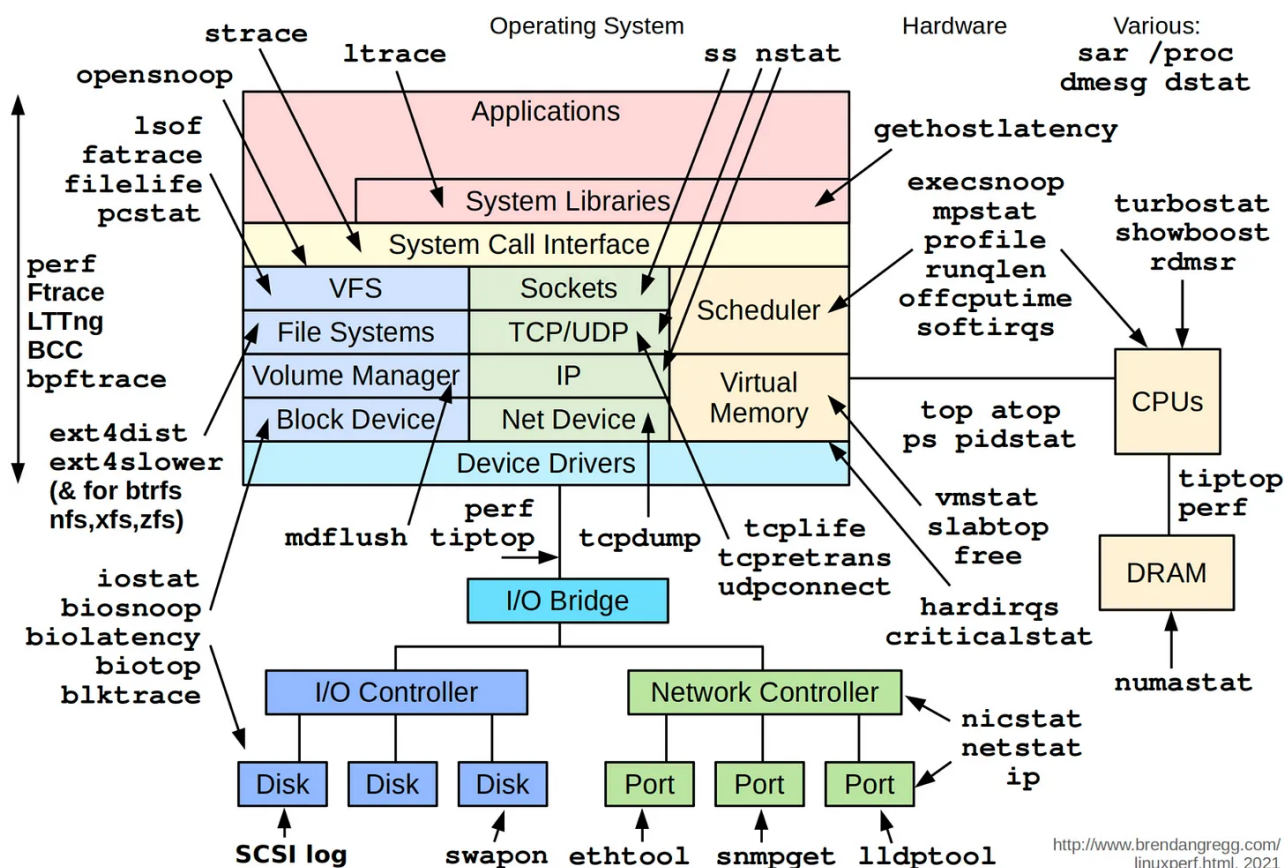
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Popular interview question: how to diagnose a mysterious process that's taking too much CPU, memory, IO, etc?

The diagram below illustrates helpful tools in a Linux system.

Linux Performance Observability Tools



◆ 'vmstat' - reports information about processes, memory, paging, block IO, traps, and CPU activity.

- ◆ 'iostat' - reports CPU and input/output statistics of the system.
- ◆ 'netstat' - displays statistical data related to IP, TCP, UDP, and ICMP protocols.
- ◆ 'lsof' - lists open files of the current system.
- ◆ 'pidstat' - monitors the utilization of system resources by all or specified processes, including CPU, memory, device IO, task switching, threads, etc.

Credit: Diagram by [Brendan Gregg](#)

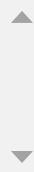


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