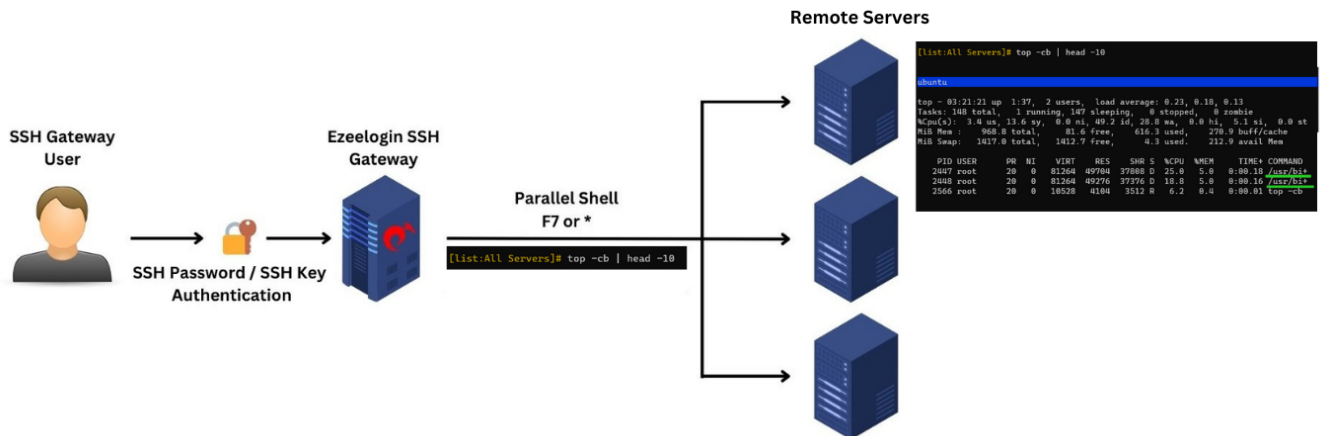


Why the output getting trimmed in Parallel shell?

546 Krishnaja March 19, 2025 [Common Errors & Troubleshooting](#) 1726

Why the output is getting truncated in Parallel shell?

Overview: This article describes the absence of pseudo-terminal due to which the output gets truncated in a parallel shell.



While running commands such as "`top`" in a [parallel shell](#), the output may become truncated, as indicated by the "`+`" symbol in the command output.

```
[List:All Servers]# top -cb | head -10

ubuntu

top - 03:21:21 up 1:37, 2 users, load average: 0.23, 0.18, 0.13
Tasks: 148 total, 1 running, 147 sleeping, 0 stopped, 0 zombie
%Cpu(s): 3.4 us, 13.6 sy, 0.0 ni, 49.2 id, 28.8 wa, 0.0 hi, 5.1 si, 0.0 st
MiB Mem : 968.8 total, 81.6 free, 616.3 used, 270.9 buff/cache
MiB Swap: 1417.0 total, 1412.7 free, 4.3 used, 212.9 avail Mem

  PID USER      PR  NI   VIRT   RES    SHR  S  %CPU  %MEM    TIME+  COMMAND
 2447 root        20   0  81264 49704 37808 D 25.0   5.0   0:00.18 /usr/bi+
 2448 root        20   0  81264 49276 37376 D 18.8   5.0   0:00.16 /usr/bi+
 2566 root        20   0  10528  4104  3512 R  6.2   0.4   0:00.01 top -cb

debian

top - 03:21:21 up 1:37, 2 users, load average: 0.23, 0.18, 0.13
Tasks: 145 total, 2 running, 143 sleeping, 0 stopped, 0 zombie
%Cpu(s): 3.6 us, 8.9 sy, 0.0 ni, 53.6 id, 30.4 wa, 0.0 hi, 3.6 si, 0.0 st
MiB Mem : 968.8 total, 81.6 free, 616.0 used, 271.2 buff/cache
MiB Swap: 1417.0 total, 1412.7 free, 4.3 used, 213.1 avail Mem

  PID USER      PR  NI   VIRT   RES    SHR  S  %CPU  %MEM    TIME+  COMMAND
 2447 root        20   0  81264 49704 37808 R 25.0   5.0   0:00.18 /usr/bi+
 2448 root        20   0  81264 49276 37376 D 25.0   5.0   0:00.17 /usr/bi+
 2569 root        20   0  10528  4044  3448 R  6.2   0.4   0:00.01 top -cb
```

This occurs because the [parallel shell](#) does not initiate a pseudo-terminal (PTY) on the remote host. Instead, it executes commands over SSH and returns the output directly. As a result, commands that rely on terminal UI libraries, such as "`top`" and other ncurses-based tools, are unable to detect the actual window size and default to a limited output width.

To prevent truncation, you can manually specify a custom width. For example, when using "`top`", you can pass the `-w` parameter as shown below:

```
[list:All Servers]# top -cb -w200 | head -10
```

```
[list:All Servers]# top -cb -w200 | head -10

ubuntu
top - 03:22:39 up 1:39, 2 users, load average: 0.32, 0.26, 0.17
Tasks: 147 total, 1 running, 146 sleeping, 0 stopped, 0 zombie
%Cpu(s): 2.8 us, 2.8 sy, 0.0 ni, 94.4 id, 0.0 wa, 0.0 hi, 0.0 si, 0.0 st
MiB Mem : 968.8 total, 90.6 free, 613.1 used, 265.1 buff/cache
MiB Swap: 1417.0 total, 1399.9 free, 17.1 used, 215.5 avail Mem

  PID USER      PR  NI   VIRT   RES   SHR  S  %CPU  %MEM     TIME+  COMMAND
 2700 root        20   0 10524   4048  3444  R   5.6   0.4   0:00.01 top -cb -w200
    1 root        20   0 166348 11692  8256  S   0.0   1.2   0:03.73 /sbin/init
    2 root        20   0     0     0     0  S   0.0   0.0   0:00.04 [kthreadd]

debian
top - 03:22:39 up 1:39, 2 users, load average: 0.32, 0.26, 0.17
Tasks: 148 total, 1 running, 147 sleeping, 0 stopped, 0 zombie
%Cpu(s): 1.6 us, 0.0 sy, 0.0 ni, 98.4 id, 0.0 wa, 0.0 hi, 0.0 si, 0.0 st
MiB Mem : 968.8 total, 90.6 free, 613.1 used, 265.1 buff/cache
MiB Swap: 1417.0 total, 1399.9 free, 17.1 used, 215.5 avail Mem

  PID USER      PR  NI   VIRT   RES   SHR  S  %CPU  %MEM     TIME+  COMMAND
    1 root        20   0 166348 11692  8256  S   0.0   1.2   0:03.73 /sbin/init
    2 root        20   0     0     0     0  S   0.0   0.0   0:00.04 [kthreadd]
    3 root         0 -20     0     0     0  I   0.0   0.0   0:00.00 [rcu_gp]
```

This ensures that the command output is displayed correctly without being cut off.

Related articles:

[Parallel Shell - How to use it?](#)

[How to grant Parallel Shell privilege for a user?](#)

[How to increase the speed of execution in the parallel shell?](#)

Online URL:

<https://www.ezeelogin.com/kb/article/why-the-output-getting-trimmed-in-parallel-shell-546.html>