

Re: /dev/shm

Source: <http://unix.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/FreeBSD/current/2003-07/0306.html>

From: Marcin Dalecki (*mdcki_at_gmx.net*)

Date: 07/07/03

Date: Mon, 07 Jul 2003 16:29:06 +0200
To: Matthias Andree <matthias.andree@gmx.de>

Matthias Andree wrote:

> *On Mon, 07 Jul 2003, Marcin Dalecki wrote:*
>
>
>> *The point is that this is one of the reasons why the top command in*
>> *question takes a lot of relative CPU time under Linux. Some*
>> *"faster" versions of procps utils try to cache data but the trade off*
>> *is simply the fact that the results are not 100% accurate.*
>
>
> *Top data is not accurate (I though that was obvious ;-).*
>
> *It's an obsolete snapshot the very moment it's printed to your console,*

Obsolete and never accurate are two different things. You know every information is obsolete the time it is received.

> *and I bet it changes as you read with a lot of implementations because*
> *no-one wants to beat the big kernel lock on the process list just*
> *because some user happens to run top, might be a nice DoS otherwise,*
> *fork-bombing top...*
>
> *If you want accurate data, use a kernel debugger with remote interface*
> *and make sure the machine does nothing except servicing the debugger*
> *interface.*
>
>
>> *I thought this was obvious?*
>
>
> *Why do I care? 0.58user 0.89system 1:00.91elapsed 2%CPU -- on a 266 MHz*
> *Pentium-II, Linux 2.4, 5 years old, with 190 processes. The box idles*
> *73% of the time it's up, there's _ample_ CPU power left.*
>

Well once in a former live I was administering some servers over sometimes slow lines. And if they where bogged down by actual **load** it was sometimes

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really really very inconvenient to have no real chance at getting a quick overview of the processes running there and causing the problem because top didn't even get a chance to show up due to the hefty IO load it was causing. If the box is idle I don't really care about the load as much as you don't care. :-).

This is something that was never a problem on any *BSD or Solaris box I had to deal with thus far.

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