

Re: high system cpu usage, no culprit in top

Source: <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/Debian/2004-04/1130.html>

From: Justin Guerin (jguerin_at_cso.atmel.com)

Date: 04/07/04

Date: Wed, 07 Apr 2004 15:35:54 -0600

To: debian-user@lists.debian.org

On Wednesday 07 April 2004 11:58, Brent Miller wrote:

> *Justin Guerin wrote:*

> > *My CPU is 100% utilized, but no processes seem to be using the CPU. I*

> > *can't seem to figure out what's causing the load. I know that*

> > *something is, though, because xscreensaver is running very slow.*

>

> *Some daemons (mysql comes to mind) won't show up under top, but of*

> *course continue to use resources. I think this is because of the way*

> *they do threading---If you do a top or ps -A you'll only get the parent*

> *processes and not the children (who are actually using the cpu.)*

>

> *I remember that there is a command that shows you what processes are*

> *running that are not showing up under ps, but I cannot think of it at*

> *the moment. You can always compare the PID's from ps -A against*

> */proc/[0-9]* to find the culprit though.*

>

> *HTH,*

> *Brent*

Thanks for the input. I wasn't able to decode `/proc/[0-9]*/stat` to the system CPU load, though. I think I would have to check the stime jiffy count for all processes, then see who had the largest share, but it's hard to do that real-time _and_ compare to top's output so I know I'm doing it right.

In any case, I noticed that X was using a lot of CPU system time, even though it had been reniced (manually). So I decided to start there. I restarted X, and it hasn't happened since. This is the first time I restarted X since I reconfigured it to run a 0 nice, not -10. It seems that manually renicing the running application doesn't have the same effect as editing the config and restarting.

I guess there's some use for rebooting your computer outside of a kernel upgrade or a bootloader splash screen change (even though I still haven't done that: I only restarted X ;-)

Justin

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Debian-User: Re: high system cpu usage, no culprit in top

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