

Determine if Your Linux Computer or Server Is Hacked



"Advice from a Hacker" How do you determine whether your computer or server has been hacked. If you suspected this, this article certainly applies to you. But I also discuss several great commands that every Linux user or "Hacker" should know. And I show you various options. Some of these commands will also work for a Mac and Windows, so it's a good idea to take a look if only for the tips you might want to use.

Keep calm and don't panic if you have been

Just classify everything. Do not access a file with cat or strings, catalog the files and save that for later. Once you start removing things, you can no longer investigate how deeply they have penetrated. Don't be misled and just stay calm. Just do some investigation and research.

Take a good look at the attacker, you may find an IP address or a trace that has been left behind. This can only make the research more fun. Try to find out as much as possible about the attacker. If you have all the data then you can look to delete it safely.

Obviously, it is urgent if you are very duped and a lot of money is involved, but then hire a team of specialized Ethical Hackers or Cyber security Experts. If you have a business that is always the best you can do.

"What hackers do is figure out technology and experiment with it in ways many people never imagined. They also have a strong desire to share this information with others and to explain it to people whose only qualification may be the desire to learn."

Show a listing of last logged in users

#worwho

The first thing you should look for is who is currently logged into your computer. It is not uncommon to find the attacker actually logged into the server and working on it.

Use the command last

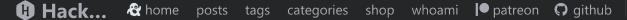
Show a listing of **last** logged in users. The history with this command goes all the way back to the start of the setup of the computer or server. (You can also

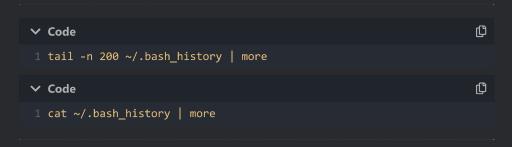
1 last -h

```
✓ Code

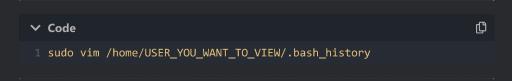
                                                                     Ф
1 Usage:
   last [options] [<username>...] [<tty>...]
4 Show a listing of last logged in users.
6 Options:
   -<number>
                        how many lines to show
   -a, --hostlast
                        display hostnames in the last column
                        translate the IP number back into a hostname
   -f, --file <file>
                        use a specific file instead of /var/log/wtmp
   -F, --fulltimes
                        print full login and logout times and dates
   -i, --ip
                        display IP numbers in numbers-and-dots notation
   -n, --limit <number> how many lines to show
   -R, --nohostname
                        don't display the hostname field
   -s, --since <time>
                        display the lines since the specified time
   -t, --until <time>
                        display the lines until the specified time
   -p, --present <time> display who were present at the specified time
                        display full user and domain names
   -w, --fullnames
                         display system shutdown entries and run level c
   -x, --system
       --time-format <format> show timestamps in the specified <format
                                 notime|short|full|iso
   -h, --help
                        display this help
   -V, --version
                        display version
```

```
. .
-[bullseye@parrot]-[~]
     $last
bullseye tty7
                                                                  still logged in
reboot system boot 5.5.0-1parrot1-a Sun May
                                                      3 22:27
                                                                  still running
bullseye tty7
reboot system boot
                         5.5.0-1parrot1-a Sun May
                                                                  22:27
bullseye tty7
                                            Thu Apr 23 21:41 -
                                                                  22:22 (10+00:41)
reboot system boot 5.4.0-4parrot1-a Thu Apr 23 21:40 bullseye tty7 :0 Wed Apr 22 22:42
                                                                  22:22 (10+00:41)
bullseye tty7
                                                                  21:40
bullseye tty7 ...
reboot system boot 5.4.0-4parrot1-a Wed Apr 22 22:42
bullseye tty7 :0 Thu Apr 16 16:10
                                                                          (22:58)
                                                                  22:41 (6+06:31)
reboot system boot 5.4.0-4parrot1-a Thu Apr 16 16:10
                                                                  22:41 (6+06:31)
bullseye tty7
                                            Wed Apr 15 01:02
                                                                  16:09 (1+15:07
reboot system boot 5.4.0-4parrot1-a Wed Apr 15 01:01
                                                                  16:09 (1+15:07)
bullseye tty7
                                            Wed Apr 15 00:54
                                                                  01:01
                                                                          (00:06)
reboot system boot 5.4.0-4parrotl-a Wed Apr 15 00:54
                                                                          (00:07)
bullseye tty7 :0 Sun Apr 12 17:45 reboot system boot 5.4.0-4parrot1-a Sun Apr 12 17:45
                                                                  00:53 (2+07:08)
                                                                  00:53 (2+07:08)
bullseye tty7 :0 Thu Apr 9 15:43 reboot system boot 5.4.0-4parrot1-a Thu Apr 9 15:41
                                                                  17:44 (3+02:01)
                                                                  17:44 (3+02:03)
                                                      7 14:14 -
7 14:14 -
bullseye tty7 :0 Tue Apr
reboot system boot 5.4.0-4parrot1-a Tue Apr
                                                                  15:40 (2+01:25)
                                                                  15:40 (2+01:25)
bullseye tty7
                         : 0
                                            Tue Apr
                                                       7 13:39 -
reboot system boot 5.4.0-4parrot1-a Tue Apr
                                                       7 13:39
                                                                  14:14 (00:34)
                                            Fri Apr
                                                                  13:39 (4+02:04)
                                                      3 11:34
                         5.4.0-4parrot1-a Fri Apr
                                                      3 11:33
                                                                  13:39 (4+02:05)
reboot system boot
bullseye tty7
                                             Thu Apr
                                                      2 23:58 -
                                                                  11.33
                                                                          (11:35)
                                            Thu Apr 2 23:57 - 11:33 (11:35)
Thu Apr 2 23:44 - 23:48 (00:03)
                         5.4.0-4parrot1-a Thu Apr
reboot system boot
bullseye tty7
                                             Tue Mar 31 17:21 - 23:57 (2+06:36)
```





Of course, you can also open an editor (Like vim or nano) and save the output. So that you can notice any changes at a **later time**. Check also command from other users that you might have on your computer. /home/username/



System files that have changed recently.

With this command, you can see what has happened recently. The "-2" means 2 days, i.e. this shows me all files modified in the last 2 days.

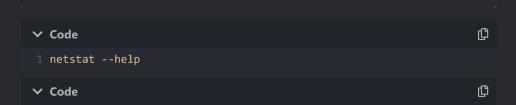


Now if you haven't installed any new software on your server for a while then this command will run and produce very little output. Here in this picture I just did a new upgrade, so there is a lot to see.



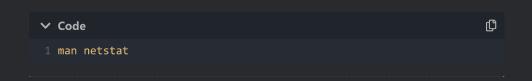
Verify the current connections from your computer and or server

Netstat



```
-r, --route
                               display routing table
      -i, --interfaces
                               display interface table
                               display multicast group memberships
      -g, --groups
      -s, --statistics
                               display networking statistics (like
      -M, --masquerade
                               display masqueraded connections
      -v, --verbose
                               be verbose
      -W, --wide
                               don't truncate IP addresses
      -n, --numeric
                               don't resolve names
      --numeric-hosts
                               don't resolve host names
      --numeric-ports
                               don't resolve port names
      --numeric-users
                               don't resolve user names
      -N, --symbolic
                               resolve hardware names
                               display other/more information
      -e, --extend
                               display PID/Program name for sockets
      -p, --programs
      -o, --timers
                               display timers
                               continuous listing
      -c, --continuous
      -1, --listening
                               display listening server sockets
                               display all sockets (default: connec
      -F, --fib
                               display Forwarding Information Base
      -C, --cache
                               display routing cache instead of FIB
                               display SELinux security context for
Socket = {-t|--tcp} {-u|--udp} {-U|--udplite} {-S|--sctp} {-w|--raw}
         \{-x \mid --unix\} --ax25 --ipx --netrom
<AF>=Use '-6|-4' or '-A <af>' or '--<af>'; default: inet
List of possible address families (which support routing):
  inet (DARPA Internet) inet6 (IPv6) ax25 (AMPR AX.25)
  netrom (AMPR NET/ROM) ipx (Novell IPX) ddp (Appletalk DDP)
  x25 (CCITT X.25)
```

If you want more information about netstat, you can use the man (manual)



```
nections, and multicast memberships

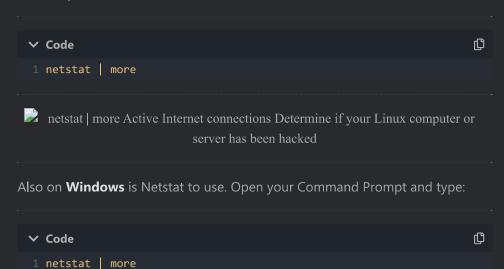
SYNOPSIS

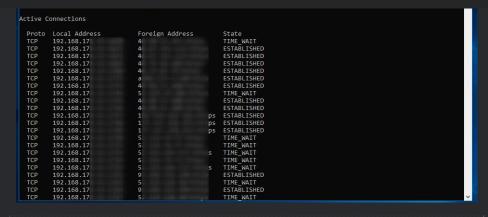
netstat [address family_options] [--tcp]-t] [--udp]-u] [--udplite]-U] [--sctp]-S] [--raw]-w] [--lzcap]-2] [--rfcomm]-f] [--listening]-t] [--alt]-a] [--numeric]-n] [--numeric]-chosts] [--numeric]-ports] [--numeric]-ports] [--numeric]-ports] [--raw]-w] [--program]-p] [--verbose]-v] [--continuous]-c] [--wide]-w] [--verbose]-v] [--numeric]-n] [--numer
```

Often an attacker will install a program that doesn't do anything except listen on the network port for instructions. You should look for any process that is listed as in the LISTEN or ESTABLISHED status as these processes are either waiting for a connection (**LISTEN**) or have a connection open (**ESTABLISHED**). If you don't recognize these processes use "strace" or "Isof" (below an example) to try to see what they are doing.

This command will show you 2 parts, the first is "Active Internet connections (w/o servers)" and the second is "Active UNIX domain sockets (w/o servers)"

Check both carefully because if you got a malicious script running somewhere and this script is trying to sending spam mail or try to attach other servers you can easily find here.





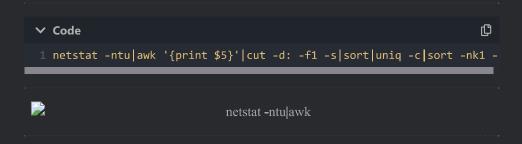
Below I show an example of how to use the command **sudo netstat -atnp | grep ESTA** used. The first image without having anything open, the second image when I opened about 15 tabs in Chrome.

I must say that these commands have always been useful in the past, for example when you spoke to someone on **Telegram**, you could see the IP addresses of the people you spoke to. (also from bots). This IP address leak is now closed.



When entered correctly, this command will return a descending list of which IPs are connected to your (**server**) "I use this command often for my computer" and how many connections each one has. Looking at your results, you will see connections listed ranging anywhere from 1 to about 50 connections per IP. This can be quite common for normal traffic (server). If however, you see some IPs with 100+ connections, this is something to scrutinize.

Included in the list, you may see known IPs, one or more of the server's own IPs, or even your own personal IP with many connections.



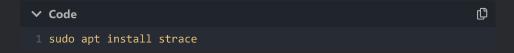


strace

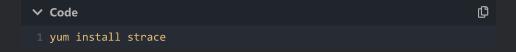
strace is a powerful command-line tool for debugging and troubleshooting. It captures and records all system calls made by a process and the signals received by the process.

If **strace** is not pre-installed on your Linux system, run the appropriate command below for your distribution, to install it.

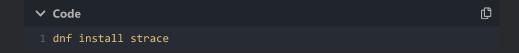
| Debian/Ubuntu



| RHEL/CentOS

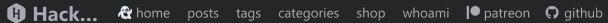


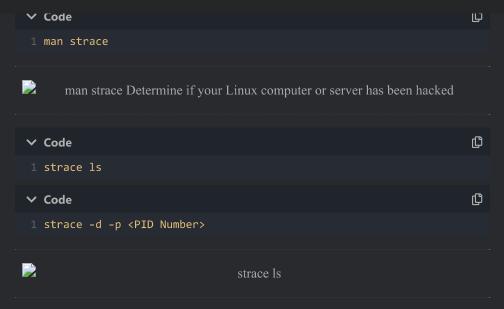
| Fedora 22+



| Arch-based

v o l

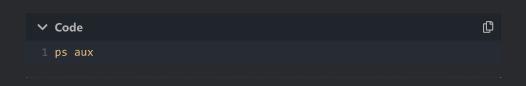




| Using ps

The **ps** (process status) command is one of the most frequently used commands in Linux. Usually it is used to get the more and detailed information about a specific process or all processes. For example it is used to know whether a particular process is running or not, who is running what process in system, which process is using higher memory or CPU, how long a process is running, etc.

Use the "man ps" for more info.

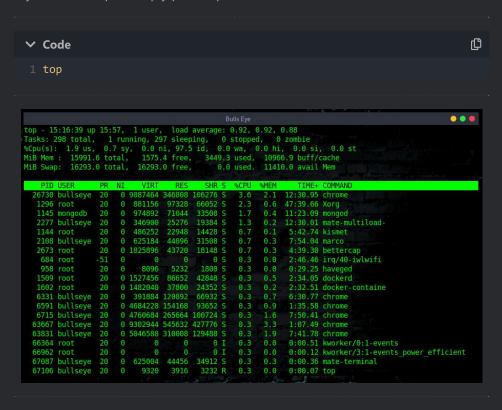


- a = show processes for all users
- u = display the process's user/owner
- x = also show processes not attached to a terminal

Check the running processes with TOP

The top command is a quick way to see what processes are consuming resources. **top** comes pre-installed on every Linux distribution. top it is interactive, and you can browse through the list of processes, kill a process, and so on. As you might have already guessed, you simply need to type this in to launch top.

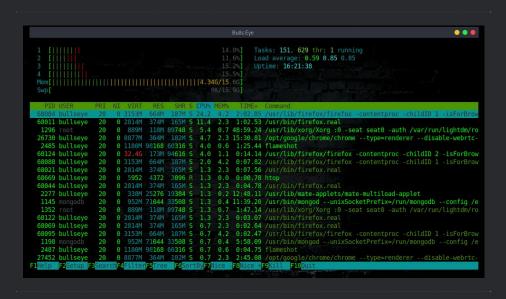
You can use the arrow keys and Page Up/Down keys to browse through the list. If you want to quit, simply press "q".



keyboard. When you first launch htop, you'll be greeted with a colorful interface showing a list of all processes running on the system. These are normally ordered by the amount of CPU usage, ordered from highest to lowest. It also shows the status of CPU usage, physical and swap memory.

Kill a Process Without Exiting From htop – Press F9 or k

To kill a process, Select the process that needs to be killed from the list, and press F9 or k, which will display the "Send signal" menu that lists all the available signals that you can send to the command.

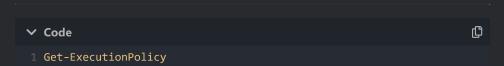


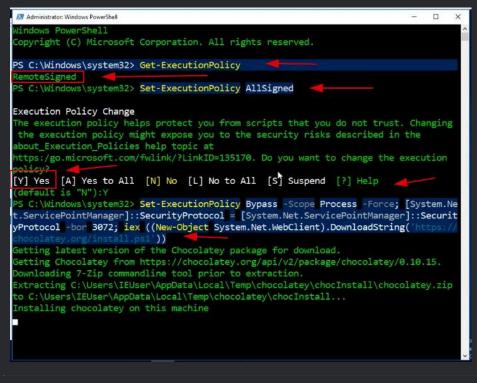
Install NTop on Windows

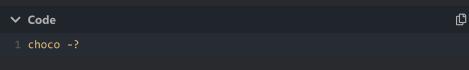
NTop is an Htop-like system-monitor with Vi-emulation for Windows.

Because using Task Manager is not cool enough 😬

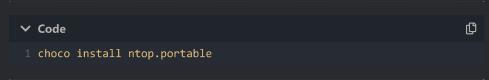
First, you have to open in the search bar **PowerShell** and **run it as administrator**. Now we going to install chocolatey



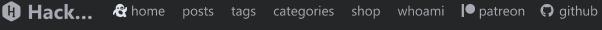




Now that it is installed, you can install NTop



```
2 Administrator: Windows PowerShell
                                                                                         Charles 3.12.3 [Approved] Downloads cached for licensed users
install4j.portable 7.0.11 [Approved] Downloads cached for licensed users
appymanage 5.0.1.0 [Approved] Downloads cached for licensed users
Noto 0.20171025 [Approved] Downloads cached for licensed users
smartgit-with-jre 7.1.1 [Approved] Downloads cached for licensed users - Possibly br
oken for FOSS users (due to original download location changes by vendor)
jcpicker 5.2 [Approved] Downloads cached for licensed users - Possibly broken for FO
SS users (due to original download location changes by vendor)
wincontig 1.35.03 [Approved]
xonotic 0.8.2 [Approved] Downloads cached for licensed users
nyagos 4.4.5.4 [Approved] Downloads cached for licensed users
S C:\Windows\system32> choco install ntop.portable
Chocolatey v0.10.15
Installing the following packages:
ntop.portable
By installing you accept licenses for the packages.
Progress: Downloading NTop.Portable 0.3.4... 100%
NTop.Portable v0.3.4 [Approved]
top.portable package files install completed. Performing other installation steps.
ShimGen has successfully created a shim for ntop.exe
The install of ntop.portable was successful.
 Software install location not explicitly set, could be in package or
  default install location if installer
```



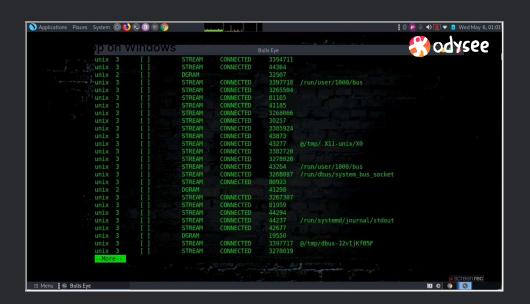
1 ntop

Using NTop for Windows

https://hackingpassion.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/

Video NTop on windows

In this video, I show you how to install NTop on Windows. The last part of the video shows how to use KILL "**k**" and shows you **nstat** | **more**.



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Check SSH attempt connections

Check the SSH logs to understand if somebody is trying to get access to the server, or computer.

You can check the access log to the server (SSH) in this way.

This command will show you the log from the last 300 lines of all the attempts



IP2 Proxy Manager

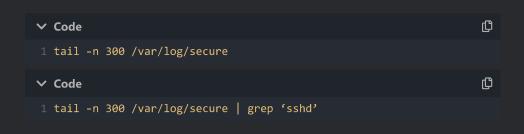
IP2World Op

Tip: If you need to read backward the log you need to increase the number of lines to 1000 or more, depending on the server use because of this logfile store all access to the server (FTP, SSH, Webmin, and other...)

If you are using a Debian distribution based



If you are using a Centos/RedHat distribution based



You can use the top command to see what happens on your own PC. The numbers are adjustable.



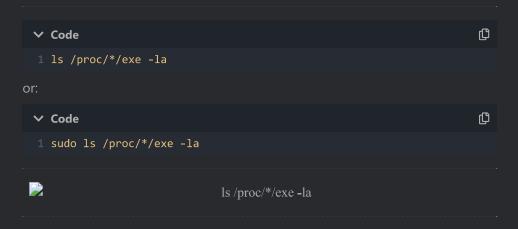
Open ports

Which ports do you have open? you can see this very well with nmap. A simple nmap scan will do for an initial overview.

✓ Code

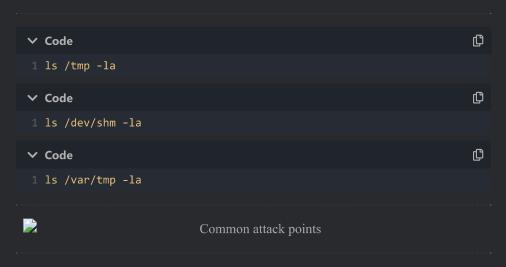


kernel data structures. It is commonly mounted at /proc. Read the man page for more info. man proc



Common attack points

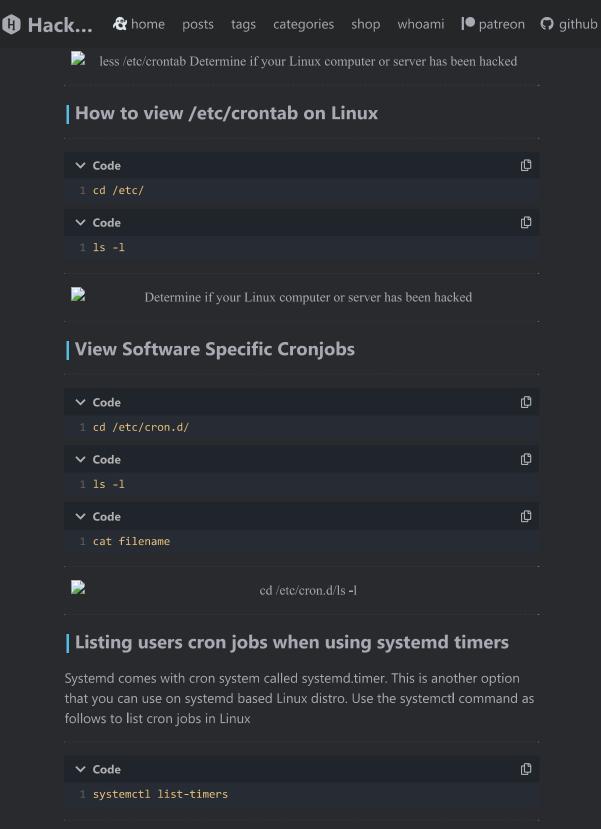
These are all the common unsecured places where the hacker intrudes into your Linux machine



Crontab scheduled jobs

Another way is to check the **cronjobs**. Maybe a malicious script or application could be seen here.

"The **crontab** is a list of commands that runs on a regular schedule. Crontab stands for "**cron table**" because it uses the job scheduler cron to execute tasks."



Listing users cron jobs when using systemd timers

Conclusion