

Why the output getting trimmed in Parallel shell?

546 Krishnaja November 4, 2022 [Common Errors & Troubleshooting](#) 1385

Output getting truncated in Parallel shell

When commands such as top are run in a parallel shell, the output gets truncated as in the following screenshot:-

```
[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
```

The "+" in the commands shows that the output has been trimmed.

That's because the parallel shell doesn't open a pseudo-terminal (PTY) on the remote host. It just executes the command over SSH and returns the output. So certain commands like top and those that use ncurses like terminal UI libraries cannot get the size of the window properly and truncates output to default. You can override the default by specifying a custom width in the case of top by passing the -w parameter like:

```
top -cb -w200 | head -10
```

For example:-

```
[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]
```

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>