

What was killing (dogging) my machine?

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Source: <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/alt.os.linux/2007-05/msg00066.html>

- *From:* Ohmster <nowayin@xxxxxxxxx>
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I noticed just a little while ago that the screensaver on my Linux machine was pretty much "crawling" and wondered just what could be dogging the machine that bad. Maybe somebody in FTP dogging files? No, no active FTP connections. Then I brought up top and found my answer, see top screen here:

http://www.ohmster.com/~ohmster/picture/RootUse90_CPU_top.gif

Apparently there was a bash shell that was just chewing up all the CPU cycles. I was not logged in as root at the time, had my unprivileged ohmster user logged in with gnome, running beryl on xwindows. I had ssh'ed in and ran top first as a regular user, then switched to su to be able to kill the process, 24436 at the top of the screen. Needed a kill -9 24436, plain old kill would not do it. Now a lot of stuff runs as root but a bash shell? What could that shell be doing and who or what invoked it?

Machine is an Intel Pentium III 800Mhz Coppermine
1.5Gb SDRAM
Fedora Core 6
Online 24/7 with cable broadband.

I tried to find the process in /var/log/messages with
cat messages |grep 24436
Came up empty.

Is there any way anyone can think of to find out just who or what that was all about? Thanks.

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~Ohmster
ohmster at ohmster dot com
Put "messageforohmster" in message body
(That is Message Body, not Subject!)
to pass my spam filter.

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