

As I dive deeper into the world of DevOps, system observability is becoming more than just a buzzword. Today, I'm learning how to monitor Linux systems effectively using built-in tools and a few additions.

Why Monitoring Matters in DevOps ??

Whether your app is crashing, running slow, or using too many resources — keeping an eye on your system is the first step to fixing problems and making things run smoothly.

Installation (if not available by default):

```
# Install sysstat package (includes iostat, mpstat, etc.)
sudo apt install sysstat  # For Debian/Ubuntu
sudo yum install sysstat  # For RHEL/CentOS

# Install net-tools for ifconfig, netstat, etc.
sudo apt install net-tools

# Install htop (better version of top)
sudo apt install htop

# Install dstat for overall performance
sudo apt install dstat
# For newer systems
sudo apt install glances

# sudo apt install glances
```

Categories of Monitoring

```
Commands/Tools
Area
                    top, htop, mpstat, uptime
CPU
                    free -h, vmstat, top, htop
Memory
                    df -h, du -sh, iostat, dstat
Processes
                    top, htop, ps aux
                    netstat, ss, ifconfig, ip a
Network
I/0
                    iotop, iostat, dstat
                            uptime, top, w, who
System
                    journalctl, tail -f /var/log/syslog
Logs
```



CPU Monitoring

Top: Real-time view of CPU & process usage

```
yashi12@RT0870:--$ top
top - 08:39:34 up 38 min, 1 user, load average: 0.33, 0.18, 0.17
Tasks: 59 total, 1 running, 58 sleeping, 0 stopped, 0 zombie
KCpu(s): 0.5 us, 0.5 sy, 0.8 ni, 98.6 id, 0.2 wa, 0.0 hi, 0.2 si, 0.0 st
MiB Mem: 7759.2 total, 5576.5 free, 1659.9 used, 699.0 buff/cache
MiB Swap: 2048.0 total, 2048.0 free, 0.0 used. 6699.3 avail Mem

PID USER PR NI VIRT RES SHR S %CPU %MEM TIME+ COMMAND
1543 kafka 20 0 9024648 410916 24752 5 2.7 5.2 1:17.95 java
238 root 20 0.2508868 107008 66816 5 2.0 1.3 0:48.60 nomad
1290 yashil2 20 0 10.1g 530468 25316 5 0.7 6.7 0:53.82 java
65 root 19 -1 91856 30548 29524 5 0.3 0.4 0:04.82 systemd-journal
313 root 20 0.203864 47316 33792 5 0.3 0.6 0:04.42 containerd
2198 grafana 20 0 1790784 237608 162688 5 0.3 3.0 0:22.89 grafana
38295 yashil2 20 0 20140 12248 9176 5 0.0 0.0 0:00.033 int-systemd(Ub
7 root 20 0 3060 1664 1664 5 0.0 0.0 0:00.033 int-systemd(Ub
7 root 20 0 3076 1916 1792 5 0.0 0.0 0:00.93 sinafuse
129 root 20 0 153968 1640 1680 1280 5 0.0 0.1 0:00.95 systemd-udevd
128 root 20 0 153968 1640 1680 1280 5 0.0 0.1 0:00.95 systemd-udevd
128 root 20 0 153968 1640 1540 1408 5 0.0 0.0 0:00.95 systemd-udevd
128 root 20 0 153968 1640 1280 1280 5 0.0 0.1 0:00.95 systemd-udevd
128 root 20 0 153968 1640 1280 1280 5 0.0 0.1 0:00.95 systemd-udevd
128 root 20 0 153968 1540 1448 5 0.0 0.0 0:00.95 systemd-udevd
128 root 20 0 153968 1540 1448 5 0.0 0.0 0:00.95 systemd-udevd
128 root 20 0 153968 1540 1448 5 0.0 0.0 0:00.95 systemd-udevd
128 root 20 0 153968 1540 1448 5 0.0 0.1 0:00.95 systemd-udevd
128 root 20 0 153908 1540 1448 5 0.0 0.0 0:00.95 systemd-udevd
128 root 20 0 153968 1540 1448 5 0.0 0.0 0:00.95 systemd-udevd
128 root 20 0 153908 1540 1448 5 0.0 0.0 0:00.95 systemd-udevd
128 root 20 0 153908 1540 1448 5 0.0 0.0 0:00.95 systemd-udevd
128 root 20 0 153908 1540 1448 5 0.0 0.0 0:00.95 systemd-udevd
128 root 20 0 153908 1540 1448 5 0.0 0.0 0:00.95 systemd-udevd
128 root 20 0 153908 1540 1540 1448 5 0.0 0.0 0:00.95 systemd-udevd
```

Htop: Colorful top with scroll/filter

mpstat -P ALL 1: CPU usage per core, every 1 second

inux 6.6.8	B7.2-microsoft-standard-WSL2 (RT0070)					07/29/25		_x86_64_		(12 CPU)	
08:44:32	CPU	%usr	%nice	%sys	%iowait	%irq	%soft	%steal	%guest	%gnice	%idle
08:44:33	all	0.84		1.26	0.17		0.34				97.39
08:44:33				1.98			1.98				96.04
08:44:33				2.02	1.01						96.97
08:44:33				2.04							97.96
08:44:33				1.00			1.00				98.00
08:44:33		2.02									97.98
08:44:33											100.00
08:44:33		2.00		3.00							95.00
08:44:33							1.00				99.00
08:44:33		1.00		2.00	1.00						96.00
08:44:33		4.04		1.01							94.95
08:44:33	10			1.02							98.98
08:44:33	11	1.02		1.02							97.96

! Memory Monitoring

free -h \rightarrow Displays total, used, and free memory in a human-readable format.

```
buff/cache
                                                                                    available
                  total
                                 used
                                                free
                                                           shared
                 7.6Gi
2.0Gi
                                1.6Gi
                                              5.4Gi
                                                                           699Mi
Mem:
                                                              15Mi
                                                                                         5.9Gi
                                   0B
                                              2.0Gi
Swap:
```

vmstat $1 \rightarrow$ Shows system performance stats like memory, CPU, and IO every 1 second (5 times).

```
ashi12@RT0070:~$ vmstat 1
                                                                system
procs
                   memory
                                                                 in
    b
                free
                        buff
                                                     bi
                                                                                 id wa st gu
         swpd
                               cache
                                        si
                                              50
                                                            bo
                                                                       cs us sy
0
    0
              5686840
                         1964
                               717260
                                          0
                                                     649
                                                            200
                                                                1299
                                                                                1 98
                                                                                          0
                                                0
                                                                                       0
            0
    0
                                          0
                                                                             0
                                                                                  99
                                                                                       0
                                                                                          0
                                                                                             0
0
            0
              5686840
                         1980 717276
                                                0
                                                       0
                                                            32
                                                                 721
                                                                     1290
0
    0
            0
              5686248
                          1996
                               717364
                                          0
                                                0
                                                      72
                                                            608
                                                                2120
                                                                      3122
                                                                                  98
                                                                                       0
                                                                                          0
                                                                                              0
0
    0
              5686392
                         2012 717360
                                           0
                                                0
                                                       0
                                                             56
                                                                 728
                                                                      1305
                                                                             0
                                                                                0
                                                                                       0
0
    0
                               717372
            0
              5688760
                         2028
                                          0
                                                0
                                                       0
                                                             60
                                                                1730
                                                                      2554
                                                                             1
                                                                                1
                                                                                  98
                                                                                       0
                                                                                          0
                                                                                              0
0
              5688760
                         2044 717376
                                                0
                                                            44
                                                                      1147
                                                                             0
                                                                                0
                                                                                  99
                                                                                       0
    0
                                          0
                                                       0
                                                                 620
                                                                                          0
            0
    0
                         2076 717400
0
                                          0
                                                0
                                                       0
                                                                             1
                                                                                1 98
            0
              5689196
                                                            180 1855
                                                                      2802
                                                                                          0
                                                                                             0
    0
                                                                             0
                                                                                0
0
            0
              5689196
                          2108
                               717360
                                          0
                                                0
                                                       0
                                                            148
                                                                 831
                                                                      1487
                                                                                  99
                                                                                       0
                                                                                          0
                                                                                             0
    0
              5689196
                         2124 717368
                                           0
                                                0
                                                       0
                                                            496
                                                                 657
                                                                      1187
                                                                             0
                                                                                0
                                                                                  100
                                                                                        0
                                                                                           0
            0
              5687740
                         2164 717400
                                                             64
                                                                2157
                                                                      3115
                                                                                2
                                                                                  97
                                                                                       0
                                                                                          0
```

o Disk Usage

 $df - h \rightarrow Shows disk space usage for all mounted filesystems in human-readable format.$

```
shi12@RT0070:~$ df
.esystem Size
Filesystem
                              Avail Use% Mounted on
                         Used
                                3.8G
3.8G
                                        0% /usr/lib/modules/6.6.87.2-microsoft-standard-WSL2
                  3.8G
none
                            0
                  3.8G
                         4.0K
                                           /mnt/wsl
none
                         191G
drivers
                  226G
                                 36G
                                       85% /usr/lib/wsl/drivers
                                941G
/dev/sdd
                 1007G
                          16G
                                        2%
                                       1% /mnt/wslg
0% /usr/lib/wsl/lib
                          84K
                                3.8G
                  3.8G
none
none
                  3.8G
                            0
                                3.8G
rootfs
                  3.8G
                         2.7M
                                3.8G
                                        1% /init
none
                  3.8G
                         964K
                                3.8G
                                        1% /run
                                3.8G
                  3.8G
                            0
                                        0% /run/lock
none
                  3.8G
                         1.1M
                                3.8G
                                        1% /run/shm
none
                  3.8G
                          76K
                                3.8G
                                        1% /mnt/wslg/versions.txt
none
                          76K
                                        1% /mnt/wslg/doc
                  3.8G
                                3.8G
none
                  226G
                         191G
                                 36G
                                      85%
                                           /mnt/c
                                211G
                  250G
                          40G
                                       16% /mnt/d
```

 $du - sh \rightarrow Displays$ the total disk space used by the current directory in a human-readable format.

```
yashi12@RT0070:~$ du -sh
5.1G .
```

iostat -xz 1 \rightarrow Detailed CPU and disk I/O statistics, updated every second.

Weak Monitoring

ifconfig → Displays network interfaces and IP addresses (legacy).

netstat -tulnp \rightarrow Lists open ports and services listening on them.

```
RT0070:~$ netstat -tulnp
(Not all processes could be identified, non-owned process info will not be shown, you would have to be root to see it all.)
Active Internet connections (only servers)
Proto Recv-Q Send-Q Local Address
tcp 0 0.0.0.0:80
tcp 0 127.0.0.53:53
tcp 0 0.0.0.0:5432
tcp 0 010.255.255.254:53
tcp 0 0127.0.0.54:53
tcp 0 0.0.0.0:8080
                                                                                                                             PID/Program name
                                                                     Foreign Address
                                                                                                          State
                                                                     0.0.0.0:*
0.0.0.0:*
                                                                                                          LISTEN
LISTEN
                                                                     0.0.0.0:*
                                                                                                          LISTEN
                                                                     0.0.0.0:*
                                                                                                          LISTEN
                                                                     0.0.0.0:*
                                                                                                          LISTEN
                                                                     0.0.0.0:*
                                                                                                          LISTEN
 tcp6
                  0
                            0
                                :::9090
                                                                                                          LISTEN
                  0
                                :::9092
 tcp6
                            0
                                                                                                          LISTEN
                                                                                                          LISTEN
                  0
 tcp6
                            Θ
                               :::9093
                               :::9100
                  0
                                                                                                          LISTEN
                                                                                                                             237/node_exporter
 tсрб
                            0
                  0
                                                                                                          LISTEN
                            0
                               :::4646
                                                                     :::*
tcp6
                  0
                            0
                               :::4647
                                                                                                          LISTEN
 tcp6
                  0
                                                                                                          LISTEN
tcp6
                               :::4648
 tcp6
                               :::33523
                                                                                                          LISTEN
                               :::5432
 tcp6
                  0
                                                                                                          LISTEN
                               :::3000
 tcp6
                  0
                            0
                                                                                                          LISTEN
                            0 :::8080
0 127.0.0.54:53
 tcp6
                                                                                                          LISTEN
                  0
                                                                     0.0.0.0:*
udp
                               127.0.0.53:53
10.255.255.254:53
127.0.0.1:323
:::4648
udp
                  0
                            0
                                                                     0.0.0.0:*
                  0
                            0
                                                                     0.0.0.0:*
udp
                            0
                  0
                                                                     0.0.0.0:*
abu
                            0
udp6
udp6
```

ss -tulwn \rightarrow Faster alternative to netstat for socket statistics.

```
| Variablion | Variable | Variabl
```

Process and Load

Uptime \rightarrow Shows system uptime and average load over the last 1, 5, and 15 minutes.

```
yashi12@RT0070:~$ uptime
09:12:17 up 1:10, 1 user, load average: 0.13, 0.18, 0.18
```

 $W \rightarrow$ Shows who is logged in and what they are doing.

```
yashi12@RT0070:~$ w
09:12:49 up 1:11, 1 user, load average: 0.08, 0.16, 0.17
USER TTY FROM LOGIN@ IDLE JCPU PCPU WHAT
yashi12 pts/1 - 07:16 1:56m 0.11s 0.08s -bash
```

Ps aux \rightarrow Lists all running processes along with their CPU and memory usage.

Glances → Comprehensive system monitoring tool covering CPU, memory, disk, network, and more.

