

Monitor processes, CPU and RAM with htop

I've been using `htop` for so long that it's now my go-to tool for the visual representation of key process performance metrics on a server: CPU usage, RAM, Swap, average load and most resource-hungry processes.

htop command for process monitoring

This is how a default `htop` screen looks on a properly configured colour-capable terminal: just run "`htop`" without any parameters.

```
 1 [|||||] 26.5%  5 [||||] 11.1%
 2 [|||] 1.2%    6 [|||] 1.2%
 3 [|||||] 16.6%  7 [|||] 6.7%
 4 [|||] 1.2%    8 [|||] 1.2%
Mem [|||||] 7.46G/16.0G
Swp [|||||] 6.73G/8.00G
Tasks: 460, 1693 thr; 1 running
Load average: 1.51 2.34 3.13
Uptime: 5 days, 21:35:22
Mem [|||||] 7.46G/16.0G
Mem [|||||] 7.46G/16.0G

PID USER      PRI  NI  VIRT   RES  S  CPU%  MEM%  TIME+  Command
427 greys    17   0 6247M 230M  W  7.8   1.4 21:39.57 /Applications/iTerm.app/Contents/MacOS/iTer
615 greys    16   0 8670M 729M  ?  1.7   4.5 7h57:08 /Applications/Firefox.app/Contents/MacOS/pl
608 greys    16   0 8029M 706M  ?  1.4   4.3 1h34:15 /Applications/Firefox.app/Contents/MacOS/pl
422 greys    24   0 10.6G 946M  ?  1.2   5.8 4h16:34 /Applications/Firefox.app/Contents/MacOS/fi
430 greys    17   0 4446M 16404 ?  0.9   0.1 1h04:25 /Library/Little Snitch/Little Snitch Agent
1274 greys   17   0 4302M 5764  ?  0.9   0.0 5:52.86 /Applications/Synergy.app/Contents/Resource
562 greys    17   0 9658M 1252M ?  0.8   7.6 14h38:25 /Applications/Firefox.app/Contents/MacOS/pl
1330 greys   17   0 5234M 31212 ?  0.7   0.2 56:17.21 /Library/Application Support/Adobe/Adobe De
904 greys    24   0 4382M 36356 W  0.6   0.2 55:50.25 /Library/Application Support/iStat Menus 6/
815 greys    50   0 5430M 47060 ?  0.5   0.3 50:22.25 /Library/Little Snitch/Little Snitch Networ
902 greys    24   0 4722M 22312 ?  0.5   0.1 33:54.90 /Applications/Utilities/Adobe Creative Clou
637 greys    16   0 7075M 683M  ?  0.4   4.2 35:34.98 /Applications/Firefox.app/Contents/MacOS/pl
F1Help F2Setup F3Search F4Filter F5Tree F6SortBy F7Nice -F8Nice +F9Kill F10Quit
```

How To Install htop in Linux

`htop` is available via [EPEL repository](#) for CentOS/RedHat/Fedora projects:

```
reys@rhel:~ $ yum whatprovides htop
Loaded plugins: fastestmirror, langpacks
Determining fastest mirrors
```

```
* base: centos.quelquesmots.fr
* epel: mirror.ibcp.fr
* extras: centos.mirrors.proxad.net
* updates: centos.crazyfrogs.org
htop-2.2.0-3.el7.x86_64 : Interactive process viewer
Repo : epel
```

Once EPEL is activated, you'll be able to just install htop with yum.

How To Install htop in MacOS

On MacOS I've been using brew to install htop:

```
greys@maverick:~ $ brew install htop
```

or

```
greys@maverick:~ $ brew upgrade htop
```

```
==> Upgrading 1 outdated package:
```

```
htop 2.0.2 -> 2.2.0_1
```

```
==> Upgrading htop
```

```
==> Installing dependencies for htop: ncurses
```

```
==> Installing htop dependency: ncurses
```

```
==>
```

Downloading

```
https://homebrew.bintray.com/bottles/ncurses-6.1.mojave.bottle.tar.gz
```

```
#####
```

```
##### 100.0%
```

```
==> Pouring ncurses-6.1.mojave.bottle.tar.gz
```

```
==> Caveats
```

```
ncurses is keg-only, which means it was not symlinked into /usr/local,
```

```
because macOS already provides this software and installing another version in
```

```
parallel can cause all kinds of trouble.
```

If you need to have ncurses first in your PATH run:

```
echo 'export PATH="/usr/local/opt/ncurses/bin:$PATH"' >>
~/.bash_profile
```

For compilers to find ncurses you may need to set:

```
export LDFLAGS="-L/usr/local/opt/ncurses/lib"
export CPPFLAGS="-I/usr/local/opt/ncurses/include"
```

For pkg-config to find ncurses you may need to set:

```
export PKG_CONFIG_PATH="/usr/local/opt/ncurses/lib/pkgconfig"
```

==> Summary

```
□ /usr/local/Cellar/ncurses/6.1: 3,869 files, 8.3MB
```

==> Installing htop

==>

Downloading

```
https://homebrew.bintray.com/bottles/htop-2.2.0_1.mojave.bottle.tar.gz
```

```
#####
```

```
##### 100.0%
```

==> Pouring htop-2.2.0_1.mojave.bottle.tar.gz

==> Caveats

htop requires root privileges to correctly display all running processes,

so you will need to run `sudo htop`.

You should be certain that you trust any software you grant root privileges.

==> Summary

```
□ /usr/local/Cellar/htop/2.2.0_1: 11 files, 188KB
```

```
Removing: /usr/local/Cellar/htop/2.0.2... (11 files, 185KB)
```

==> Caveats

==> ncurses

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==> htop

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That's it for today. Hope you find **htop command** useful!

See Also

- [htop – official page](#)
- [Unix Commands](#)
- [top command](#)
- [Basic Unix Commands](#)
- [Advanced Unix Commands](#)