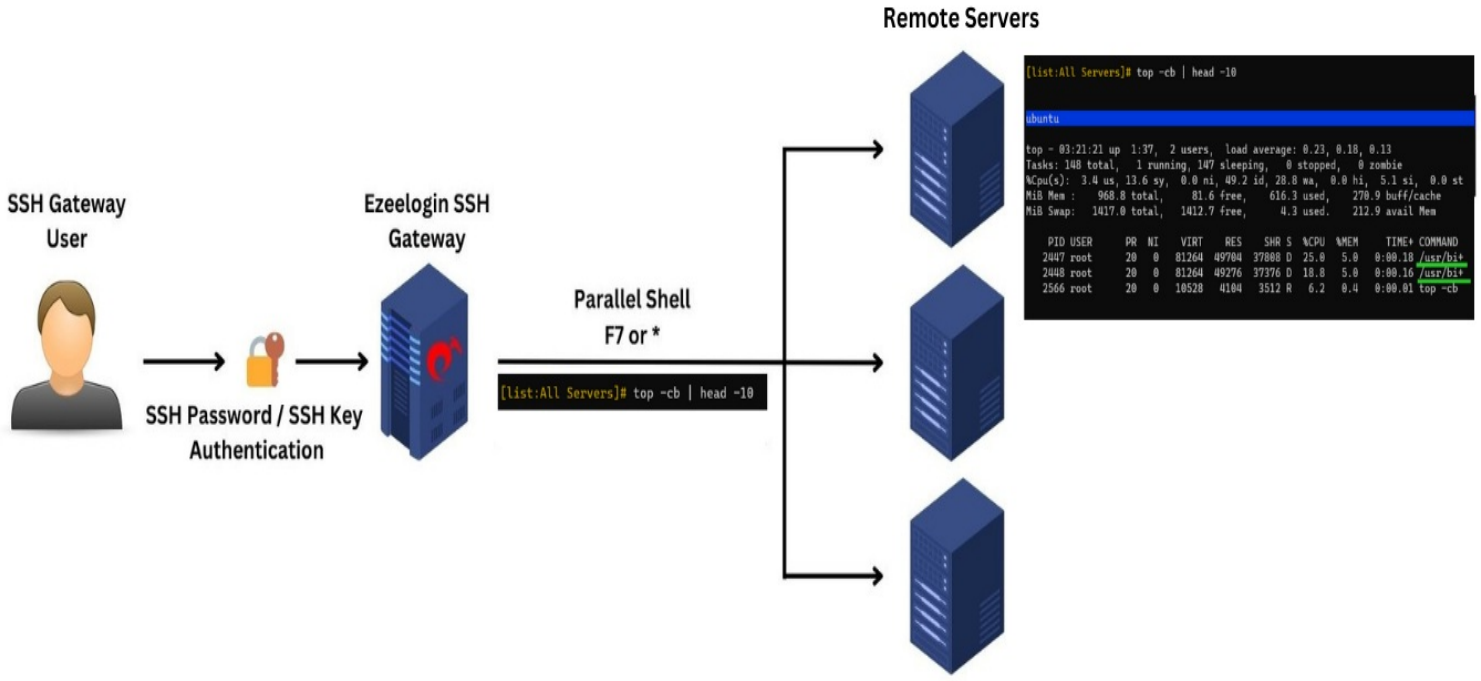
Why the output getting trimmed in Parallel shell?

546 Krishnaja March 19, 2025 Common Errors & Troubleshooting 3609

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