

Re: top output: 8 cpus busy in user-mode activities, 6 processes running

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Source: <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/RedHat/2006-10/msg00252.html>

- *From:* Troy Knabe <knabe@xxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Tue, 31 Oct 2006 11:30:55 -0800
-

My understanding is that "top" refreshes every 5 seconds by default. So at the instant of the refresh, it is reporting what processes are actually on the cpu(s) at that time. Not what processes are or were on the process during the 5 seconds between refreshes.

-Troy

----- Original Message -----

From: Susie White <swhite@xxxxxxxxxxx>

Date: Tuesday, October 31, 2006 9:31 am

Subject: top output: 8 cpus busy in user-mode activities, 6 processes running

To: redhat-list@xxxxxxxxxxx

Can you give me some insights about how we can have a case of more busy cpus than users on the run queue or waiting for the run queue. Below is a point in time snapshot using 'top'. We have 8 cpus, all with user-mode activity. And yet we have 6 processes in an R or S state. All the rest are in SW state. Any speculation is welcome.

We are running this version of linux: 2.4.21-32.0.1.ELsmp
#1 SMP Tue May 17 17:52:23 EDT 2005 i686 i686 i386 GNU/Linux

Thanks!

```
05:10:01 up 24 days, 5:58, 3
users, load average: 3.50, 2.24, 1.33
1061 processes: 1060 sleeping, 1 running, 0 zombie, 0 stopped
CPU states:  cpu  user
nice system  irq softirq
iowait  idle

total 21.6%  0.0%
43.2%  0.0%
0.8%  9.6% 724.0%
```

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cpu00 0.9%
0.0% 3.6%
0.0% 0.0%
0.0% 95.4%

cpu01 2.7%
0.0% 7.2%
0.0% 0.0%
0.0% 90.0%

cpu02 7.2%
0.0% 0.9%
0.0% 0.0%
5.4% 86.4%

cpu03 3.6%
0.0% 4.5%
0.0% 0.0%
4.5% 87.3%

cpu04 1.8%
0.0% 3.6%
0.0% 0.9%
0.0% 93.6%

cpu05 1.8%
0.0% 8.1%
0.0% 0.0%
0.0% 90.0%

cpu06 1.8%
0.0% 6.3%
0.0% 0.0%
0.0% 91.8%

cpu07 1.8%
0.0% 9.0%
0.0% 0.0%
0.0% 89.0%

Mem: 15887700k av, 14688888k used, 1198812k
free, 0k shrd,
75228k buff

10974816k actv, 2098712k in_d, 244572k in_c

Swap: 12582712k av, 128796k used, 12453916k
free 12403560k cached

```
PID USER PRI NI  
SIZE RSS SHARE STAT %CPU %MEM TIME CPU COMMAND  
9477 oracle 25 0 1944  
1944 788 R 9.9  
0.0 0:00 7 top
```

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```
1937 root 16
0 1204 1076 692 S
7.2 0.0 328:13 2 hpasmd
9531 oracle 25 0 14208
13M 12596 S 4.5 0.0
0:00 3 oracle
25749 oracle 15 0 14200
13M 8584 S 2.7
0.0 0:06 6 oracle
 1 root
25 0 520 520 460
S 0.9 0.0 190:19 0 init
25741 oracle 15 0 25132 24M
21952 S 0.9 0.1
4:38 3 oracle
 2 root
RT 0 0
0 0 SW 0.0
0.0 0:00 0 migration/0
 3 root
RT 0 0
0 0 SW 0.0
0.0 0:00 1 migration/1
 4 root
RT 0 0
0 0 SW 0.0
0.0 0:00 2 migration/2
 5 root
RT 0 0
0 0 SW 0.0
0.0 0:00 3 migration/3
 6 root
RT 0 0
0 0 SW 0.0
0.0 0:00 4 migration/4
 7 root
RT 0 0
0 0 SW 0.0
0.0 0:00 5 migration/5
 8 root
RT 0 0
0 0 SW 0.0
0.0 0:00 6 migration/6
 9 root
RT 0 0
0 0 SW 0.0
0.0 0:00 7 migration/7
```

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