

# [PATCH] Add documentation for /proc/stat

**Source:** <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/Kernel/2003-08/8204.html>

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**Date:** 08/31/03

To: Linus Torvalds <torvalds@osdl.org>

Date: 30 Aug 2003 22:19:08 -0700

Hi, Linus -

This patch adds documentation for the contents of the /proc/stat file.  
The BK version of the patch at the URL below also instructs BK to ignore  
cscope database files.

Please do a pull from

bk://klibc.bkbits.net/stat-doc

proc.txt | 53 +++  
1 files changed, 53 insertions(+)

```
# This is a BitKeeper generated patch for the following project:
# Project Name: Linux kernel tree
# This patch format is intended for GNU patch command version 2.5 or higher.
# This patch includes the following deltas:
# ChangeSet 1.1291 -> 1.1292
# Documentation/filesystems/proc.txt 1.15 -> 1.16
#
# The following is the BitKeeper ChangeSet Log
# -----
# 03/08/30 bos@camp4.serpentine.com 1.1292
# Add documentation for /proc/stat.
# This is based on reading of the code in fs/proc/proc_misc.c, so it
# ought to be 100% accurate.
#
# Tell BitKeeper to ignore cscope database files.
# -----
#
diff -Nru a/Documentation/filesystems/proc.txt b/Documentation/filesystems/proc.txt
--- a/Documentation/filesystems/proc.txt Sat Aug 30 22:11:50 2003
+++ b/Documentation/filesystems/proc.txt Sat Aug 30 22:11:50 2003
@@ -25,6 +25,7 @@
1.5 SCSI info
1.6 Parallel port info in /proc/parport
1.7 TTY info in /proc/tty
```

## Linux-Kernel: [PATCH] Add documentation for /proc/stat

+ 1.8 Miscellaneous kernel statistics in /proc/stat

### 2 Modifying System Parameters

#### 2.1 /proc/sys/fs – File system data

@@ -702,6 +703,58 @@

/dev/console /dev/console 5 1 system:console

/dev/tty /dev/tty 5 0 system:/dev/tty

unknown /dev/tty 4 1-63 console

+

+

+1.8 Miscellaneous kernel statistics in /proc/stat

+-----

+

+Various pieces of information about kernel activity are available in the

+/proc/stat file. All of the numbers reported in this file are aggregates

+since the system first booted. For a quick look, simply cat the file:

+

+ > cat /proc/stat

+ cpu 2255 34 2290 22625563 6290 127 456

+ cpu0 1132 34 1441 11311718 3675 127 438

+ cpu1 1123 0 849 11313845 2614 0 18

+ intr 114930548 113199788 3 0 5 263 0 4 [... lots more numbers ...]

+ ctxt 1990473

+ btime 1062191376

+ processes 2915

+ procs\_running 1

+ procs\_blocked 0

+

+The very first "cpu" line aggregates the numbers in all of the other "cpuN"

+lines. These numbers identify the amount of time the CPU has spent performing

+different kinds of work. Time units are in USER\_HZ (typically hundredths of a

+second). The meanings of the columns are as follows, from left to right:

+

+– user: normal processes executing in user mode

+– nice: niced processes executing in user mode

+– system: processes executing in kernel mode

+– idle: twiddling thumbs

+– iowait: waiting for I/O to complete

+– irq: servicing interrupts

+– softirq: servicing softirqs

+

+The "intr" line gives counts of interrupts serviced since boot time, for each

+of the possible system interrupts. The first column is the total of all

+interrupts serviced; each subsequent column is the total for that particular

+interrupt.

+

+The "ctxt" line gives the total number of context switches across all CPUs.

+

+The "btime" line gives the time at which the system booted, in seconds since

+the Unix epoch.

+

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- +The "processes" line gives the number of processes and threads created, which
- +includes (but is not limited to) those created by calls to the fork() and
- +clone() system calls.
- +
- +The "procs\_running" line gives the number of processes currently running on
- +CPUs.
- +
- +The "procs\_blocked" line gives the number of processes currently blocked,
- +waiting for I/O to complete.

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