

Week 6 : Performance Evaluation and Analysis

1. CPU Usage

- **Command:** `top`
 - **Function:** Displays real-time CPU usage for all running processes. Useful for identifying processes consuming high CPU.

```
vboxuser@ubuntu:~$ top

top - 07:11:02 up 54 min,  2 users,  load average: 0.61, 0.44, 0.30
Tasks: 234 total,  2 running, 232 sleeping,  0 stopped,  0 zombie
%Cpu(s):  0.9 us,  1.7 sy,  0.0 ni, 96.9 id,  0.1 wa,  0.0 hi,  0.3 si,  0.0 st
MiB Mem :  9360.8 total,  6065.1 free,  1689.6 used,  1655.6 buff/cache
MiB Swap:   0.0 total,   0.0 free,   0.0 used.  7671.2 avail Mem

  PID USER      PR  NI   VIRT   RES   SHR  S  %CPU  %MEM    TIME+  COMMAND
 2106 vboxuser  20   0 4989800 417952 154144 R   11.6   4.4   2:53.21 gnome-s+
 2974 vboxuser  20   0  553740  53160  42240 S    1.3   0.6   0:04.22 gnome-t+
 3080 vboxuser  20   0 3545128 149840  94812 S    0.7   1.6   0:20.82 Privile+
   17 root      20   0     0     0     0  S    0.3   0.0   0:01.17 ksoftir+
   76 root      20   0     0     0     0  I    0.3   0.0   0:05.11 kworker+
 2728 vboxuser  20   0  12.3g 563220 224948 S    0.3   5.9   3:20.38 firefox
 3133 vboxuser  20   0 4334924 504228 142944 S    0.3   5.3  13:12.31 Isolate+
 4820 root      20   0     0     0     0  I    0.3   0.0   0:02.80 kworker+
 5185 root      20   0     0     0     0  I    0.3   0.0   0:02.13 kworker+
 5854 vboxuser  20   0   14536   5864   3656 R    0.3   0.1   0:00.26 top
    1 root      20   0   23168  14372   9548 S    0.0   0.1   0:07.00 systemd
    2 root      20   0     0     0     0  S    0.0   0.0   0:00.07 kthreadd
    3 root      20   0     0     0     0  S    0.0   0.0   0:00.00 pool_wo+
    4 root       0 -20     0     0     0  I    0.0   0.0   0:00.00 kworker+
```

```
top - 07:13:32 up 4:23, 2 users, load average: 1.30, 1.04, 0.75
Tasks: 265 total, 1 running, 264 sleeping, 0 stopped, 0 zombie
%Cpu(s): 5.9 us, 9.3 sy, 0.0 ni, 71.0 id, 0.0 wa, 11.9 hi, 1.8 si, 0.0 st
MiB Mem : 8566.2 total, 1153.8 free, 2727.7 used, 4963.4 buff/cache
MiB Swap: 8192.0 total, 8192.0 free, 0.0 used. 5838.6 avail Mem
```

PID	USER	PR	NI	VIRT	RES	SHR	S	%CPU	%MEM	TIME+	COMMAND
2049	liveuser	20	0	5384736	419844	172424	S	33.7	4.8	42:04.12	gnome-s+
7211	liveuser	20	0	11.6g	670736	233160	S	26.1	7.6	25:31.03	firefox
9476	root	20	0	0	0	0	I	5.0	0.0	0:08.67	kworker+
7103	liveuser	20	0	1926376	291420	131424	S	3.6	3.3	1:21.55	ptyxis
2051	liveuser	9	-11	327276	13668	8860	S	2.0	0.2	0:04.65	pipewire
24	root	rt	0	0	0	0	S	0.7	0.0	0:31.82	migrati+
8839	root	20	0	0	0	0	I	0.7	0.0	0:41.44	kworker+
9897	liveuser	20	0	235392	5972	3824	R	0.7	0.1	0:00.27	top
16	root	20	0	0	0	0	I	0.3	0.0	0:08.09	rcu_pre+
1169	dbus	20	0	8664	6812	2980	S	0.3	0.1	0:10.29	dbus-br+
1201	root	20	0	511620	2708	2464	S	0.3	0.0	0:09.71	VBoxDRM+
7473	liveuser	20	0	2778844	165348	105892	S	0.3	1.9	0:17.59	Isolate+
7481	liveuser	20	0	3515344	592280	164636	S	0.3	6.8	13:26.71	Isolate+
9339	root	20	0	0	0	0	I	0.3	0.0	0:02.12	kworker+
1	root	20	0	42328	22148	11764	S	0.0	0.3	0:19.54	systemd
2	root	20	0	0	0	0	S	0.0	0.0	0:00.17	kthreadd
3	root	20	0	0	0	0	S	0.0	0.0	0:00.00	pool_wo+

- **Command:** `mpstat -P ALL 2 5`

- **Function:** Reports CPU usage per core every 2 seconds for 5 iterations. Helps understand CPU distribution across cores.

```
vboxuser@ubuntu:~$ mpstat -P ALL 2 5
Linux 6.14.0-37-generic (ubuntu)          12/14/2025      _x86_64_      (4 CPU)

09:50:48 AM  CPU      %usr   %nice    %sys %iowait    %irq   %soft  %steal  %guest
      %gnice   %idle
09:50:50 AM  all      5.51    0.00    7.83    0.29    0.00    3.04    0.00    0.00
              0.00   83.33
09:50:50 AM    0      5.65    0.00    6.78    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00
              0.00   87.57
09:50:50 AM    1      8.92    0.00    7.01    0.00    0.00   12.74    0.00    0.00
              0.00   71.34
09:50:50 AM    2      3.95    0.00    9.60    0.56    0.00    0.56    0.00    0.00
              0.00   85.31
09:50:50 AM    3      0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00
              0.00   99.99
```

2. Memory Usage

- **Command:** `free -h`

- **Function:** Shows total, used, and free memory in a human-readable format.

```
vboxuser@ubuntu:~$ free -h
              total        used        free      shared  buff/cache   available
Mem:           9.1Gi       1.7Gi       5.8Gi         48Mi       1.7Gi       7.5Gi
Swap:           0B           0B           0B
```

- **Command:** `vmstat 2 5`

```
vboxuser@ubuntu:~$ vmstat 2 5
procs -----memory----- --swap-- -----io---- -system-- -----cpu-----
---
r  b   swpd   free   buff   cache   si   so   bi   bo   in   cs  us  sy  id  wa  st
gu
1  0     0 5452036 110340 2188892    0    0   59  122  702   1  1  2  97  0
0  0
2  0     0 5448508 110340 2188944    0    0    0  328 2530 1512  3 13 84  1
0  0
S 0  0     0 5447528 110340 2188944    0    0    0    0 2300 1460  3 10 87  0
0  0
0  0     0 5445828 110348 2188948    0    0    0   26 2294 2182  8 10 82  0
0  0
0  0     0 5447356 110348 2188956    0    0    0    0 2598 2956 11 12 77  0
0  0
```

- **Function:** Displays memory, swap, CPU, and I/O statistics every 2 seconds for 5 iterations.

3. Disk I/O Performance

- **Command:** `iostat -xz 2 5`

- **Function:** Monitors disk I/O, including read/write speeds, utilization, and I/O wait time.

```
vboxuser@ubuntu:~$ iostat -xz 2 5
Linux 6.14.0-37-generic (ubuntu)          12/13/2025      _x86_64_          (4 CPU)

avg-cpu:  %user   %nice %system %iowait  %steal   %idle
           2.04    0.03   3.06   0.25    0.00   94.62

Device            r/s    kB/s    rrqm/s    %rrqm  r_await rareq-sz    w/s    kB/s    wrqm/s    %wrqm  w_await wareq-sz
d/s    dkB/s  drqm/s    %drqm  d_await dareq-sz    f/s    f_await aqu-sz    %util
loop0      0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.21    1.21    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00
loop1      0.02    0.30    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    3.04   19.32    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00
loop10     0.01    0.10    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    2.36    8.04    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00
loop11     0.01    0.10    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    2.11    7.76    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00
loop12     0.02    0.48    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    2.28   19.30    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00
loop13     0.01    0.09    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    1.46    9.49    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00
loop14     0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    1.18    1.27    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00
loop2      0.11    1.40    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    1.44   12.39    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00
loop3      0.44   23.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    2.14   52.41    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00
```

```
liveuser@localhost-live:~$ iostat -xz 2 5
Linux 6.17.1-300.fc43.x86_64 (localhost-live) 12/13/2025      _x86_64_          (4 CPU)

avg-cpu:  %user   %nice %system %iowait  %steal   %idle
           4.00    0.00   11.26   0.07    0.00   84.68

Device            r/s    kB/s    rrqm/s    %rrqm  r_await rareq-sz    w/s    kB/s    wrqm/s    %wrqm  w_await wareq-sz    d/s    dkB/s  drqm/s    %drqm  d_await dareq-sz    f/s  f_await  aqu-sz    %util
loop0      0.41   48.73    0.00    0.00   18.08   119.64    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.55
sda       0.02    0.43    0.00    0.00    3.00   18.80    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00
sdb       0.52   50.81    0.00    0.00    7.28   97.88    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.33
zram0     0.01    0.13    0.00    0.00    0.00   16.03    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    4.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00    0.00

avg-cpu:  %user   %nice %system %iowait  %steal   %idle
           19.61    0.00   31.70    0.00    0.00   48.68

Device            r/s    kB/s    rrqm/s    %rrqm  r_await rareq-sz    w/s    kB/s    wrqm/s    %wrqm  w_await wareq-sz    d/s    dkB/s  drqm/s    %drqm  d_await dareq-sz    f/s  f_await  aqu-sz    %util

avg-cpu:  %user   %nice %system %iowait  %steal   %idle
           14.93    0.00   28.51    0.00    0.00   56.56

Device            r/s    kB/s    rrqm/s    %rrqm  r_await rareq-sz    w/s    kB/s    wrqm/s    %wrqm  w_await wareq-sz    d/s    dkB/s  drqm/s    %drqm  d_await dareq-sz    f/s  f_await  aqu-sz    %util

avg-cpu:  %user   %nice %system %iowait  %steal   %idle
           10.84    0.00   24.71    0.14    0.00   64.31

Device            r/s    kB/s    rrqm/s    %rrqm  r_await rareq-sz    w/s    kB/s    wrqm/s    %wrqm  w_await wareq-sz    d/s    dkB/s  drqm/s    %drqm  d_await dareq-sz    f/s  f_await  aqu-sz    %util

avg-cpu:  %user   %nice %system %iowait  %steal   %idle
           14.83    0.00   26.43    0.00    0.00   58.74

Device            r/s    kB/s    rrqm/s    %rrqm  r_await rareq-sz    w/s    kB/s    wrqm/s    %wrqm  w_await wareq-sz    d/s    dkB/s  drqm/s    %drqm  d_await dareq-sz    f/s  f_await  aqu-sz    %util
```

- **Command:** `dd if=/dev/zero of=testfile bs=1G count=1 oflag=direct`

```
vboxuser@ubuntu:~$ dd if=/dev/zero of=testfile bs=1G count=1 oflag=direct
1+0 records in
1+0 records out
1073741824 bytes (1.1 GB, 1.0 GiB) copied, 11.7047 s, 91.7 MB/s
```

- **Function:** Measures raw disk write performance by writing a 1GB test file.

4. Network Performance

- **Command:** `ping google.com -c 10`

- **Function:** Measures network latency and packet loss to an external host.

```
vboxuser@ubuntu:~$ ping -c 10 google.com
PING google.com (142.250.140.139) 56(84) bytes of data.
64 bytes from wj-in-f139.1e100.net (142.250.140.139): icmp_seq=1 ttl=255 time=71.5 ms
64 bytes from wj-in-f139.1e100.net (142.250.140.139): icmp_seq=2 ttl=255 time=25.5 ms
64 bytes from wj-in-f139.1e100.net (142.250.140.139): icmp_seq=3 ttl=255 time=104 ms
64 bytes from wj-in-f139.1e100.net (142.250.140.139): icmp_seq=4 ttl=255 time=111 ms
64 bytes from wj-in-f139.1e100.net (142.250.140.139): icmp_seq=5 ttl=255 time=132 ms
^C
--- google.com ping statistics ---
5 packets transmitted, 5 received, 0% packet loss, time 4139ms
rtt min/avg/max/mdev = 25.486/88.645/131.628/37.011 ms
```

```
liveuser@localhost-live:~$ ping -c 10 google.com
PING google.com (142.251.30.139) 56(84) bytes of data.
64 bytes from sv-in-f139.1e100.net (142.251.30.139): icmp_seq=1 ttl=255 time=40.7 ms
64 bytes from sv-in-f139.1e100.net (142.251.30.139): icmp_seq=2 ttl=255 time=23.6 ms
64 bytes from sv-in-f139.1e100.net (142.251.30.139): icmp_seq=3 ttl=255 time=48.2 ms
^C
--- google.com ping statistics ---
3 packets transmitted, 3 received, 0% packet loss, time 2011ms
rtt min/avg/max/mdev = 23.555/37.468/48.150/10.297 ms
```

- **Command:** `iperf3 -c 192.168.56.101`

```
vboxuser@ubuntu:~$ iperf3 -c 192.168.56.102
Connecting to host 192.168.56.102, port 5201
[ 5] local 192.168.56.101 port 52288 connected to 192.168.56.102 port 5201
[ ID] Interval           Transfer     Bitrate      Retr  Cwnd
[ 5]  0.00-1.03   sec    18.0 MBytes   147 Mbits/sec   110    280 KBytes
[ 5]  1.03-2.00   sec    23.5 MBytes   203 Mbits/sec    0    329 KBytes
[ 5]  2.00-3.04   sec    27.2 MBytes   219 Mbits/sec   44    235 KBytes
[ 5]  3.04-4.02   sec    26.0 MBytes   223 Mbits/sec   42    221 KBytes
[ 5]  4.02-5.02   sec    27.6 MBytes   232 Mbits/sec   20    211 KBytes
[ 5]  5.02-6.20   sec    29.2 MBytes   209 Mbits/sec    0    290 KBytes
[ 5]  6.20-7.00   sec    23.0 MBytes   240 Mbits/sec   45    252 KBytes
[ 5]  7.00-8.01   sec    24.2 MBytes   202 Mbits/sec   10    246 KBytes
^C[ 5]  8.01-8.23   sec    6.62 MBytes   244 Mbits/sec    0    260 KBytes
- - - - -
[ ID] Interval           Transfer     Bitrate      Retr
[ 5]  0.00-8.23   sec    206 MBytes   210 Mbits/sec   271          sender
[ 5]  0.00-8.23   sec    0.00 Bytes   0.00 bits/sec              receiver
iperf3: interrupt - the client has terminated
```

- **Function:** Measures network throughput between client and server over 10 seconds.

5. System Latency

- **Command:** `ping -i 0.2 127.0.0.1`
 - **Function:** Measures the local loopback latency to assess internal system responsiveness.

```
vboxuser@ubuntu:~$ ping -i 0.2 127.0.0.1
PING 127.0.0.1 (127.0.0.1) 56(84) bytes of data.
64 bytes from 127.0.0.1: icmp_seq=1 ttl=64 time=4.32 ms
64 bytes from 127.0.0.1: icmp_seq=2 ttl=64 time=0.087 ms
64 bytes from 127.0.0.1: icmp_seq=3 ttl=64 time=0.074 ms
64 bytes from 127.0.0.1: icmp_seq=4 ttl=64 time=0.584 ms
64 bytes from 127.0.0.1: icmp_seq=5 ttl=64 time=0.072 ms
64 bytes from 127.0.0.1: icmp_seq=6 ttl=64 time=0.072 ms
64 bytes from 127.0.0.1: icmp_seq=7 ttl=64 time=0.070 ms
64 bytes from 127.0.0.1: icmp_seq=8 ttl=64 time=0.072 ms
64 bytes from 127.0.0.1: icmp_seq=9 ttl=64 time=0.102 ms
64 bytes from 127.0.0.1: icmp_seq=10 ttl=64 time=0.084 ms
64 bytes from 127.0.0.1: icmp_seq=11 ttl=64 time=0.083 ms
```

6. Service Response Times

- **Command:** `curl -o /dev/null -s -w "%{time_total}\n" http://localhost`
 - **Function:** Measures the total response time of a web service.

```
vboxuser@ubuntu:~$ curl -o /dev/null -s -w "Time: %{time_total}s\n" http://localhost
Time: 0.078755s
```

```
liveuser@localhost-live:~$ curl -o /dev/null -s -w "Time: %{time_total}s\n" http://localhost
Time: 0.001580s
```

- **Command:** `ab -n 100 -c 10 http://localhost/`
 - **Function:** Apache Benchmark tool; tests the web server with 100 requests and 10 concurrent users, measuring response times.

```
vboxuser@ubuntu:~$ ab -n 100 -c 10 http://localhost/
This is ApacheBench, Version 2.3 <$Revision: 1903618 $>
Copyright 1996 Adam Twiss, Zeus Technology Ltd, http://www.zeustech.net/
Licensed to The Apache Software Foundation, http://www.apache.org/

Benchmarking localhost (be patient).....done


Server Software:      Apache/2.4.58
Server Hostname:      localhost
Server Port:          80

Document Path:        /
Document Length:      10671 bytes

Concurrency Level:    10
Time taken for tests:  0.219 seconds
Complete requests:    100
Failed requests:       0
Total transferred:    1094500 bytes
```

2. Testing Scenarios

Scenario 1: Baseline Performance Testing

- Run all the above commands with no additional load.
- Record metrics for CPU, memory, disk, network, latency, and service response times.
- **Purpose:** Establish baseline performance for comparison.

Scenario 2: Application Load Testing

- Simulate workload using `stress-ng` or multiple users:
 - **Command:** `stress-ng --cpu 4 --io 2 --vm 2 --timeout 60s`
 - **Function:** Simulates CPU, I/O, and memory load for 60 seconds.
- Monitor performance metrics under load.

Scenario 3: Performance Analysis & Bottleneck Identification

- Analyse the collected data:
 - Identify processes with high CPU usage (`top`).
 - Identify memory leaks or high memory consumption (`vmstat`).
 - Detect disk I/O bottlenecks (`iostat` or `dd`).
 - Detect network latency issues (`ping`, `iperf3`).

Scenario 4: Optimisation Testing

- Implement at least **two improvements**:
 1. **CPU Optimization:**
 - Example: Adjust process priority using `renice <PID> -n -5`.
 - **Function:** Changes priority of process to reduce CPU starvation.
 2. **Disk I/O Optimization:**
 - Example: Enable write-back caching using `echo 8 > /sys/block/sda/queue/nr_requests`.
 - **Function:** Improves disk throughput by increasing the number of requests queued.
- Retest the metrics to evidence improvements compared to baseline.

3. Results Summary (Example Table)

Metric	Baseline	Under Load	After Optimisation	Observation
CPU Usage	20%	85%	60%	Optimisation reduced CPU contention
Memory Usage	4GB used	6GB used	5GB used	Memory utilisation improved

Disk I/O	100MB/s	250MB/s	220MB/s	Write caching improved throughput
Network Latency	5ms	20ms	15ms	Network latency improved slightly
Service Response Time	200ms	800ms	400ms	Response time reduced by 50%