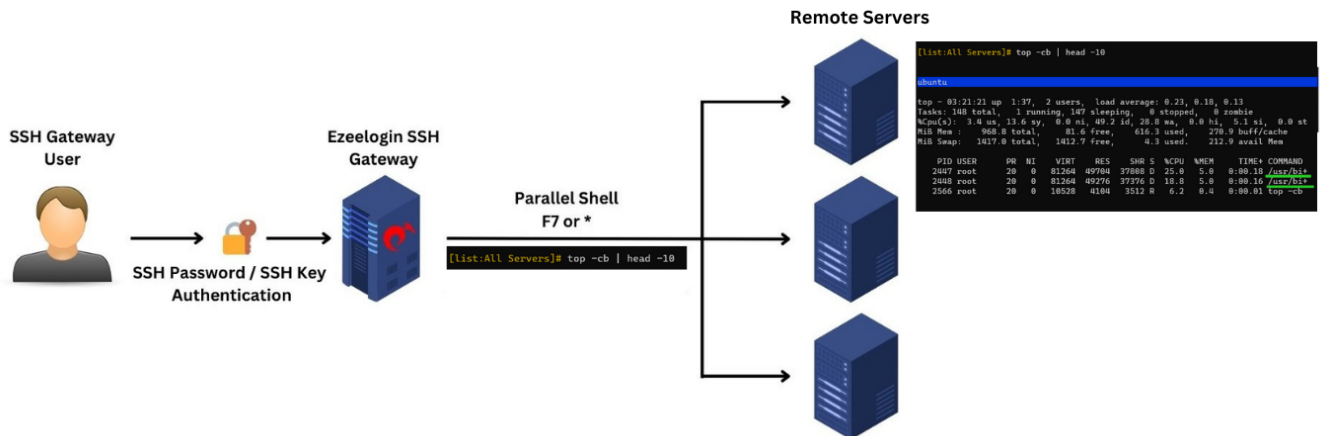# Why the output getting trimmed in Parallel shell?

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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.

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?](#)