nethogs Bandwidth per process

CONCEPTS

nethogs groups traffic by process, not by host or port. It reads packets with libpcap and matches connections to PIDs through /proc, so it is Linux only.

Packets libpcap
↓ match
Connection socket inode
↓ /proc
Process PID, program
How a byte gets a name

Traffic it cannot tie to a process, such as short-lived connections, shows up as 'unknown TCP'. Ignore it unless it is large.

Use iftop to see which hosts talk, nethogs to see which program does.

RUN

sudo nethogs
Monitor all running interfaces

sudo nethogs *<if> <if>*
Monitor only these interfaces

sudo nethogs -a
Include loopback and down interfaces

sudo nethogs -d *<sec>*
Set refresh interval (default 1)

sudo nethogs -c *<n>*
Quit after n refreshes

sudo nethogs -P *<pid>*
Show only this process

sudo nethogs -f *'<filter>'*
Apply a pcap filter (experimental)

sudo nethogs -C
Count UDP as well as TCP

sudo nethogs -p
Promiscuous capture (not advised)

sudo nethogs -g *<n>*
Prune dead entries every n refreshes

RUN (cont.)

nethogs -V
Print version

nethogs -h
Print help

DISPLAY

-v 0
Rates in kB/s (default)

-v 1
Total kB

-v 2
Total bytes

-v 3
Total MB

-v 4
Rates in MB/s

-v 5
Rates in GB/s

-l
Show full command line

-b
Show program basename only

-s
Start sorted by sent

INTERACTIVE KEYS

q
Quit

r
Sort by received

s
Sort by sent

m
Cycle kB/s, kB, B, MB, MB/s, GB/s

l
Toggle full command line

b
Toggle program basename

Press Ctrl+C to quit as well (fixed in 0.9.0); on older builds use q.

OUTPUT

sudo nethogs -t
Trace mode: plain text, no curses

sudo nethogs -t -c *<n>*
Print n samples and exit

sudo nethogs -t -d *<sec>*
Trace with a custom interval

Trace mode prints one line per process and refresh: program/PID/UID, then sent and received. Good for logs and pipes.

PERMISSIONS

sudo setcap "cap_net_admin, cap_net_raw, cap_dac_read_search, cap_sys_ptrace+pe" $(which nethogs)
Allow non-root use

getcap $(which nethogs)
Check granted capabilities

Packet capture needs root. A permissions error or missing process names usually means root or the capabilities below are absent.

RECIPES

Log per-process traffic for a minute

```
sudo nethogs -t -d 5 -c 12 > nethogs.log
```

Which program is eating the Wi-Fi

```
sudo nethogs wlan0
# press r to sort by received
# press m to switch to totals
```

Watch one service

```
pid=$(pidof firefox | cut -d' ' -f1)
sudo nethogs -P "$pid" -b
```

Non-root monitoring

```
sudo setcap "cap_net_admin, cap_net_raw,cap_dac_read_search, cap_sys_ptrace+pe" /usr/sbin/nethogs
nethogs eth0
```