htop Interactive process viewer

CONCEPTS

Every F-key has a letter twin shown here as F5 / t. Use the letter when the terminal or multiplexer eats F-keys.

Header CPU, memory, load meters
↓ watch
Process list sort, filter, tag
↓ act
Action kill, renice, strace
↓

Search (F3) only moves the highlight; filter (F4) hides everything that does not match. To clear a filter, press F4 again, then Esc.

Changes made in the setup screen are saved to ~/.config/htop/htoprc when htop exits cleanly (override the path with $HTOPRC).

On macOS the F-keys usually need Fn; the letter keys avoid that.

NAVIGATE

Up / Down
Move the selection

PgUp / PgDn Scroll one page

Home / End
Jump to first / last process

Left / Right
Scroll the list sideways

Alt + k / Alt + j
Up / down, vim style

Alt + h / Alt + l
Scroll left / right, vim style

Ctrl + A / Ctrl + E
Scroll to line start / end

Tab / Shift + Tab
Next / previous screen tab

0-9 Jump to a PID by typing it

F1 / h / ? Help screen

SEARCH AND FILTER

F3 / /
Incremental search in commands

SEARCH AND FILTER (cont.)

F3 Next match while searching

Shift + F3 Previous match

F4 / \
Filter processes by command

F4, › Esc
Clear the filter (after F4)

u
Show only one user's processes

K Hide kernel threads

H Hide user threads

O
Hide containerized processes

SORT AND VIEW

F6 / < › >
Choose the sort column

I Invert the sort order

P Sort by CPU%

M Sort by memory

T Sort by time

N Sort by PID

F5 / t Toggle tree view

Plus / Minus
Expand / collapse a subtree

*
Expand or collapse all children of root PIDs

F Follow the selected process

p Toggle full program paths

Z Pause / resume updates

ACT ON PROCESSES

Space Tag / untag a process

c
Tag a process and its children

U Untag everything

F9 / k Send a signal (menu)

F8 / [
Raise nice value (lower priority)

ACT ON PROCESSES (cont.)

F7 /]
Lower nice value (higher priority)

a Set CPU affinity

s Trace syscalls with strace

l List open files with lsof

w
Show wrapped command line

F10 / q Quit

SETUP

F2 / S Open the setup screen

Keep the Command column last in the column list; it grows to fill the width.

COMMAND LINE

`htop -u <user>`
Only that user's processes

`htop -p <pid>,<pid>`
Only the given PIDs

`htop -t`
Start in tree view

`htop -s <column>`
Start sorted by a column

`htop -d <tenths>`
Update delay in tenths of a second

`htop -F <text>`
Start with a command filter

`htop --readonly`
Disable kill and renice

RECIPES

Find and kill a runaway process

```
htop
# P to sort by CPU, / to search the command
# F9 (or k), pick SIGTERM; use SIGKILL only if it ignores that
```

Watch one service's process tree

```
htop -t -F nginx
# + / - fold subtrees, F follows the selection
```

Inspect a hung process

```
htop -p <pid>
# s: live strace, l: open files, x: file locks
```