

\* Second line of the top output.

→ The second line of the top output displays the total number of process, the number of running, sleeping and zombie processes.

→ Comparing the number of running process with load average helps determine if the system has reached its capacity or perhaps a particular user is running too many processes.

→ The stopped process should be examined to see if everything is running correctly.

\* Third line of the top output

→ The third line of the top output indicates how the CPU time is being divided between users (us) and kernel (sy) by displaying the percentage of CPU time used for each.

→ The Percentage of user jobs running at a lower Priority (niceness - ni) is then listed.

→ Idle mode (id) should be low if the load average is high and vice versa.

→ The Percentage of jobs waiting (wa) for I/O is listed.

→ Interrupts include the Percentage of hardware (hi) vs. software interrupts (si)

→ Steal time (st) is generally used with virtual machines, which has some of its idle CPU time taken for other users.

\* Fourth and Fifth Line of the top output

→ The fourth and fifth line of the top output indicate memory usage, which is divided in two categories

- Physical memory (RAM) - display on line 4.

- Swap space - displayed on line 5

→ Both categories display total memory, used memory and free space.

✓ Process List of the top output

→ Each line in the Process list of the top output displays information about Process.

→ By default process are ordered by highest CPU usage.

→ The following information about each process is displayed.

- Process identification number (PID)
- Process owner (USER)
- Priority (PR) and nice value (NI)
- Virtual (VIRT), Physical (RES), and shared memory (SHR)
- status (S)
- Percentage of CPU (% CPU) and memory (% MEM) used
- Execution time (TIME+)
- command (COMMAND)