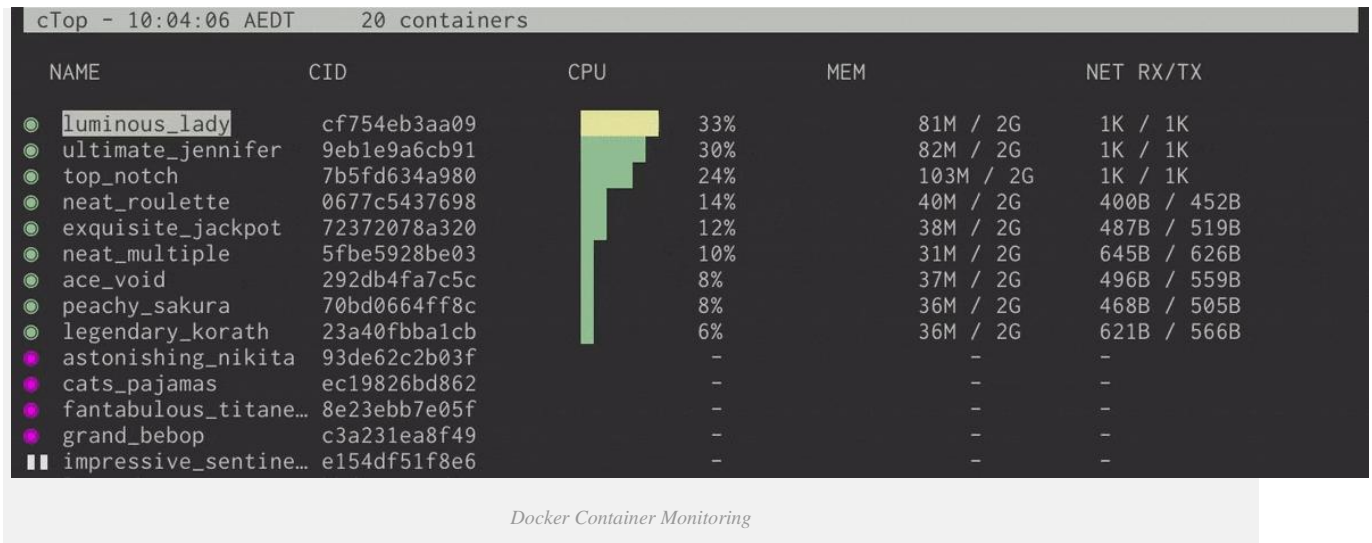


ctop – Top-like Interface for Monitoring Docker Containers

ctop is a free open source, simple and cross-platform top-like command-line tool for monitoring container metrics in real-time. It allows you to get an overview of metrics concerning CPU, memory, network, I/O for multiple containers and also supports inspection of a specific container.



At the time of writing this article, it ships with built-in support for [Docker](#) (default container connector) and runC; connectors for other container and cluster platforms will be added in future releases.

How to Install ctop in Linux Systems

Installing the latest release of ctop is as easy as running the following commands to download the binary for your Linux distribution and install it under `/usr/local/bin/ctop` and make it executable to run it.

```
$ sudo wget https://github.com/bcicen/ctop/releases/download/v0.7.1/ctop-0.7.1-linux-amd64 -O /usr/local/bin/ctop

$ sudo chmod +x /usr/local/bin/ctop
```

Alternatively, install ctop via Docker using following command.

```
$ docker run --rm -ti --name=ctop -v /var/run/docker.sock:/var/run/docker.sock
quay.io/vektorlab/ctop:latest
```

Once you have installed ctop, you can run it to list all your containers whether active or not.

```
$ ctop
```

ctop - 22:26:14 EAT 6 containers							
NAME	CID	CPU	MEM	NET RX/TX	IO R/W	PIDS	
● app	0fd99ee0cb61	1%	1002M / 3.57G	26K / 515B	296M / 336M	98	
● kind_lichter...	b71d7fc3750d	1%	28M / 3.57G	526K / 20K	16M / 0B	3	
● boring_darwin	f58c8c525e39	-	-	-	-	-	
● friendly_lic...	16411fa915c3	-	-	-	-	-	
● mystifying_k...	92a47e6965e5	-	-	-	-	-	
● quizzical_sa...	30007a79431d	-	-	-	-	-	

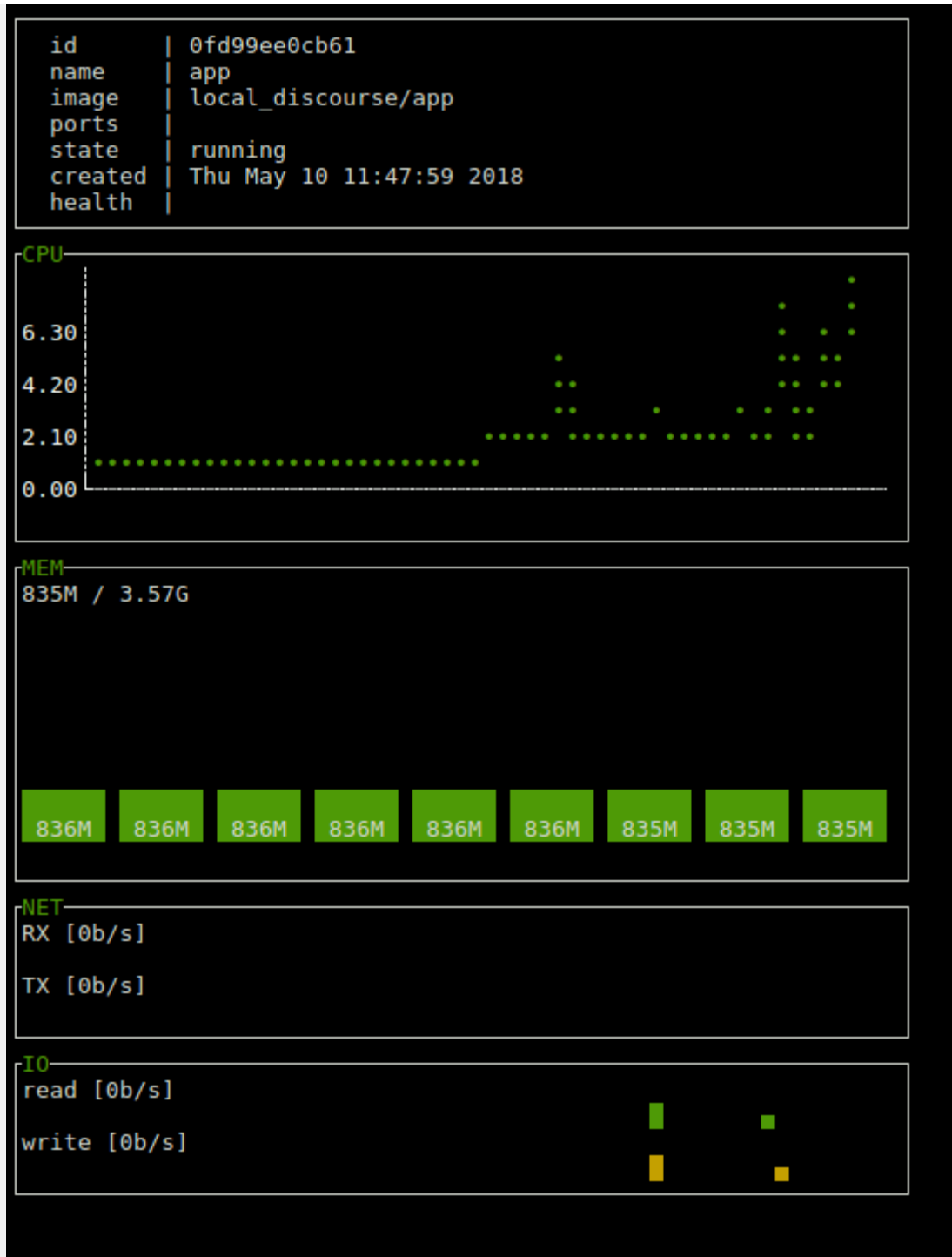
Monitor Docker Containers

You can use the Up and Down arrow keys to highlight a container and click Enter to select it. You will see a menu as shown in the following screenshot. Choose “single view” and click on it to inspect the selected container.

Menu 2 containers							
single view		CPU	MEM	NET RX/TX	IO R/W	PIDS	
log view	d99ee0cb61	1%	835M / 3.57G	28K / 515B	301M / 396M	98	
stop	175e6f7f9d	2%	29M / 3.57G	202K / 8K	1M / 0B	3	
cancel							

Monitor Single Docker Container

The following screenshot shows the single view mode for a specific container.



Inspect a Single Container

To display active containers only, use the `-a` flag.

```
$ ctop -a
```

ctop - 23:18:53 EAT 2 containers						
NAME	CID	CPU	MEM	NET RX/TX	IO R/W	PIDS
● app	0fd99ee0cb61	1%	854M / 3.57G	27K / 515B	301M / 381M	98
● awesome_nort...	bbbf479d3518	1%	27M / 3.57G	253K / 10K	0B / 0B	3

Check Active Docker Container

To display CPU as % of system total, use the `-scale-cpu` option.

```
$ ctop -scale-cpu
```

You can also filter containers using the `-f` flag, for example.

```
$ ctop -f app
```

Additionally, you can select initial container sort field using the `-s` flag, and see the ctop help message as shown.

```
$ ctop -h
```

Note that connectors for other container and cluster systems are yet to be added to ctop. You can find more information from the [Ctop Github repository](#).

ctop is a simple top-like tool for visualizing and monitoring container metrics in real-time.