

Lab 4b – Monitoring Tools

For this lab, I chose **htop** as my process monitoring application. To install it, I opened the terminal and type in “yum install htop”. The whole process took bout 15 seconds and htop was ready to go. I launched it by just typing htop and was greeted with the screen below.

```
student@localhost:/home/student
File Edit View Search Terminal Help

CPU[|||] 3.3% Tasks: 112, 219 thr; 2 running
Mem[|||||] 748M/3.86G Load average: 0.57 0.27 0.23
Swp[ ] 0K/1.60G Uptime: 00:23:46

  PID USER   PRI  NI  VIRT   RES   SHR  S  CPU% MEM%   TIME+  Command
  ---
2546 root     20    0  119M   2136  1448  R   2.0   0.1   0:00.58 htop
1621 student  20    0  1831M  165M  49172 S   1.3   4.2   0:20.35 /usr/bin/gnome-sh
809 root     20    0   330M   1080   760  S   0.7   0.0   0:00.41 /usr/sbin/VBoxSer
879 root     20    0   283M  27708  10660 S   0.0   0.7   0:04.58 /usr/bin/X :0 -ba
1796 student  20    0  1023M  27952  17640 S   0.0   0.7   0:00.41 nautilus-desktop
1563 student  20    0   209M   1312   880  S   0.0   0.0   0:02.40 /usr/bin/VBoxClie
1558 student  20    0   209M   1312   880  S   0.0   0.0   0:02.40 /usr/bin/VBoxClie
2183 student  20    0   693M  22540  14608 S   0.0   0.6   0:02.12 /usr/libexec/gnom
723 root     20    0   6472   652    540 S   0.0   0.0   0:00.19 /sbin/rngd -f
1036 root     20    0   283M  27708  10660 S   0.0   0.7   0:00.28 /usr/bin/X :0 -ba
947 root     20    0   549M  18636  5880  S   0.0   0.5   0:00.22 /usr/bin/python -
668 dbus     20    0   36440  3440   1452 S   0.0   0.1   0:00.70 /bin/dbus-daemon
1 root     20    0   125M   6840   4076 S   0.0   0.2   0:01.89 /usr/lib/systemd/
464 root     20    0   36952  3280   2856 S   0.0   0.1   0:00.30 /usr/lib/systemd/
493 root     20    0   47340  5264   2828 S   0.0   0.1   0:00.24 /usr/lib/systemd/
507 root     20    0   126M   6156   2596 S   0.0   0.2   0:00.00 /usr/sbin/lvmetad
628 root     16   -4  55452   884    480 S   0.0   0.0   0:00.00 /sbin/auditd

F1 Help F2 Setup F3 Search F4 Filter F5 Tree F6 SortBy F7 Nice F8 Nice F9 Kill F10 Quit
```

My first impression of it was that it’s just a fancier looking top. But after using it for a few minutes, I find it a bit more user-friendly and visually-appeasing. You still get the same functionalities like check process IDs and the user they belong to as well as kill them. The search and sort functions are nice when you’re looking for a particular process or just remember it by a part of its name.

Overall, htop is useful albeit a bit basic compared to other third-party process monitors.

Installation

- Open terminal
- Type “yum install htop”
- Press “Enter”

Rating: 4/4: Very easy to install. The process takes a trivial amount of time and mostly depends on your internet connection.

Ease of Use

- The GUI is very similar to top.
- Has no fancy UI and you’ll have a hard time if you have trouble using Linux terminal.
- Help page is helpful but you’ll have to either memorize all the commands or check it very frequently

Rating: 2/4

Usefulness

- htop can do anything top can
- Gives you a comprehensive list of all the processes running
- Features a virtualization of real-time resource usage
- Has easy-to-access buttons at the bottom

Rating: 3/4

Recommendation

- Easy to install and get running
- Basic and limited UI
- Is useful if you want something quick and better than top

Rating: 3/4