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.

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 -C
Count UDP as well as TCP

nethogs -V
Print version

nethogs -h
Print help

DISPLAY

-v 0
Rates in kB/s (default)

-v 1
Total kB

DISPLAY (cont.)

-v 4
Rates in MB/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

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

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