iftop Live bandwidth by host

START HERE

sudo › **iftop** › **-i** › *<if>*
Watch an interface

1 / **2** / **3**
Sort by average

sudo › **iftop** › **-nNP**
No lookups, show ports

P
Pause display

s / **d**
Group by source / dest

l
Filter hostnames

t
Cycle line modes

q
Quit

CONCEPTS

iftop needs raw packet capture: run it with sudo and name the interface with -i, or it picks the first one.

iftop -nNP who talks
Sort 1-3 2s / 10s / 40s
Filter l or -f
Capture tcpdump
Reading a busy link

The three columns are average rates over 2, 10 and 40 seconds; the bottom bar shows cumulative, peak and rate totals.

Only IP traffic is counted: -f is wrapped as (filter) and ip. Monitor only networks you are authorised to.

DISPLAY

r Toggle hostname resolution

p Toggle port display

S Toggle source port

D Toggle destination port

DISPLAY (cont.)

t Cycle line display modes
Two-line mode, then one-line sent, received or total.

P Pause the display

o Freeze current ordering
Hidden hosts are still counted in the totals.

j / **k** Scroll the host list

SORTING AND GROUPING

s Aggregate by source host

d
Aggregate by destination host

1 / **2** / **3**
Sort by column 1, 2 or 3
Default is column 2, the 10 second average.

< Sort by source name

> Sort by destination name

l Filter hostnames by regex
Display only; capture and totals are unaffected.

SORTING AND GROUPING (cont.)

f Edit the capture filter live
Can take about 40 s to fully apply; may misbehave.

h / **?** Show built-in help

COMMAND LINE

iftop › **-i** › *<if>*
Listen on an interface

iftop › **-n**
No hostname lookups

iftop › **-N**
No port-to-service names

iftop › **-P** Show ports

iftop › **-B**
Rates in bytes, not bits

iftop › **-f** › **"<filter>"**
Capture filter (pcap syntax)

iftop › **-F** › *<net/mask>*
Measure direction relative to a network

iftop › **-G** › *<net6/mask>*
Same, for IPv6

COMMAND LINE (cont.)

iftop › **-p** Promiscuous mode

iftop › **-b** No bar graphs

iftop › **-m** › *<limit>*
Bar scale limit (K, M, G)

iftop › **-l** Count link-local IPv6

iftop › **-c** › *<file>*
Use another config file
Default is ~/.iftoprc; flags override it.

iftop › **-t**
Plain text output, no ncurses

iftop › **-h** Print usage

RECIPES

Who is eating the uplink

```
sudo iftop -i eth0 -nNP -B
# press s or d to group by host,
2 to sort by 10s
```

One host or one port

```
sudo iftop -i eth0 -f "host
<ip>"
sudo iftop -i eth0 -f "port 443"
```

Separate in from out on a LAN

```
sudo iftop -i eth0 -F
192.168.1.0/24
# direction is now relative to
that network
```