Red Hat Enterprise Linux 8

Monitoring and managing system status and performance

Optimizing system throughput, latency, and power consumption
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Optimizing system throughput, latency, and power consumption
Abstract
This documentation collection provides instructions on how to monitor and optimize the throughput, latency, and power consumption of Red Hat Enterprise Linux 8 in different scenarios.
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We appreciate your input on our documentation. Please let us know how we could make it better. To do so:

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  1. Go to the **Bugzilla** website.
  2. As the Component, use **Documentation**.
  3. Fill in the **Description** field with your suggestion for improvement. Include a link to the relevant part(s) of documentation.
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CHAPTER 1. GETTING STARTED WITH TUNED

As a system administrator, you can use the Tuned application to optimize the performance profile of your system for a variety of use cases.

1.1. THE PURPOSE OF TUNED

Tuned is a service that monitors your system and optimizes the performance under certain workloads. The core of Tuned are profiles, which tune your system for different use cases.

Tuned is distributed with a number of predefined profiles for use cases such as:

- High throughput
- Low latency
- Saving power

It is possible to modify the rules defined for each profile and customize how to tune a particular device. When you switch to another profile or deactivate Tuned, all changes made to the system settings by the previous profile revert back to their original state.

You can also configure Tuned to react to changes in device usage and adjusts settings to improve performance of active devices and reduce power consumption of inactive devices.

1.2. TUNED PROFILES

A detailed analysis of a system can be very time-consuming. Tuned provides a number of predefined profiles for typical use cases. You can also create, modify, and delete profiles.

The profiles provided with Tuned are divided into the following categories:

- Power-saving profiles
- Performance-boosting profiles

The performance-boosting profiles include profiles that focus on the following aspects:

- Low latency for storage and network
- High throughput for storage and network
- Virtual machine performance
- Virtualization host performance

The default profile

During the installation, the best profile for your system is selected automatically. Currently, the default profile is selected according to the following customizable rules:

<table>
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<tr>
<td>Compute nodes</td>
<td>throughput-performance</td>
<td>The best throughput performance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Virtual machines

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<th>Environment</th>
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<td>Virtual machines</td>
<td>virtual-guest</td>
<td>The best performance. If you are not interested in the best performance, you can change it to the balanced or powersave profile.</td>
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<td>balanced</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Merged profiles

As an experimental feature, it is possible to select more profiles at once. Tuned will try to merge them during the load.

If there are conflicts, the settings from the last specified profile takes precedence.

#### Example 1.1. Low power consumption in a virtual guest

The following example optimizes the system to run in a virtual machine for the best performance and concurrently tunes it for low power consumption, while the low power consumption is the priority:

```bash
# tuned-adm profile virtual-guest powersave
```

---

**WARNING**

Merging is done automatically without checking whether the resulting combination of parameters makes sense. Consequently, the feature might tune some parameters the opposite way, which might be counterproductive: for example, setting the disk for high throughput by using the `throughput-performance` profile and concurrently setting the disk spindown to the low value by the `spindown-disk` profile.

### The location of profiles

Tuned stores profiles in the following directories:

- `/usr/lib/tuned/`
  - Distribution-specific profiles are stored in the directory. Each profile has its own directory. The profile consists of the main configuration file called `tuned.conf`, and optionally other files, for example helper scripts.

- `/etc/tuned/`
  - If you need to customize a profile, copy the profile directory into the directory, which is used for custom profiles. If there are two profiles of the same name, the custom profile located in `/etc/tuned/` is used.
The syntax of profile configuration
The `tuned.conf` file can contain one `[main]` section and other sections for configuring plug-in instances. However, all sections are optional.

Lines starting with the hash sign (`#`) are comments.

Additional resources
- The `tuned.conf(5)` man page.

1.3. TUNED PROFILES DISTRIBUTED WITH RHEL

The following is a list of profiles that are installed with Tuned on Red Hat Enterprise Linux.

**NOTE**
There might be more product-specific or third-party Tuned profiles available. Such profiles are usually provided by separate RPM packages.

**balanced**
The default power-saving profile. It is intended to be a compromise between performance and power consumption. It uses auto-scaling and auto-tuning whenever possible. The only drawback is the increased latency. In the current Tuned release, it enables the CPU, disk, audio, and video plugins, and activates the `conservative` CPU governor. The `radeon_powersave` option uses the `dpm-balanced` value if it is supported, otherwise it is set to `auto`.

**powersave**
A profile for maximum power saving performance. It can throttle the performance in order to minimize the actual power consumption. In the current Tuned release it enables USB autosuspend, WiFi power saving, and Aggressive Link Power Management (ALPM) power savings for SATA host adapters. It also schedules multi-core power savings for systems with a low wakeup rate and activates the `ondemand` governor. It enables AC97 audio power saving or, depending on your system, HDA-Intel power savings with a 10 seconds timeout. If your system contains a supported Radeon graphics card with enabled KMS, the profile configures it to automatic power saving. On ASUS Eee PCs, a dynamic Super Hybrid Engine is enabled.

**NOTE**
In certain cases, the `balanced` profile is more efficient compared to the `powersave` profile.

Consider there is a defined amount of work that needs to be done, for example a video file that needs to be transcoded. Your machine might consume less energy if the transcoding is done on the full power, because the task is finished quickly, the machine starts to idle, and it can automatically step-down to very efficient power save modes. On the other hand, if you transcode the file with a throttled machine, the machine consumes less power during the transcoding, but the process takes longer and the overall consumed energy can be higher.

That is why the `balanced` profile can be generally a better option.

**throughput-performance**
A server profile optimized for high throughput. It disables power savings mechanisms and enables sysctl settings that improve the throughput performance of the disk and network IO. CPU governor is set to performance.

**latency-performance**

A server profile optimized for low latency. It disables power savings mechanisms and enables sysctl settings that improve latency. CPU governor is set to performance and the CPU is locked to the low C states (by PM QoS).

**network-latency**

A profile for low latency network tuning. It is based on the latency-performance profile. It additionally disables transparent huge pages and NUMA balancing, and tunes several other network-related sysctl parameters.

**network-throughput**

A profile for throughput network tuning. It is based on the throughput-performance profile. It additionally increases kernel network buffers.

**virtual-guest**

A profile designed for virtual guests based on the throughput-performance profile that, among other tasks, decreases virtual memory swappiness and increases disk readahead values. It does not disable disk barriers.

**virtual-host**

A profile designed for virtual hosts based on the throughput-performance profile that, among other tasks, decreases virtual memory swappiness, increases disk readahead values, and enables a more aggressive value of dirty pages writeback.

**oracle**

A profile optimized for Oracle databases loads based on throughput-performance profile. It additionally disables transparent huge pages and modifies other performance-related kernel parameters. This profile is provided by the tuned-profiles-oracle package.

**desktop**

A profile optimized for desktops, based on the balanced profile. It additionally enables scheduler autogroups for better response of interactive applications.

**cpu-partitioning**

The cpu-partitioning profile partitions the system CPUs into isolated and housekeeping CPUs. To reduce jitter and interruptions on an isolated CPU, the profile clears the isolated CPU from user-space processes, movable kernel threads, interrupt handlers, and kernel timers. A housekeeping CPU can run all services, shell processes, and kernel threads.

You can configure the cpu-partitioning profile in /etc/tuned/cpu-partitioning-variables.conf file. The configuration options are:

- **isolated_cores=cpu-list**
  Lists CPUs to isolate. The list of isolated CPUs is comma-separated or the user can specify the range. You can specify a range using a dash, such as 3-5. This option is mandatory. Any CPU missing from this list is automatically considered a housekeeping CPU.

- **no_balance_cores=cpu-list**
  Lists CPUs which are not considered by the kernel during system wide process load-balancing. This option is optional. This is usually the same list as isolated_cores.

For more information on cpu-partitioning, see the tuned-profiles-cpu-partitioning(7) man page.

**Real-time profiles**
Real-time profiles are intended for systems running the real-time kernel. Without a special kernel build, they do not configure the system to be real-time. On RHEL, the profiles are available from additional repositories.

The following real-time profiles are available:

realtime

Use on bare-metal real-time systems.
Provided by the tuned-profiles-realtime package, which is available from the RT or NFV repositories.

realtime-virtual-host

Use in a virtualization host configured for real-time.
Provided by the tuned-profiles-nfv-host package, which is available from the NFV repository.

realtime-virtual-guest

Use in a virtualization guest configured for real-time.
Provided by the tuned-profiles-nfv-guest package, which is available from the NFV repository.

1.4. STATIC AND DYNAMIC TUNING IN TUNED

This section explains the difference between the two categories of system tuning that Tuned applies: static and dynamic.

Static tuning

Mainly consists of the application of predefined sysctl and sysfs settings and one-shot activation of several configuration tools such as ethtool.

Dynamic tuning

Watches how various system components are used throughout the uptime of your system. Tuned adjusts system settings dynamically based on that monitoring information.
For example, the hard drive is used heavily during startup and login, but is barely used later when the user might mainly work with applications such as web browsers or email clients. Similarly, the CPU and network devices are used differently at different times. Tuned monitors the activity of these components and reacts to the changes in their use.

By default, dynamic tuning is disabled. To enable it, edit the /etc/tuned/tuned-main.conf file and change the dynamic_tuning option to 1. Tuned then periodically analyzes system statistics and uses them to update your system tuning settings. To configure the time interval in seconds between these updates, use the update_interval option.

Currently implemented dynamic tuning algorithms try to balance the performance and powersave, and are therefore disabled in the performance profiles. Dynamic tuning for individual plug-ins can be enabled or disabled in the Tuned profiles.

Example 1.2. Static and dynamic tuning on a workstation

On a typical office workstation, the Ethernet network interface is inactive most of the time. Only a few emails go in and out or some web pages might be loaded.

For those kinds of loads, the network interface does not have to run at full speed all the time, as it does by default. Tuned has a monitoring and tuning plug-in for network devices that can detect this low activity and then automatically lower the speed of that interface, typically resulting in a lower
power usage.
If the activity on the interface increases for a longer period of time, for example because a DVD image is being downloaded or an email with a large attachment is opened, Tuned detects this and sets the interface speed to maximum to offer the best performance while the activity level is high.
This principle is used for other plug-ins for CPU and disks as well.

1.5. TUNED NO-DAEMON MODE

You can run Tuned in no-daemon mode, which does not require any resident memory. In this mode, Tuned applies the settings and exits.

By default, no-daemon mode is disabled because a lot of Tuned functionality is missing in this mode, including:

- D-Bus support
- Hot-plug support
- Rollback support for settings

To enable no-daemon mode, include the following line in the /etc/tuned/tuned-main.conf file:

daemon = 0

1.6. INSTALLING AND ENABLING TUNED

This procedure installs and enables the Tuned application, installs Tuned profiles, and presets a default Tuned profile for your system.

Procedure

1. Install the tuned package:

   # yum install tuned

2. Enable and start the tuned service:

   # systemctl enable --now tuned

3. Optionally, install Tuned profiles for real-time systems:

   # yum install tuned-profiles-realtime tuned-profiles-nfv

4. Verify that a Tuned profile is active and applied:

   $ tuned-adm active
   Current active profile: balanced
$ tuned-adm verify

Verification succeeded, current system settings match the preset profile. See tuned log file (/var/log/tuned/tuned.log) for details.

1.7. LISTING AVAILABLE TUNED PROFILES

This procedure lists all Tuned profiles that are currently available on your system.

Procedure

- To list all available Tuned profiles on your system, use:

  $ tuned-adm list

  Available profiles:
  - balanced - General non-specialized tuned profile
  - desktop - Optimize for the desktop use-case
  - latency-performance - Optimize for deterministic performance at the cost of increased power consumption
  - network-latency - Optimize for deterministic performance at the cost of increased power consumption, focused on low latency network performance
  - network-throughput - Optimize for streaming network throughput, generally only necessary on older CPUs or 40G+ networks
  - powersave - Optimize for low power consumption
  - throughput-performance - Broadly applicable tuning that provides excellent performance across a variety of common server workloads
  - virtual-guest - Optimize for running inside a virtual guest
  - virtual-host - Optimize for running KVM guests

  Current active profile: balanced

- To display only the currently active profile, use:

  $ tuned-adm active

  Current active profile: balanced

Additional resources

- The tuned-adm(8) man page.

1.8. SETTING A TUNED PROFILE

This procedure activates a selected Tuned profile on your system.

Prerequisites

- The tuned service is running. See Section 1.6, “Installing and enabling Tuned” for details.

Procedure

1. Optionally, you can let Tuned recommend the most suitable profile for your system:
# tuned-adm recommend

`balanced`

2. Activate a profile:

```bash
# tuned-adm profile selected-profile
```

Alternatively, you can activate a combination of multiple profiles:

```bash
# tuned-adm profile profile1 profile2
```

**Example 1.3. A virtual machine optimized for low power consumption**

The following example optimizes the system to run in a virtual machine with the best performance and concurrently tunes it for low power consumption, while the low power consumption is the priority:

```bash
# tuned-adm profile virtual-guest powersave
```

3. Verify that the **Tuned** profile is active and applied:

```bash
$ tuned-adm active
Current active profile: selected-profile
```

```bash
$ tuned-adm verify
Verification succeeded, current system settings match the preset profile. See tuned log file (`/var/log/tuned/tuned.log`) for details.
```

**Additional resources**

- The **tuned-adm(8)** man page

**1.9. DISABLING TUNED**

This procedure disables **Tuned** and resets all affected system settings to their original state before **Tuned** modified them.

**Procedure**

- To disable all tunings temporarily:

  ```bash
  # tuned-adm off
  ```

  The tunings are applied again after the **tuned** service restarts.

- Alternatively, to stop and disable the **tuned** service permanently:

  ```bash
  # systemctl disable --now tuned
  ```
Additional resources

- The `tuned-adm(8)` man page.

1.10. RELATED INFORMATION

- The `tuned(8)` man page
- The `tuned-adm(8)` man page
- The Tuned project website: https://tuned-project.org/
CHAPTER 2. CUSTOMIZING TUNED PROFILES

You can create or modify Tuned profiles to optimize system performance for your intended use case.

Prerequisites

- Install and enable Tuned as described in Section 1.6, “Installing and enabling Tuned”.

2.1. TUNED PROFILES

A detailed analysis of a system can be very time-consuming. Tuned provides a number of predefined profiles for typical use cases. You can also create, modify, and delete profiles.

The profiles provided with Tuned are divided into the following categories:

- Power-saving profiles
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Merged profiles

As an experimental feature, it is possible to select more profiles at once. Tuned will try to merge them during the load.

If there are conflicts, the settings from the last specified profile takes precedence.

Example 2.1. Low power consumption in a virtual guest
The following example optimizes the system to run in a virtual machine for the best performance and concurrently tunes it for low power consumption, while the low power consumption is the priority:

```
# tuned-adm profile virtual-guest powersave
```

**WARNING**

Merging is done automatically without checking whether the resulting combination of parameters makes sense. Consequently, the feature might tune some parameters the opposite way, which might be counterproductive: for example, setting the disk for high throughput by using the `throughput-performance` profile and concurrently setting the disk spindown to the low value by the `spindown-disk` profile.

The location of profiles

Tuned stores profiles in the following directories:

```
/usr/lib/tuned/
```

Distribution-specific profiles are stored in the directory. Each profile has its own directory. The profile consists of the main configuration file called `tuned.conf`, and optionally other files, for example helper scripts.

```
/etc/tuned/
```

If you need to customize a profile, copy the profile directory into the directory, which is used for custom profiles. If there are two profiles of the same name, the custom profile located in `/etc/tuned/` is used.

The syntax of profile configuration

The `tuned.conf` file can contain one `[main]` section and other sections for configuring plug-in instances. However, all sections are optional.

Lines starting with the hash sign (`#`) are comments.

Additional resources

- The `tuned.conf(5)` man page.

2.2. INHERITANCE BETWEEN TUNED PROFILES

Tuned profiles can be based on other profiles and modify only certain aspects of their parent profile.

The `[main]` section of Tuned profiles recognizes the `include` option:

```
[main]
include=parent
```
All settings from the parent profile are loaded in this child profile. In the following sections, the child profile can override certain settings inherited from the parent profile or add new settings not present in the parent profile.

You can create your own child profile in the /etc/tuned/ directory based on a pre-installed profile in /usr/lib/tuned/ with only some parameters adjusted.

If the parent profile is updated, such as after a Tuned upgrade, the changes are reflected in the child profile.

Example 2.2. A power-saving profile based on balanced

The following is an example of a custom profile that extends the balanced profile and sets Aggressive Link Power Management (ALPM) for all devices to the maximum powersaving.

```
[main]
include=balanced

[scsi_host]
alpm=min_power
```

Additional resources
- The tuned.conf(5) man page

2.3. STATIC AND DYNAMIC TUNING IN TUNED

This section explains the difference between the two categories of system tuning that Tuned applies: static and dynamic.

Static tuning
Mainly consists of the application of predefined sysctl and sysfs settings and one-shot activation of several configuration tools such as ethtool.

Dynamic tuning
Watches how various system components are used throughout the uptime of your system. Tuned adjusts system settings dynamically based on that monitoring information.

For example, the hard drive is used heavily during startup and login, but is barely used later when the user might mainly work with applications such as web browsers or email clients. Similarly, the CPU and network devices are used differently at different times. Tuned monitors the activity of these components and reacts to the changes in their use.

By default, dynamic tuning is disabled. To enable it, edit the /etc/tuned/tuned-main.conf file and change the dynamic_tuning option to 1. Tuned then periodically analyzes system statistics and uses them to update your system tuning settings. To configure the time interval in seconds between these updates, use the update_interval option.

Currently implemented dynamic tuning algorithms try to balance the performance and powersave, and are therefore disabled in the performance profiles. Dynamic tuning for individual plug-ins can be enabled or disabled in the Tuned profiles.

Example 2.3. Static and dynamic tuning on a workstation
On a typical office workstation, the Ethernet network interface is inactive most of the time. Only a few emails go in and out or some web pages might be loaded.

For those kinds of loads, the network interface does not have to run at full speed all the time, as it does by default. Tuned has a monitoring and tuning plug-in for network devices that can detect this low activity and then automatically lower the speed of that interface, typically resulting in a lower power usage.

If the activity on the interface increases for a longer period of time, for example because a DVD image is being downloaded or an email with a large attachment is opened, Tuned detects this and sets the interface speed to maximum to offer the best performance while the activity level is high.

This principle is used for other plug-ins for CPU and disks as well.

### 2.4. TUNED PLUG-INS

Plug-ins are modules in Tuned profiles that Tuned uses to monitor or optimize different devices on the system.

**Tuned** uses two types of plug-ins:

- monitoring plug-ins
- tuning plug-ins

**Monitoring plug-ins**

Monitoring plug-ins are used to get information from a running system. The output of the monitoring plug-ins can be used by tuning plug-ins for dynamic tuning.

Monitoring plug-ins are automatically instantiated whenever their metrics are needed by any of the enabled tuning plug-ins. If two tuning plug-ins require the same data, only one instance of the monitoring plug-in is created and the data is shared.

**Tuning plug-ins**

Each tuning plug-in tunes an individual subsystem and takes several parameters that are populated from the tuned profiles. Each subsystem can have multiple devices, such as multiple CPUs or network cards, that are handled by individual instances of the tuning plug-ins. Specific settings for individual devices are also supported.

**Syntax for plug-ins in Tuned profiles**

Sections describing plug-in instances are formatted in the following way:

```
[NAME]
  type=TYPE
  devices=DEVICES
```

**NAME**

is the name of the plug-in instance as it is used in the logs. It can be an arbitrary string.

**TYPE**

is the type of the tuning plug-in.

**DEVICES**

is the list of devices that this plug-in instance handles.
The `devices` line can contain a list, a wildcard (`*`), and negation (`!`). If there is no `devices` line, all devices present or later attached on the system of the `TYPE` are handled by the plug-in instance. This is same as using the `devices=*` option.

**Example 2.4. Matching block devices with a plug-in**

The following example matches all block devices starting with `sd`, such as `sda` or `sdb`, and does not disable barriers on them:

```
[data_disk]
  type=disk
  devices=sd*
  disable_barriers=false
```

The following example matches all block devices except `sda1` and `sda2`:

```
[data_disk]
  type=disk
  devices=!sda1, !sda2
  disable_barriers=false
```

If no instance of a plug-in is specified, the plug-in is not enabled.

If the plug-in supports more options, they can be also specified in the plug-in section. If the option is not specified and it was not previously specified in the included plug-in, the default value is used.

**Short plug-in syntax**

If you do not need custom names for the plug-in instance and there is only one definition of the instance in your configuration file, Tuned supports the following short syntax:

```
[TYPE]
  devices=DEVICES
```

In this case, it is possible to omit the `type` line. The instance is then referred to with a name, same as the type. The previous example could be then rewritten into:

**Example 2.5. Matching block devices using the short syntax**

```
[disk]
  devices=sdb*
  disable_barriers=false
```

**Conflicting plug-in definitions in a profile**

If the same section is specified more than once using the `include` option, the settings are merged. If they cannot be merged due to a conflict, the last conflicting definition overrides the previous settings. If you do not know what was previously defined, you can use the `replace` Boolean option and set it to `true`. This causes all the previous definitions with the same name to be overwritten and the merge does not happen.
You can also disable the plug-in by specifying the `enabled=false` option. This has the same effect as if the instance was never defined. Disabling the plug-in is useful if you are redefining the previous definition from the `include` option and do not want the plug-in to be active in your custom profile.

**Functionality not implemented in any plug-in**

*Tuned* includes the ability to run any shell command as part of enabling or disabling a tuning profile. This enables you to extend *Tuned* profiles with functionality that has not been integrated into *Tuned* yet.

You can specify arbitrary shell commands using the `script` plug-in.

**Additional resources**

- The `tuned.conf(5)` man page

### 2.5. AVAILABLE TUNED PLUG-INS

This section lists all monitoring and tuning plug-ins currently available in *Tuned*.

**Monitoring plug-ins**

Currently, the following monitoring plug-ins are implemented:

- `disk`
  - Gets disk load (number of IO operations) per device and measurement interval.
- `net`
  - Gets network load (number of transferred packets) per network card and measurement interval.
- `load`
  - Gets CPU load per CPU and measurement interval.

**Tuning plug-ins**

Currently, the following tuning plug-ins are implemented. Only some of these plug-ins implement dynamic tuning. Options supported by plug-ins are also listed:

- `cpu`
  - Sets the CPU governor to the value specified by the `governor` option and dynamically changes the Power Management Quality of Service (PM QoS) CPU Direct Memory Access (DMA) latency according to the CPU load.
  - If the CPU load is lower than the value specified by the `load_threshold` option, the latency is set to the value specified by the `latency_high` option, otherwise it is set to the value specified by `latency_low`.
  - You can also force the latency to a specific value and prevent it from dynamically changing further. To do so, set the `force_latency` option to the required latency value.

- `eeepc_she`
  - Dynamically sets the front-side bus (FSB) speed according to the CPU load.
    - This feature can be found on some netbooks and is also known as the ASUS Super Hybrid Engine (SHE).
    - If the CPU load is lower or equal to the value specified by the `load_threshold_powersave` option, the plug-in sets the FSB speed to the value specified by the `she_powersave` option. If the CPU load is higher or equal to the value specified by the `load_threshold_normal` option, it sets the FSB speed to the value specified by the `she_normal` option.
Static tuning is not supported and the plug-in is transparently disabled if Tuned does not detect the hardware support for this feature.

net
Configures the Wake-on-LAN functionality to the values specified by the \texttt{wake\_on\_lan} option. It uses the same syntax as the \texttt{ethtool} utility. It also dynamically changes the interface speed according to the interface utilization.

sysctl
Sets various \texttt{sysctl} settings specified by the plug-in options. The syntax is \texttt{name=value}, where \texttt{name} is the same as the name provided by the \texttt{sysctl} utility.

Use the \texttt{sysctl} plug-in if you need to change system settings that are not covered by other plug-ins available in Tuned. If the settings are covered by some specific plug-ins, prefer these plug-ins.

usb
Sets autosuspend timeout of USB devices to the value specified by the \texttt{autosuspend} parameter. The value \texttt{0} means that autosuspend is disabled.

vm
Enables or disables transparent huge pages depending on the Boolean value of the \texttt{transparent\_hugepages} option.

audio
Sets the autosuspend timeout for audio codecs to the value specified by the \texttt{timeout} option. Currently, the \texttt{snd\_hda\_intel} and \texttt{snd\_ac97\_codec} codecs are supported. The value \texttt{0} means that the autosuspend is disabled. You can also enforce the controller reset by setting the Boolean option \texttt{reset\_controller} to \texttt{true}.

disk
Sets the disk elevator to the value specified by the \texttt{elevator} option. It also sets:

- APM to the value specified by the \texttt{apm} option
- Scheduler quantum to the value specified by the \texttt{scheduler\_quantum} option
- Disk spindown timeout to the value specified by the \texttt{spindown} option
- Disk readahead to the value specified by the \texttt{readahead} parameter
- The current disk readahead to a value multiplied by the constant specified by the \texttt{readahead\_multiply} option

In addition, this plug-in dynamically changes the advanced power management and spindown timeout setting for the drive according to the current drive utilization. The dynamic tuning can be controlled by the Boolean option \texttt{dynamic} and is enabled by default.

scsi\_host
Tunes options for SCSI hosts. It sets Aggressive Link Power Management (ALPM) to the value specified by the \texttt{alpm} option.

mounts
Enables or disables barriers for mounts according to the Boolean value of the `disable_barriers` option.

**script**
Executes an external script or binary when the profile is loaded or unloaded. You can choose an arbitrary executable.

**IMPORTANT**
The `script` plug-in is provided mainly for compatibility with earlier releases. Prefer other Tuned plug-ins if they cover the required functionality.

**Tuned** calls the executable with one of the following arguments:

- `start` when loading the profile
- `stop` when unloading the profile

You need to correctly implement the `stop` action in your executable and revert all settings that you changed during the `start` action. Otherwise, the roll-back step after changing your Tuned profile will not work.

Bash scripts can import the `/usr/lib/tuned/functions` Bash library and use the functions defined there. Use these functions only for functionality that is not natively provided by Tuned. If a function name starts with an underscore, such as `_wifi_set_power_level`, consider the function private and do not use it in your scripts, because it might change in the future.

Specify the path to the executable using the `script` parameter in the plug-in configuration.

**Example 2.6. Running a Bash script from a profile**

To run a Bash script named `script.sh` that is located in the profile directory, use:

```
[script]
script=${i:PROFILE_DIR}/script.sh
```

**sysfs**
Sets various `sysfs` settings specified by the plug-in options. The syntax is `name=value`, where `name` is the `sysfs` path to use.

Use this plugin in case you need to change some settings that are not covered by other plug-ins. Prefer specific plug-ins if they cover the required settings.

**video**
Sets various powersave levels on video cards. Currently, only the Radeon cards are supported. The powersave level can be specified by using the `radeon_powersave` option. Supported values are:

- `default`
- `auto`
- `low`
For details, see www.x.org. Note that this plug-in is experimental and the option might change in future releases.

**bootloader**

Adds options to the kernel command line. This plug-in supports only the GRUB 2 boot loader. Customized non-standard location of the GRUB 2 configuration file can be specified by the `grub2_cfg_file` option.

The kernel options are added to the current GRUB configuration and its templates. The system needs to be rebooted for the kernel options to take effect.

Switching to another profile or manually stopping the tuned service removes the additional options. If you shut down or reboot the system, the kernel options persist in the `grub.cfg` file.

The kernel options can be specified by the following syntax:

```
cmdline=arg1 arg2 ... argN
```

**Example 2.7. Modifying the kernel command line**

For example, to add the `quiet` kernel option to a Tuned profile, include the following lines in the `tuned.conf` file:

```bash
[bootloader]
cmdline=quiet
```

The following is an example of a custom profile that adds the `isolcpus=2` option to the kernel command line:

```bash
[bootloader]
cmdline=isolcpus=2
```

### 2.6. VARIABLES AND BUILT-IN FUNCTIONS IN TUNED PROFILES

Variables and built-in functions expand at run time when a Tuned profile is activated.

Using Tuned variables reduces the amount of necessary typing in Tuned profiles. You can also:

- Use various built-in functions together with Tuned variables
Create custom functions in Python and add them to Tuned in the form of plug-ins

Variables
There are no predefined variables in Tuned profiles. You can define your own variables by creating the [variables] section in a profile and using the following syntax:

```
[variables]
variable_name=value
```

To expand the value of a variable in a profile, use the following syntax:

```
${variable_name}
```

Example 2.8. Isolating CPU cores using variables

In the following example, the ${isolated_cores} variable expands to 1,2; hence the kernel boots with the isolcpus=1,2 option:

```
[variables]
isolated_cores=1,2

[bootloader]
cmdline=isolcpus=${isolated_cores}
```

The variables can be specified in a separate file. For example, you can add the following lines to tuned.conf:

```
[variables]
include=/etc/tuned/my-variables.conf

[bootloader]
cmdline=isolcpus=${isolated_cores}
```

If you add the isolated_cores=1,2 option to the /etc/tuned/my-variables.conf file, the kernel boots with the isolcpus=1,2 option.

Functions
To call a function, use the following syntax:

```
${f:function_name:argument_1:argument_2}
```

To expand the directory path where the profile and the tuned.conf file are located, use the PROFILE_DIR function, which requires special syntax:

```
${i:PROFILE_DIR}
```

Example 2.9. Isolating CPU cores using variables and built-in functions

In the following example, the ${non_isolated_cores} variable expands to 0,3-5, and the cpulist_invert built-in function is called with the 0,3-5 argument:
The `cpulist_invert` function inverts the list of CPUs. For a 6-CPU machine, the inversion is \[1,2\], and the kernel boots with the `isolcpus=1,2` command-line option.

Additional resources

- The `tuned.conf(5)` man page

### 2.7. BUILT-IN FUNCTIONS AVAILABLE IN TUNED PROFILES

The following built-in functions are available in all Tuned profiles:

**PROFILE_DIR**

- Returns the directory path where the profile and the `tuned.conf` file are located.

**exec**

- Executes a process and returns its output.

**assertion**

- Compares two arguments. If they do not match, the function logs text from the first argument and aborts profile loading.

**assertion_non_equal**

- Compares two arguments. If they match, the function logs text from the first argument and aborts profile loading.

**kb2s**

- Converts kilobytes to disk sectors.

**s2kb**

- Converts disk sectors to kilobytes.

**strip**

- Creates a string from all passed arguments and deletes both leading and trailing white space.

**virt_check**

- Checks whether Tuned is running inside a virtual machine (VM) or on bare metal:
  
  - Inside a VM, the function returns the first argument.
  
  - On bare metal, the function returns the second argument, even in case of an error.

**cpulist_invert**

- Inverts a list of CPUs to make its complement. For example, on a system with 4 CPUs, numbered from 0 to 3, the inversion of the list \(0,2,3\) is \(1\).

**cpulist2hex**

- Converts a CPU list to a hexadecimal CPU mask.

**cpulist2hex_invert**

- Converts a CPU list to a hexadecimal CPU mask and inverts it.
hex2cpulist
Converts a hexadecimal CPU mask to a CPU list.

cpyulist_online
Checks whether the CPUs from the list are online. Returns the list containing only online CPUs.

cpyulist_present
Checks whether the CPUs from the list are present. Returns the list containing only present CPUs.

cpyulist_unpack
Unpacks a CPU list in the form of 1-3,4 to 1,2,3,4.

cpyulist_pack
Packs a CPU list in the form of 1,2,3,5 to 1-3,5.

2.8. CREATING NEW TUNED PROFILES
This procedure creates a new Tuned profile with custom performance rules.

Prerequisites
- The tuned service is installed and running. See Section 1.6, “Installing and enabling Tuned” for details.

Procedure
1. In the /etc/tuned/ directory, create a new directory named the same as the profile that you want to create:

```bash
# mkdir /etc/tuned/my-profile
```

2. In the new directory, create a file named tuned.conf. Add a [main] section and plug-in definitions in it, according to your requirements. For example, see the configuration of the balanced profile:

```conf
[main]
summary=General non-specialized tuned profile

[cpu]
governor=conservative
energy_perf_bias=normal

[audio]
timeout=10

[video]
radeon_powersave=dpm-balanced, auto

[scsi_host]
alpm=medium_power
```

3. To activate the profile, use:

```bash
# tuned-adm profile my-profile
```
4. Verify that the **Tuned** profile is active and the system settings are applied:

```
$ tuned-adm active
Current active profile: my-profile
```

```
$ tuned-adm verify
Verfication succeeded, current system settings match the preset profile.
See tuned log file ('/var/log/tuned/tuned.log') for details.
```

Additional resources

- The **tuned.conf(5)** man page

### 2.9. MODIFYING EXISTING TUNED PROFILES

This procedure creates a modified child profile based on an existing **Tuned** profile.

**Prerequisites**

- The **tuned** service is installed and running. See Section 1.6, “Installing and enabling Tuned” for details.

**Procedure**

1. In the `/etc/tuned/` directory, create a new directory named the same as the profile that you want to create:

   ```bash
   # mkdir /etc/tuned/modified-profile
   ```

2. In the new directory, create a file named **tuned.conf**, and set the `[main]` section as follows:

   ```
   [main]
   include=parent-profile
   ```

   Replace `parent-profile` with the name of the profile you are modifying.

3. Include your profile modifications.

   **Example 2.10. Lowering swappiness in the throughput-performance profile**

   To use the settings from the **throughput-performance** profile and change the value of `vm.swappiness` to 5, instead of the default 10, use:

   ```
   [main]
   include=throughput-performance

   [sysctl]
   vm.swappiness=5
   ```

4. To activate the profile, use:
# tuned-adm profile modified-profile

5. Verify that the Tuned profile is active and the system settings are applied:

```
$ tuned-adm active
Current active profile: my-profile
```

```
$ tuned-adm verify
Verification succeeded, current system settings match the preset profile.
See tuned log file ('/var/log/tuned/tuned.log') for details.
```

Additional resources

- The `tuned.conf(5)` man page

## 2.10. SETTING THE DISK SCHEDULER USING TUNED

This procedure creates and enables a Tuned profile that sets a given disk scheduler for selected block devices. The setting persists across system reboots.

In the following commands and configuration, replace:

- `device` with the name of the block device, for example `sdf`
- `selected-scheduler` with the disk scheduler that you want to set for the device, for example `bfq`

### Prerequisites

- The tuned service is installed and enabled.
  For details, see Section 1.6, “Installing and enabling Tuned”.

### Procedure

1. Optional: Select an existing Tuned profile on which your profile will be based. For a list of available profiles, see Section 1.3, “Tuned profiles distributed with RHEL”.
   To see which profile is currently active, use:

   ```
   $ tuned-adm active
   ```

2. Create a new directory to hold your Tuned profile:

   ```
   # mkdir /etc/tuned/my-profile
   ```

3. Find the World Wide Name (WWN) identifier of the selected block device:

   ```
   $ udevadm info --query=property --name=/dev/device | grep WWN=
   ID_WWN=0x5002538d00000000
   ```
4. Create the `/etc/tuned/my-profile/tuned.conf` configuration file. In the file, set the following options:

- Optional: Include an existing profile:

  ```
  [main]
  include=existing-profile
  ```

- Set the selected disk scheduler for the device that matches the WWN identifier:

  ```
  [disk]
  devices_udev_regex=ID_WWN=0x5002538d00000000
  elevator=selected-scheduler
  ```

  To match multiple devices in the `devices_udev_regex` option, separate the identifiers with commas:

  ```
  devices_udev_regex=ID_WWN=0x5002538d00000000, ID_WWN=0x1234567800000000
  ```

5. Enable your profile:

   ```
   # tuned-adm profile my-profile
   ```

6. Verify that the Tuned profile is active and applied:

   ```
   $ tuned-adm active
   Current active profile: my-profile
   
   $ tuned-adm verify
   Verification succeeded, current system settings match the preset profile. See tuned log file (`/var/log/tuned/tuned.log`) for details.
   ```

Additional resources

- For more information on creating a Tuned profile, see Chapter 2, Customizing Tuned profiles.

2.11. RELATED INFORMATION

- The `tuned.conf(5)` man page

- The Tuned project website: https://tuned-project.org/
CHAPTER 3. MONITORING PERFORMANCE WITH PERFORMANCE CO-PILOT

As a system administrator, you can monitor the system’s performance using the Performance Co-Pilot (PCP) application in Red Hat Enterprise Linux 8.

3.1. OVERVIEW OF PCP

PCP is a suite of tools, services, and libraries for monitoring, visualizing, storing, and analyzing system-level performance measurements.

Features of PCP:

- Light-weight distributed architecture, which is useful during the centralized analysis of complex systems.
- It allows the monitoring and management of real-time data.
- It allows logging and retrieval of historical data.

You can add performance metrics using Python, Perl, C++, and C interfaces. Analysis tools can use the Python, C++, C client APIs directly, and rich web applications can explore all available performance data using a JSON interface.

You can analyze data patterns by comparing live results with archived data.

PCP has the following components:

- The Performance Metric Collector Daemon (pmcd) collects performance data from the installed Performance Metric Domain Agents (pmda). PMDAs can be individually loaded or unloaded on the system and are controlled by the PMCD on the same host.
- Various client tools, such as pminfo or pmstat, can retrieve, display, archive, and process this data on the same host or over the network.
- The pcp package provides the command-line tools and underlying functionality.
- The pcp-gui package provides the graphical application. Install the pcp-gui package by executing the yum install pcp-gui command. For more information, see Section 3.6, "Visually tracing PCP log archives with the PCP Charts application".

Additional resources

- The /usr/share/doc/pcp-doc/ directory.
- Section 3.9, "Tools distributed with PCP".
- The Index of Performance Co-Pilot (PCP) articles, solutions, tutorials and white papers on Red Hat Customer Portal.
- The Side-by-side comparison of PCP tools with legacy tools Red Hat Knowledgebase article.
- The upstream PCP documentation.

3.2. INSTALLING AND ENABLING PCP
To begin using PCP, install all the required packages and enable the PCP monitoring services.

Procedure

1. Install the PCP package:
   
   ```bash
   # yum install pcp
   ```

2. Enable and start the `pmcd` service on the host machine:
   
   ```bash
   # systemctl enable pmcd
   # systemctl start pmcd
   ```

3. Verify that the `pmcd` process is running on the host and the XFS PMDA is listed as enabled in the configuration:
   
   ```bash
   # pcp
   ```

   Performance Co-Pilot configuration on workstation:

   ```
   platform: Linux workstation 4.18.0-80.el8.x86_64 #1 SMP Wed Mar 13 12:02:46 UTC 2019 x86_64
   hardware: 12 cpus, 2 disks, 1 node, 36023MB RAM
   timezone: CEST-2
   services: pmcd
   pmcd: Version 4.3.0-1, 8 agents
   pmda: root pmcd proc xfs linux mmv kvm jbd2
   ```

Additional resources

- Section 3.9, “Tools distributed with PCP”.
- The `pmcd` man page.

### 3.3. DEPLOYING A MINIMAL PCP SETUP

The minimal PCP setup collects performance statistics on Red Hat Enterprise Linux. The setup involves adding the minimum number of packages on a production system needed to gather data for further analysis. You can analyze the resulting `tar.gz` file and the archive of the `pmlogger` output using various PCP tools and compare them with other sources of performance information.

Prerequisites

- PCP is installed. For more information, see Section 3.2, “Installing and enabling PCP”.

Procedure

1. Update the `pmlogger` configuration:
   
   ```bash
   # pmlogconf -r /var/lib/pcp/config/pmlogger/config.default
   ```

2. Start the `pmcd` and `pmlogger` services:
# systemctl start pmcd.service
# systemctl start pmlogger.service

3. Execute the required operations to record the performance data.

4. Stop the pmcd and pmlogger services:
   
   # systemctl stop pmcd.service
   # systemctl stop pmlogger.service

5. Save the output and save it to a tar.gz file named based on the host name and the current date and time:
   
   # cd /var/log/pcp/pmlogger/
   # tar -czf $(hostname).$(date +%F-%Hh%M).pcp.tar.gz $(hostname)

   Extract this file and analyze the data using PCP tools.

Additional resources

- Section 3.9, "Tools distributed with PCP"
- Section 3.8, "System services distributed with PCP"
- The pmlogconf man page.
- The pmlogger man page.
- The pmcd man page.

### 3.4. LOGGING PERFORMANCE DATA WITH PMLOGGER

With the PCP tool you can log the performance metric values and replay them later. This allows you to perform a retrospective performance analysis.

Using the pmlogger tool, you can:

- Create the archived logs of selected metrics on the system
- Specify which metrics are recorded on the system and how often

#### 3.4.1. Modifying the pmlogger configuration file with pmlogconf

When the pmlogger service is running, PCP logs a default set of metrics on the host. Use the pmlogconf utility to check the default configuration. If the pmlogger configuration file does not exist, pmlogconf creates it with a default metric values.

**Prerequisites**

- PCP is installed. For more information, see Section 3.2, “Installing and enabling PCP”.
Procedure

1. Create or modify the `pmlogger` configuration file:

   ```bash
   # pmlogconf -r /var/lib/pcp/config/pmlogger/config.default
   ```

2. Follow `pmlogconf` prompts to enable or disable groups of related performance metrics and to control the logging interval for each enabled group.

Additional resources

- Section 3.9, “Tools distributed with PCP”
- Section 3.8, “System services distributed with PCP”
- The `pmlogconf` man page.
- The `pmlogger` man page.

3.4.2. Editing the pmlogger configuration file manually

To create a tailored logging configuration with specific metrics and given intervals, edit the `pmlogger` configuration file manually.

In manual configuration, you can:

- Record metrics which are not listed in the automatic configuration.
- Choose custom logging frequencies.
- Add PMDA with the application metrics.

The default `pmlogger` configuration file is `/var/lib/pcp/config/pmlogger/config.default`. The configuration file specifies which metrics are logged by the primary logging instance.

Prerequisites

- PCP is installed. For more information, see Section 3.2, “Installing and enabling PCP”.

Procedure

- Open and edit the `/var/lib/pcp/config/pmlogger/config.default` file to add specific metrics:

  ```bash
  # It is safe to make additions from here on ...
  
  log mandatory on every 5 seconds {
    xfs.write
    xfs.write_bytes
    xfs.read
    xfs.read_bytes
  }

  log mandatory on every 10 seconds {
    xfs.allocs
  }
  ```
3.4.3. Enabling the pmlogger service

The pmlogger service must be started and enabled to log the metric values on the local machine.

**Prerequisites**

- PCP is installed. For more information, see Section 3.2, “Installing and enabling PCP”.

**Procedure**

1. Start and enable the pmlogger service:

```
# systemctl start pmlogger
# systemctl enable pmlogger
```

2. Verify that the pmlogger is enabled:

```
# pcp
```

Performance Co-Pilot configuration on workstation:

```
platform: Linux workstation 4.18.0-80.el8.x86_64 #1 SMP Wed Mar 13 12:02:46 UTC 2019 x86_64
hardware: 12 cpus, 2 disks, 1 node, 36023MB RAM
timezone: CEST-2
services: pmcd
pmcd: Version 4.3.0-1, 8 agents, 1 client
pmda: root pmcd proc xfs linux mmv kvm jbd2
pmlogger: primary logger: /var/log/pcp/pmlogger/workstation/20190827.15.54
```

**Additional resources**

- Section 3.9, “Tools distributed with PCP”
- Section 3.8, “System services distributed with PCP”
3.4.4. Setting up a client system for metrics collection

This procedure describes how to set up a client system so that a central server can collect metrics from clients running PCP.

**Prerequisites**

- PCP is installed. For more information, see Section 3.2, “Installing and enabling PCP”.

**Procedure**

1. Install the `pcp-system-tools` package:
   ```bash
   # yum install pcp-system-tools
   ```

2. Configure an IP address for `pmcd`:
   ```bash
   # echo "-i 192.168.4.62" >> /etc/pcp/pmcd/pmcd.options
   ``
   Replace `192.168.4.62` with the IP address, the client should listen on.
   By default, `pmcd` is listening on the localhost.

3. Configure the firewall to add the public `zone` permanently:
   ```bash
   # firewall-cmd --permanent --zone=public --add-port=44321/tcp
   success
   # firewall-cmd --reload
   success
   ```

4. Set an SELinux boolean:
   ```bash
   # setsebool -P pcp_bind_all_unreserved_ports on
   ```

5. Enable the `pmcd` and `pmlogger` services:
   ```bash
   # systemctl enable pmcd pmlogger
   # systemctl restart pmcd pmlogger
   ```

**Verification steps**

- Verify if the `pmcd` is correctly listening on the configured IP address:
  ```bash
  # ss -tlp | grep 44321
  LISTEN  0    5    127.0.0.1:44321   0.0.0.0:*   users:(("pmcd",pid=151595,fd=6))
  LISTEN  0    5    192.168.4.62:44321  0.0.0.0:*   users:(("pmcd",pid=151595,fd=0))
  LISTEN  0    5        [::1]:44321       [::]:*   users:(("pmcd",pid=151595,fd=7))
  ```
Additional resources

- Section 3.9, “Tools distributed with PCP”.
- Section 3.8, “System services distributed with PCP”.
- The /var/lib/pcp/config/pmlogger/config.default file.
- The pmlogger man page.
- The firewall-cmd man page.
- The setsebool man page.
- The ss man page.

3.4.5. Setting up a central server to collect data

This procedure describes how to create a central server to collect metrics from clients running PCP.

Prerequisites

- PCP is installed. For more information, see Section 3.2, “Installing and enabling PCP”.
- Client is configured for metrics collection. For more information, see Section 3.4.4, “Setting up a client system for metrics collection”.

Procedure

1. Install the pcp-system-tools package:

   # yum install pcp-system-tools

2. Add clients for monitoring:

   # echo "192.168.4.13 n n PCP_LOG_DIR/pmlogger/rhel7u4a -r -T24h10m -c config.remote" >> /etc/pcp/pmlogger/control.d/remote

   # echo "192.168.4.14 n n PCP_LOG_DIR/pmlogger/rhel6u10a -r -T24h10m -c config.remote" >> /etc/pcp/pmlogger/control.d/remote

   # echo "192.168.4.62 n n PCP_LOG_DIR/pmlogger/rhel8u1a -r -T24h10m -c config.remote" >> /etc/pcp/pmlogger/control.d/remote

   Replace 192.168.4.13, 192.168.4.14, and 192.168.4.62 with the client IP addresses.

3. Enable the pmcd and pmlogger services:

   # systemctl enable pmcd pmlogger
   # systemctl restart pmcd pmlogger

Verification steps

- Ensure that you can access the latest archive file from each directory:
The archive files from the `/var/log/pcp/pmlogger/` directory can be used for further analysis and graphing.

**Additional resources**

- Section 3.9, “Tools distributed with PCP”.
- Section 3.8, “System services distributed with PCP”.
- The `/var/lib/pcp/config/pmlogger/config.default` file.
- The `pmlogger` man page.

### 3.4.6. Replaying the PCP log archives with `pmdumptext`

After recording the metric data, you can replay the PCP log archives. To export the logs to text files and import them into spreadsheets, use PCP utilities such as `pmdumptext`, `pmrep`, or `pmlogsummary`.

Using the `pmdumptext` tool, you can:

- View the log files
- Parse the selected PCP log archive and export the values into an ASCII table
- Extract the entire archive log or only select metric values from the log by specifying individual metrics on the command line

**Prerequisites**

- PCP is installed. For more information, see Section 3.2, “Installing and enabling PCP”.
- The `pmlogger` service is enabled. For more information, see Section 3.4.3, “Enabling the pmlogger service”.
- Install the `pcp-gui` package:

  ```bash
  # yum install pcp-gui
  ```

**Procedure**
Display the data on the metric:

```
$ pmdumtext -t 5seconds -H -a 20170605 xfs.perdev.log.writes

Time local::xfs.perdev.log.writes["/dev/mapper/fedora-home"]
local::xfs.perdev.log.writes["/dev/mapper/fedora-root"]
? 0.000 0.000
none count / second count / second
Mon Jun 5 12:28:45 ? ?
Mon Jun 5 12:28:50 0.000 0.000
Mon Jun 5 12:28:55 0.200 0.200
Mon Jun 5 12:29:00 6.800 1.000
```

The mentioned example displays the data on the `xfs.perdev.log` metric collected in an archive at a 5 second interval and display all the headers.

Additional resources

- Section 3.9, "Tools distributed with PCP"
- Section 3.8, "System services distributed with PCP"
- The `pmdumtext` man page.
- The `pmrep` man page.
- The `pmlogsummary` man page.
- The `pmlogger` man page.

### 3.5. MONITORING POSTFIX WITH PMDA-POSTFIX

This procedure describes how to monitor performance metrics of the postfix mail server with `pmda-postfix`. It helps to check how many emails are received per second.

**Prerequisites**

- PCP is installed. For more information, see Section 3.2, “Installing and enabling PCP”.
- The `pmlogger` service is enabled. For more information, see Section 3.4.3, “Enabling the pmlogger service”.

**Procedure**

1. Install the following packages:
   a. Install the `pcp-system-tools`:
      
      ```
      # yum install pcp-system-tools
      ```
   b. Install the `pmda-postfix` package to monitor postfix:
      
      ```
      # yum install pcp-pmda-postfix postfix
      ```
c. Install the logging daemon:
   
   ```bash
   # yum install rsyslog
   ```

d. Install the mail client for testing:
   
   ```bash
   # yum install mutt
   ```

2. Enable the postfix and rsyslog services:
   
   ```bash
   # systemctl enable postfix rsyslog
   # systemctl restart postfix rsyslog
   ```

3. Enable the SELinux boolean, so that pmda-postfix can access the required log files:
   
   ```bash
   # setsebool -P pcp_read_generic_logs=on
   ```

4. Install the PMDA:
   
   ```bash
   # cd /var/lib/pcp/pmdas/postfix/
   # ./Install
   ```

   Updating the Performance Metrics Name Space (PMNS) ...
   Terminate PMDA if already installed ...
   Updating the PMCD control file, and notifying PMCD ...
   Waiting for pmcd to terminate ...
   Starting pmcd ...
   Check postfix metrics have appeared ... 7 metrics and 58 values

Verification steps

- Verify the pmda-postfix operation:
  
  ```bash
  echo testmail | mutt root
  ```

- Verify the available metrics:
  
  ```bash
  # pminfo postfix
  ```

  postfix.received
  postfix.sent
  postfix.queues.incoming
  postfix.queues.maildrop
  postfix.queues.hold
  postfix.queues.deferred
  postfix.queues.active

Additional resources

- Section 3.9, “Tools distributed with PCP”
- Section 3.8, “System services distributed with PCP”
3.6. VISUALLY TRACING PCP LOG ARCHIVES WITH THE PCP CHARTS APPLICATION

After recording metric data, you can replay the PCP log archives as graphs.

Using the PCP Charts application, you can:

- Replay the data in the PCP Charts application and use graphs to visualize the retrospective data alongside live data of the system.
- Plot performance metric values into graphs.
- Display multiple charts simultaneously.

The metrics are sourced from one or more live hosts with alternative options to use metric data from PCP log archives as a source of historical data.

Following are the several ways to customize the PCP Charts application interface to display the data from the performance metrics:

- line plot
- bar graphs
- utilization graphs

Prerequisites

- PCP is installed. For more information, see Section 3.2, “Installing and enabling PCP”.
- Logged performance data with the pmlogger. For more information, see Section 3.4, “Logging performance data with pmlogger”.
- Install the pcp-gui package:

  ```bash
  # yum install pcp-gui
  ```

Procedure

1. Launch the PCP Charts application from the command line:

  ```bash
  # pmchart
  ```
The **pmtime** server settings are located at the bottom. The **start** and **pause** button allows you to control:

- The interval in which PCP polls the metric data
- The date and time for the metrics of historical data

2. Go to **File → New Chart** to select metric from both the local machine and remote machines by specifying their host name or address. Advanced configuration options include the ability to manually set the axis values for the chart, and to manually choose the color of the plots.

3. Record the views created in the **PCP Charts** application:
   Following are the options to take images or record the views created in the **PCP Charts** application:
   - Click **File → Export** to save an image of the current view.
   - Click **Record → Start** to start a recording. Click **Record → Stop** to stop the recording. After stopping the recording, the recorded metrics are archived to be viewed later.

4. Optional: In the **PCP Charts** application, the main configuration file, known as the **view**, allows the metadata associated with one or more charts to be saved. This metadata describes all chart aspects, including the metrics used and the chart columns. Save the custom **view** configuration by clicking **File → Save View**, and load the **view** configuration later. The following example of the **PCP Charts** application view configuration file describes a stacking chart graph showing the total number of bytes read and written to the given XFS file system **loop1**:

```plaintext
#kmchart
version 1

cart title "Filesystem Throughput /loop1" style stacking antialiasing off
plot legend "Read rate" metric xfs.read_bytes instance "loop1"
plot legend "Write rate" metric xfs.write_bytes instance "loop1"
```

**Additional resources**
- **Section 3.9, “Tools distributed with PCP”**
- The **pmchart** man page.
- The **pmttime** man page.
3.7. XFS FILE SYSTEM PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS WITH PCP

The XFS PMDA ships as part of the pcp package and is enabled by default during the installation. It is used to gather performance metric data of XFS file systems in PCP.

3.7.1. Installing XFS PMDA manually

If the XFS PMDA is not listed in PCP configuration readout, install the PMDA agent manually.

Procedure

1. Navigate to the xfs directory:
   ```bash
   # cd /var/lib/pcp/pmdas/xfs/
   ```

2. Install the XFS PMDA manually:
   ```bash
   [xfs]# ./Install
   ```
   You will need to choose an appropriate configuration for install of the “xfs” Performance Metrics Domain Agent (PMDA).
   ```
   collector     collect performance statistics on this system
   monitor       allow this system to monitor local and/or remote systems
   both          collector and monitor configuration for this system
   ```
   Please enter collector) or monitor) or (both) [b]
   Updating the Performance Metrics Name Space (PMNS) ...
   Terminate PMDA if already installed ...
   Updating the PMCD control file, and notifying PMCD ...
   Waiting for pmcd to terminate ...
   Starting pmcd ...
   Check xfs metrics have appeared ...
   149 metrics and 149 values

3. Select the intended PMDA role by entering c for collector, m for monitor, or b for both. The PMDA installation script prompts you to specify one of the following PMDA roles:
   - The collector role allows the collection of performance metrics on the current system
   - The monitor role allows the system to monitor local systems, remote systems, or both
   The default option is both collector and monitor, which allows the XFS PMDA to operate correctly in most scenarios.

Additional resources

- Section 3.9, “Tools distributed with PCP”
- The pmcd man page.

3.7.2. Examining XFS performance metrics with pminfo

The pminfo tool displays information about the available performance metrics. This procedure displays a list of all available metrics provided by the XFS PMDA.
3.7.3. Resetting XFS performance metrics with pmstore

With PCP, you can modify the values of certain metrics, especially if the metric acts as a control variable, such as the `xfs.control.reset` metric. To modify a metric value, use the `pmstore` tool.

**Prerequisites**
- PCP is installed. For more information, see Section 3.2, “Installing and enabling PCP”.

**Procedure**

- Display the list of all available metrics provided by the XFS PMDA:

  ```
  # pminfo xfs
  ```

- Display information for the individual metrics. The following examples examine specific XFS read and write metrics using the `pminfo` tool:

  - Display a short description of the `xfs.write_bytes` metric:

    ```
    # pminfo --online xfs.write_bytes
    xfs.write_bytes [number of bytes written in XFS file system write operations]
    ```

  - Display a long description of the `xfs.read_bytes` metric:

    ```
    # pminfo --helptext xfs.read_bytes
    xfs.read_bytes
    Help:
    This is the number of bytes read via read(2) system calls to files in
    XFS file systems. It can be used in conjunction with the read_calls
    count to calculate the average size of the read operations to file in
    XFS file systems.
    ```

  - Obtain the current performance value of the `xfs.read_bytes` metric:

    ```
    # pminfo --fetch xfs.read_bytes
    xfs.read_bytes
    value 4891346238
    ```

**Additional resources**
- Section 3.10, “PCP metric groups for XFS”.
- The `pminfo` man page.
1. Display the value of a metric:

```
$ pminfo -f xfs.write
xfs.write
 value 325262
```

2. Reset all the XFS metrics:

```
# pmstore xfs.control.reset 1
xfs.control.reset old value=0 new value=1
```

3. View the information after resetting the metric:

```
$ pminfo --fetch xfs.write
xfs.write
 value 0
```

Additional resources

- Section 3.9, "Tools distributed with PCP"
- Section 3.10, "PCP metric groups for XFS".
- The `pmstore` man page.
- The `pminfo` man page.

### 3.7.4. Examining XFS metrics available per file system

PCP enables XFS PMDA to allow the reporting of certain XFS metrics per each of the mounted XFS file systems. This makes it easier to pinpoint specific mounted file system issues and evaluate performance. The `pminfo` command provides per-device XFS metrics for each mounted XFS file system.

**Prerequisites**

- PCP is installed. For more information, see Section 3.2, “Installing and enabling PCP”.

**Procedure**

- Obtain per-device XFS metrics with `pminfo`:

```
# pminfo --fetch --online xfs.perdev.read xfs.perdev.write
xfs.perdev.read [number of XFS file system read operations]
 inst [0 or "loop1"] value 0
 inst [0 or "loop2"] value 0
xfs.perdev.write [number of XFS file system write operations]
 inst [0 or "loop1"] value 86
 inst [0 or "loop2"] value 0
```
Additional resources

- Section 3.11, “Per-device PCP metric groups for XFS”.
- The `pminfo` man page.

### 3.8. SYSTEM SERVICES DISTRIBUTED WITH PCP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>pmcd</td>
<td>The Performance Metric Collector Daemon (PMCD).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pmie</td>
<td>The Performance Metrics Inference Engine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pmlogger</td>
<td>The performance metrics logger.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pmmgr</td>
<td>Manages a collection of PCP daemons for a set of discovered local and remote hosts running the Performance Metric Collector Daemon (PMCD) according to zero or more configuration directories.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pmproxy</td>
<td>The Performance Metric Collector Daemon (PMCD) proxy server.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pmwebd</td>
<td>Binds a subset of the Performance Co-Pilot client API to RESTful web applications using the HTTP protocol.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 3.9. TOOLS DISTRIBUTED WITH PCP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>pcp</td>
<td>Displays the current status of a Performance Co-Pilot installation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pcp-atop</td>
<td>Shows the system-level occupation of the most critical hardware resources from the performance point of view: CPU, memory, disk, and network.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pcp-dstat</td>
<td>Displays metrics of one system at a time. To display metrics of multiple systems, use <code>--host</code> option.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pmchart</td>
<td>Plots performance metrics values available through the facilities of the Performance Co-Pilot.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pmclient</td>
<td>Displays high-level system performance metrics by using the Performance Metrics Application Programming Interface (PMAPI).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Command</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pmcollectl</td>
<td>Collects and displays system-level data, either from a live system or from a Performance Co-Pilot archive file.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pmconfig</td>
<td>Displays the values of configuration parameters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pmdbg</td>
<td>Displays available Performance Co-Pilot debug control flags and their values.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pmdiff</td>
<td>Compares the average values for every metric in either one or two archives, in a given time window, for changes that are likely to be of interest when searching for performance regressions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pmdumplog</td>
<td>Displays control, metadata, index, and state information from a Performance Co-Pilot archive file.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pmdumptext</td>
<td>Outputs the values of performance metrics collected live or from a Performance Co-Pilot archive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pmerr</td>
<td>Displays available Performance Co-Pilot error codes and their corresponding error messages.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pmfind</td>
<td>Finds PCP services on the network.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pmie</td>
<td>An inference engine that periodically evaluates a set of arithmetic, logical, and rule expressions. The metrics are collected either from a live system, or from a Performance Co-Pilot archive file.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pmieconf</td>
<td>Displays or sets configurable pmie variables.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pminfo</td>
<td>Displays information about performance metrics. The metrics are collected either from a live system, or from a Performance Co-Pilot archive file.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pmiostat</td>
<td>Reports I/O statistics for SCSI devices (by default) or device-mapper devices (with the -x dm option).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pmlc</td>
<td>Interactively configures active pmlogger instances.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pmlogcheck</td>
<td>Identifies invalid data in a Performance Co-Pilot archive file.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pmlogconf</td>
<td>Creates and modifies a pmlogger configuration file.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pmloglabel</td>
<td>Verifies, modifies, or repairs the label of a Performance Co-Pilot archive file.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
pmlogsummary: Calculates statistical information about performance metrics stored in a Performance Co-Pilot archive file.

pmprobe: Determines the availability of performance metrics.

pmrep: Reports on selected, easily customizable, performance metrics values.

pmsocks: Allows access to a Performance Co-Pilot hosts through a firewall.

pmstat: Periodically displays a brief summary of system performance.

pmstore: Modifies the values of performance metrics.

pmtrace: Provides a command line interface to the trace Performance Metrics Domain Agent (PMDA).

pmval: Displays the current value of a performance metric.

3.10. PCP METRIC GROUPS FOR XFS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric Group</th>
<th>Metrics provided</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>xfs.</strong>*</td>
<td>General XFS metrics including the read and write operation counts, read and write byte counts. Along with counters for the number of times inodes are flushed, clustered and number of failure to cluster.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>xfs.allocs.</strong>*</td>
<td>Range of metrics regarding the allocation of objects in the file system, these include number of extent and block creations/frees. Allocation tree lookup and compares along with extend record creation and deletion from the btree.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>xfs.alloc_btree.</strong>*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>xfs.block_map.</strong>*</td>
<td>Metrics include the number of block map read/write and block deletions, extent list operations for insertion, deletions and lookups. Also operations counters for compares, lookups, insertions and deletion operations from the blockmap.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>xfs.bmap_tree.</strong>*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>xfs.dir_ops.</strong>*</td>
<td>Counters for directory operations on XFS file systems for creation, entry deletions, count of “getdent” operations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metric Group</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xfs.transactions.*</td>
<td>Counters for the number of meta-data transactions, these include the count for the number of synchronous and asynchronous transactions along with the number of empty transactions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xfs.inode_ops.*</td>
<td>Counters for the number of times that the operating system looked for an XFS inode in the inode cache with different outcomes. These count cache hits, cache misses, and so on.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xfs.log.*</td>
<td>Counters for the number of log buffer writes over XFS file sytems includes the number of blocks written to disk. Metrics also for the number of log flushes and pinning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xfs.log_tail.*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xfs.xstrat.*</td>
<td>Counts for the number of bytes of file data flushed out by the XFS flush deamon along with counters for number of buffers flushed to contiguous and non-contiguous space on disk.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xfs.attr.*</td>
<td>Counts for the number of attribute get, set, remove and list operations over all XFS file systems.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xfs.quota.*</td>
<td>Metrics for quota operation over XFS file systems, these include counters for number of quota reclaims, quota cache misses, cache hits and quota data reclaims.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xfs.buffer.*</td>
<td>Range of metrics regarding XFS buffer objects. Counters include the number of requested buffer calls, successful buffer locks, waited buffer locks, miss_locks, miss_retries and buffer hits when looking up pages.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xfs.btree.*</td>
<td>Metrics regarding the operations of the XFS btree.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xfs.control.reset</td>
<td>Configuration metrics which are used to reset the metric counters for the XFS stats. Control metrics are toggled by means of the pmstore tool.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.11. PER-DEVICE PCP METRIC GROUPS FOR XFS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric Group</th>
<th>Metrics provided</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metric Category</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>xfs.perdev.*</code></td>
<td>General XFS metrics including the read and write operation counts, read and write byte counts. Along with counters for the number of times inodes are flushed, clustered and number of failure to cluster.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>xfs.perdev.allocs.*</code></td>
<td>Range of metrics regarding the allocation of objects in the file system, these include number of extent and block creations/frees. Allocation tree lookup and compares along with extend record creation and deletion from the btree.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>xfs.perdev.alloc_btree.*</code></td>
<td>Range of metrics regarding the allocation of objects in the file system, these include number of extent and block creations/frees. Allocation tree lookup and compares along with extend record creation and deletion from the btree.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>xfs.perdev.block_map.*</code></td>
<td>Metrics include the number of block map read/write and block deletions, extent list operations for insertion, deletions and lookups. Also operations counters for compares, lookups, insertions and deletion operations from the blockmap.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>xfs.perdev.bmap_tree.*</code></td>
<td>Metrics include the number of block map read/write and block deletions, extent list operations for insertion, deletions and lookups. Also operations counters for compares, lookups, insertions and deletion operations from the blockmap.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>xfs.perdev.dir_ops.*</code></td>
<td>Counters for directory operations of XFS file systems for creation, entry deletions, count of &quot;getdent&quot; operations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>xfs.perdev.transactions.*</code></td>
<td>Counters for the number of meta-data transactions, these include the count for the number of synchronous and asynchronous transactions along with the number of empty transactions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>xfs.perdev.inode_ops.*</code></td>
<td>Counters for the number of times that the operating system looked for an XFS inode in the inode cache with different outcomes. These count cache hits, cache misses, and so on.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>xfs.perdev.log.*</code></td>
<td>Counters for the number of log buffer writes over XFS filesytems includes the number of blocks written to disk. Metrics also for the number of log flushes and pinning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>xfs.perdev.log_tail.*</code></td>
<td>Counters for the number of log buffer writes over XFS filesytems includes the number of blocks written to disk. Metrics also for the number of log flushes and pinning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>xfs.perdev.xstrat.*</code></td>
<td>Counts for the number of bytes of file data flushed out by the XFS flush deamon along with counters for number of buffers flushed to contiguous and non-contiguous space on disk.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>xfs.perdev.attr.*</code></td>
<td>Counts for the number of attribute get, set, remove and list operations over all XFS file systems.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>xfs.perdev.quota.*</code></td>
<td>Metrics for quota operation over XFS file systems, these include counters for number of quota reclaim, quota cache misses, cache hits and quota data reclaim.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>xfs.perdev.buffer.</strong>*</td>
<td>Range of metrics regarding XFS buffer objects. Counters include the number of requested buffer calls, successful buffer locks, waited buffer locks, miss_locks, miss_retries and buffer hits when looking up pages.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>xfs.perdev.btree.</strong>*</td>
<td>Metrics regarding the operations of the XFS btree.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHAPTER 4. USING THE WEB CONSOLE FOR SELECTING PERFORMANCE PROFILES

Red Hat Enterprise Linux 8 includes performance profiles optimizing:

- Systems using Desktop
- Latency performance
- Network performance
- Low power consumption
- Virtual machines

The following procedure describes setting up performance profiles in the web console.

The RHEL 8 web console configures the tuned service.

For details about the tuned service, see Monitoring and managing system status and performance.

Prerequisites

- The web console must be installed and accessible.
  For details, see Installing the web console.

Procedure

1. Log in to the RHEL 8 web console.
   For details, see Logging in to the web console.

2. Click System.

3. In the Performance Profile field, click the current performance profile.

4. In the Change Performance Profile dialog box, change the profile if necessary.

5. Click Change.
The change is now available in the **System** tab.
CHAPTER 5. SETTING THE DISK SCHEDULER

The disk scheduler is responsible for ordering the I/O requests submitted to a storage device.

You can configure the scheduler in several different ways:

- Set the scheduler using Tuned, as described in Section 5.6, “Setting the disk scheduler using Tuned”
- Set the scheduler using udev, as described in Section 5.7, “Setting the disk scheduler using udev rules”
- Temporarily change the scheduler on a running system, as described in Section 5.8, “Temporarily setting a scheduler for a specific disk”

5.1. DISK SCHEDULER CHANGES IN RHEL 8

In RHEL 8, block devices support only multi-queue scheduling. This enables the block layer performance to scale well with fast solid-state drives (SSDs) and multi-core systems.

The traditional, single-queue schedulers, which were available in RHEL 7 and earlier versions, have been removed.

5.2. AVAILABLE DISK SCHEDULERS

The following multi-queue disk schedulers are supported in RHEL 8:

Disk schedulers

- **none**
  
  Implements a first-in first-out (FIFO) scheduling algorithm. It merges requests at the generic block layer through a simple last-hit cache.

- **mq-deadline**
  
  Attempts to provide a guaranteed latency for requests from the point at which requests reach the scheduler.
  
  The **mq-deadline** scheduler sorts queued I/O requests into a read or write batch and then schedules them for execution in increasing logical block addressing (LBA) order. By default, read batches take precedence over write batches, because applications are more likely to block on read I/O operations. After **mq-deadline** processes a batch, it checks how long write operations have been starved of processor time and schedules the next read or write batch as appropriate.

  This scheduler is suitable for most use cases, but particularly those in which read operations occur more often than write operations.

- **bfq**
  
  Targets desktop systems and interactive tasks.
  
  The **bfq** scheduler ensures that a single application is never using all of the bandwidth. In effect, the storage device is always as responsive as if it was idle. The system does not become unresponsive when copying large files. In its default configuration, **bfq** focuses on delivering the lowest latency rather than achieving the maximum throughput.

  **bfq** is based on **cfq** code. It does not grant the disk to each process for a fixed time slice but assigns a **budget** measured in number of sectors to the process.
kyber

Is intended for fast devices. The scheduler tunes itself to achieve a latency goal. You can configure the target latencies for read and synchronous write requests.

5.3. RECOMMENDED DISK SCHEDULERS FOR DIFFERENT USE CASES

Depending on the task that your system performs, Red Hat recommends the following disk schedulers:

Table 5.1. Recommendations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Use case</th>
<th>Disk scheduler recommendation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Traditional HDD with a SCSI interface</td>
<td>Use <code>mq-deadline</code> or <code>bfq</code>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High-performance SSD or a CPU-bound system with fast storage</td>
<td>Use <code>none</code>, especially when running enterprise applications. Alternatively, use <code>kyber</code>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desktop or interactive tasks</td>
<td>Use <code>bfq</code>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virtual guest</td>
<td>Use <code>mq-deadline</code>. With a multi-queue host bus adapter (HBA), use <code>none</code>.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.4. THE DEFAULT DISK SCHEDULER

Block devices use the default disk scheduler unless you specify another scheduler.

The kernel selects a default disk scheduler based on the type of device. The automatically selected scheduler is typically the optimal setting. If you require a different scheduler, Red Hat recommends to use `udev` rules or the Tuned application to configure it. Match the selected devices and switch the scheduler only for those devices.

5.5. DETERMINING THE ACTIVE DISK SCHEDULER

This procedure determines which disk scheduler is currently active on a given block device.

Procedure

- Read the content of the `/sys/block/device/queue/scheduler` file:

  ```
  # cat /sys/block/device/queue/scheduler
  [mq-deadline] kyber bfq none
  ```

  In the file name, replace `device` with the block device name, for example `sdc`.

  The active scheduler is listed in square brackets ([ ]).

5.6. SETTING THE DISK SCHEDULER USING TUNED

This procedure creates and enables a Tuned profile that sets a given disk scheduler for selected block devices. The setting persists across system reboots.
In the following commands and configuration, replace:

- *device* with the name of the block device, for example `sdf`
- *selected-scheduler* with the disk scheduler that you want to set for the device, for example `bfq`

**Prerequisites**

- The **tuned** service is installed and enabled. For details, see Section 1.6, “Installing and enabling Tuned”.

**Procedure**

1. Optional: Select an existing **Tuned** profile on which your profile will be based. For a list of available profiles, see Section 1.3, “Tuned profiles distributed with RHEL”. To see which profile is currently active, use:

   ```
   $ tuned-adm active
   ```

2. Create a new directory to hold your **Tuned** profile:

   ```
   # mkdir /etc/tuned/my-profile
   ```

3. Find the World Wide Name (WWN) identifier of the selected block device:

   ```
   $ udevadm info --query=property --name=/dev/device | grep WWN=
   ID_WWN=0x5002538d00000000
   ```

4. Create the `/etc/tuned/my-profile/tuned.conf` configuration file. In the file, set the following options:

   - Optional: Include an existing profile:

     ```
     [main]
     include=existing-profile
     ```

   - Set the selected disk scheduler for the device that matches the WWN identifier:

     ```
     [disk]
     devices_udev_regex=ID_WWN=0x5002538d00000000
     elevator=selected-scheduler
     ```

     To match multiple devices in the `devices_udev_regex` option, separate the identifiers with commas:

     ```
     devices_udev_regex=ID_WWN=0x5002538d00000000,
     ID_WWN=0x1234567800000000
     ```

5. Enable your profile:

   ```
   # tuned-adm profile my-profile
   ```
6. Verify that the Tuned profile is active and applied:

   $ tuned-adm active  
   Current active profile: *my-profile*

   $ tuned-adm verify  
   Verification succeeded, current system settings match the preset profile.  
   See tuned log file ('/var/log/tuned/tuned.log') for details.

Additional resources

- For more information on creating a Tuned profile, see Chapter 2, Customizing Tuned profiles.

5.7. SETTING THE DISK SCHEDULER USING UDEV RULES

This procedure sets a given disk scheduler for specific block devices using udev rules. The setting persists across system reboots.

In the following commands and configuration, replace:

- **device** with the name of the block device, for example **sdf**
- **selected-scheduler** with the disk scheduler that you want to set for the device, for example **bfq**

Procedure

1. Find the World Wide Identifier (WWID) of the block device:

   $ udevadm info --attribute-walk --name=/dev/device | grep wwid
   
   ATTRS{wwid}=="device WWID"

   An example value of *device WWID* is:

   t10.ATA SAMSUNG MZNLN256HMHQ-000L7 S2WDX0J336519

2. Configure the udev rule. Create the /etc/udev/rules.d/99-scheduler.rules file with the following content:

   ACTION="add|change", SUBSYSTEM="block", ATTRS[wwid]=="device WWID", ATTR[queue/scheduler]="selected-scheduler"

   Replace *device WWID* with the WWID value that you found in the previous steps.

3. Reload udev rules:

   # udevadm control --reload-rules

4. Apply the scheduler configuration:

   # udevadm trigger --type=devices --action=change
5. Verify the active scheduler:

```bash
# cat /sys/block/device/queue/scheduler
```

### 5.8. TEMPORARILY SETTING A SCHEDULER FOR A SPECIFIC DISK

This procedure sets a given disk scheduler for specific block devices. The setting does not persist across system reboots.

**Procedure**

- Write the name of the selected scheduler to the `/sys/block/device/queue/scheduler` file:

```bash
# echo selected-scheduler > /sys/block/device/queue/scheduler
```

In the file name, replace `device` with the block device name, for example `sdc`.

**Verification steps**

- Verify that the scheduler is active on the device:

```bash
# cat /sys/block/device/queue/scheduler
```
CHAPTER 6. TUNING THE PERFORMANCE OF A SAMBA SERVER

This chapter describes what settings can improve the performance of Samba in certain situations, and which settings can have a negative performance impact.

Parts of this section were adopted from the Performance Tuning documentation published in the Samba Wiki. License: CC BY 4.0. Authors and contributors: See the history tab on the Wiki page.

Prerequisites

- Samba is set up as a file or print server
  See Using Samba as a server.

6.1. SETTING THE SMB PROTOCOL VERSION

Each new SMB version adds features and improves the performance of the protocol. The recent Windows and Windows Server operating systems always supports the latest protocol version. If Samba also uses the latest protocol version, Windows clients connecting to Samba benefit from the performance improvements. In Samba, the default value of the server max protocol is set to the latest supported stable SMB protocol version.

**NOTE**

To always have the latest stable SMB protocol version enabled, do not set the server max protocol parameter. If you set the parameter manually, you will need to modify the setting with each new version of the SMB protocol, to have the latest protocol version enabled.

The following procedure explains how to use the default value in the server max protocol parameter.

Procedure

1. Remove the server max protocol parameter from the [global] section in the /etc/samba/smb.conf file.

2. Reload the Samba configuration

   # smbcontrol all reload-config

6.2. TUNING SHARES WITH DIRECTORIES THAT CONTAIN A LARGE NUMBER OF FILES

Linux supports case-sensitive file names. For this reason, Samba needs to scan directories for uppercase and lowercase file names when searching or accessing a file. You can configure a share to create new files only in lowercase or uppercase, which improves the performance.

Prerequisites

- Samba is configured as a file server
Procedure

1. Rename all files on the share to lowercase.

   **NOTE**

   Using the settings in this procedure, files with names other than in lowercase will no longer be displayed.

2. Set the following parameters in the share’s section:

   ```
   case sensitive = true
   default case = lower
   preserve case = no
   short preserve case = no
   ```

   For details about the parameters, see their descriptions in the `smb.conf(5)` man page.

3. Verify the `/etc/samba/smb.conf` file:

   ```
   # testparm
   ```

4. Reload the Samba configuration:

   ```
   # smbcontrol all reload-config
   ```

After you applied these settings, the names of all newly created files on this share use lowercase. Because of these settings, Samba no longer needs to scan the directory for uppercase and lowercase, which improves the performance.

**Additional resources**

- Verifying the `smb.conf` file by using the `testparm` utility

**6.3. SETTINGS THAT CAN HAVE A NEGATIVE PERFORMANCE IMPACT**

By default, the kernel in Red Hat Enterprise Linux is tuned for high network performance. For example, the kernel uses an auto-tuning mechanism for buffer sizes. Setting the `socket options` parameter in the `/etc/samba/smb.conf` file overrides these kernel settings. As a result, setting this parameter decreases the Samba network performance in most cases.

To use the optimized settings from the Kernel, remove the `socket options` parameter from the `[global]` section in the `/etc/samba/smb.conf`. 

CHAPTER 7. OPTIMIZING VIRTUAL MACHINE PERFORMANCE

Virtual machines (VMs) always experience some degree of performance deterioration in comparison to the host. The following sections explain the reasons for this deterioration and provide instructions on how to minimize the performance impact of virtualization in RHEL 8, so that your hardware infrastructure resources can be used as efficiently as possible.

7.1. WHAT INFLUENCES VIRTUAL MACHINE PERFORMANCE

VMs are run as user-space processes on the host. The hypervisor therefore needs to convert the host’s system resources so that the VMs can use them. As a consequence, a portion of the resources is consumed by the conversion, and the VM therefore cannot achieve the same performance efficiency as the host.

The impact of virtualization on system performance

More specific reasons for VM performance loss include:

- Virtual CPUs (vCPUs) are implemented as threads on the host, handled by the Linux scheduler.
- VMs do not automatically inherit optimization features, such as NUMA or huge pages, from the host kernel.
- Disk and network I/O settings of the host might have a significant performance impact on the VM.
- Network traffic typically travels to a VM through a software-based bridge.
- Depending on the host devices and their models, there might be significant overhead due to emulation of particular hardware.

The severity of the virtualization impact on the VM performance is influenced by a variety factors, which include:

- The number of concurrently running VMs.
- The amount of virtual devices used by each VM.
- The device types used by the VMs.

Reducing VM performance loss

RHEL 8 provides a number of features you can use to reduce the negative performance effects of virtualization. Notably:

- **The tuned service** can automatically optimize the resource distribution and performance of your VMs.
- **Block I/O tuning** can improve the performances of the VM’s block devices, such as disks.
- **NUMA tuning** can increase vCPU performance.
- **Virtual networking** can be optimized in various ways.

**IMPORTANT**

Tuning VM performance can have adverse effects on other virtualization functions. For example, it can make migrating the modified VM more difficult.
7.2. OPTIMIZING VIRTUAL MACHINE PERFORMANCE USING TUNED

The **tuned** utility is a tuning profile delivery mechanism that adapts RHEL for certain workload characteristics, such as requirements for CPU-intensive tasks or storage-network throughput responsiveness. It provides a number of tuning profiles that are pre-configured to enhance performance and reduce power consumption in a number of specific use cases. You can edit these profiles or create new profiles to create performance solutions tailored to your environment, including virtualized environments.

Red Hat recommends using the following profiles when using virtualization in RHEL 8:

- For RHEL 8 virtual machines, use the **virtual-guest** profile. It is based on the generally applicable **throughput-performance** profile, but also decreases the swappiness of virtual memory.

- For RHEL 8 virtualization hosts, use the **virtual-host** profile. This enables more aggressive writeback of dirty memory pages, which benefits the host performance.

**Prerequisites**

- The **tuned** service must be installed and enabled.

**Procedure**

To enable a specific **tuned** profile:

1. List the available **tuned** profiles.

   ```bash
   # tuned-adm list
   
   Available profiles:
   - balanced             - General non-specialized tuned profile
   - desktop              - Optimize for the desktop use-case
   [...]
   - virtual-guest        - Optimize for running inside a virtual guest
   - virtual-host         - Optimize for running KVM guests
   Current active profile: balanced
   ```

2. **Optional:** Create a new **tuned** profile or edit an existing **tuned** profile. For more information, see **Customizing tuned profiles**.

3. Activate a **tuned** profile.

   ```bash
   # tuned-adm profile selected-profile
   
   - To optimize a virtualization host, use the **virtual-host** profile.
   
   # tuned-adm profile virtual-host
   
   - On a RHEL guest operating system, use the **virtual-guest** profile.
   
   # tuned-adm profile virtual-guest
   ```

**Additional resources**
7.3. OPTIMIZING VIRTUAL MACHINE I/O PERFORMANCE

The input and output (I/O) capabilities of a virtual machine (VM) can significantly limit the VM’s overall efficiency. To address this, you can optimize a VM’s I/O by configuring block I/O parameters.

7.3.1. Tuning block I/O in virtual machines

When multiple block devices are being used by one or more VMs, it might be important to adjust the I/O priority of specific virtual devices by modifying their I/O weights.

Increasing the I/O weight of a device increases its priority for I/O bandwidth, and therefore provides it with more host resources. Similarly, reducing a device’s weight makes it consume less host resources.

**NOTE**

Each device’s `weight` value must be within the 100 to 1000 range. Alternatively, the value can be `0`, which removes that device from per-device listings.

**Procedure**

To display and set a VM’s block I/O parameters:

1. Display the current `<blkio>` parameters for a VM:

   ```bash
   # virsh blkiotune virtual_machine
   ```

2. Edit the I/O weight of a specified device:

   ```bash
   # virsh blkiotune VM-name --device-weights device, I/O-weight
   ```

   For example, the following changes the weight of the `/dev/sda` device in the `liftrul` VM to 500.

   ```bash
   # virsh blkiotune liftrul --device-weights /dev/sda, 500
   ```

7.3.2. Disk I/O throttling in virtual machines
When several VMs are running simultaneously, they can interfere with system performance by using excessive disk I/O. Disk I/O throttling in KVM virtualization provides the ability to set a limit on disk I/O requests sent from the VMs to the host machine. This can prevent a VM from over-utilizing shared resources and impacting the performance of other VMs.

To enable disk I/O throttling, set a limit on disk I/O requests sent from each block device attached to VMs to the host machine.

**Procedure**

1. Use the `virsh domblklist` command to list the names of all the disk devices on a specified VM.

   ```bash
   # virsh domblklist rollin-coal
   Target Source
   vda /var/lib/libvirt/images/rollin-coal.qcow2
   sda -
   sdb /home/horridly-demanding-processes.iso
   ```

2. Set I/O limits for a block device attached to a VM using the `virsh blkdeviotune` command:

   ```bash
   # virsh blkdeviotune VM-name device --parameter limit
   ```

   For example, to throttle the `sdb` device on the `rollin-coal` VM to 1000 I/O operations per second and 50 MB per second throughput:

   ```bash
   # virsh blkdeviotune rollin-coal sdb --total-iops-sec 1000 --total-bytes-sec 52428800
   ```

**Additional information**

- Disk I/O throttling can be useful in various situations, for example when VMs belonging to different customers are running on the same host, or when quality of service guarantees are given for different VMs. Disk I/O throttling can also be used to simulate slower disks.

- I/O throttling can be applied independently to each block device attached to a VM and supports limits on throughput and I/O operations.

**7.3.3. Enabling multi-queue virtio-scsi**

When using `virtio-scsi` storage devices in your virtual machines (VMs), the `multi-queue virtio-scsi` feature provides improved storage performance and scalability. It enables each virtual CPU (vCPU) to have a separate queue and interrupt to use without affecting other vCPUs.

**Procedure**

- To enable multi-queue virtio-scsi support for a specific VM, add the following to the VM’s XML configuration, where `N` is the total number of vCPU queues:

  ```xml
  <controller type='scsi' index='0' model='virtio-scsi'>
    <driver queues='N'/>
  </controller>
  ```

**7.4. OPTIMIZING VIRTUAL MACHINE CPU PERFORMANCE**
Much like physical CPUs in host machines, vCPUs are critical to virtual machine (VM) performance. As a result, optimizing vCPUs can have a significant impact on the resource efficiency of your VMs. To optimize your vCPU:

1. Ensure that the vCPU model is aligned with the CPU model of the host. For example, to set the testguest1 VM to use the CPU model of the host:

   ```bash
   # virt-xml testguest1 --edit --cpu host-model
   ```

2. If your host machine uses Non-Uniform Memory Access (NUMA), you can also configure NUMA for its VMs. This maps the host’s CPU and memory processes onto the CPU and memory processes of the VM as closely as possible. In effect, NUMA tuning provides the vCPU with a more streamlined access to the system memory allocated to the VM, which can improve the vCPU processing effectiveness.

   For details, see Section 7.4.1, “Configuring NUMA in a virtual machine” and Section 7.4.2, “Sample vCPU performance tuning scenario”.

### 7.4.1. Configuring NUMA in a virtual machine

The following methods can be used to configure Non-Uniform Memory Access (NUMA) settings of a virtual machine (VM) on a RHEL 8 host.

**Prerequisites**

- The host must be a NUMA-compatible machine. To detect whether this is the case, use the `virsh nodeinfo` command and see the NUMA cell(s) line:

  ```bash
  # virsh nodeinfo
  CPU model:           x86_64
  CPU(s):              48
  CPU frequency:       1200 MHz
  CPU socket(s):       1
  Core(s) per socket:  12
  Thread(s) per core:  2
  NUMA cell(s):        2
  Memory size:         67012964 KiB
  
  If the value of the line is 2 or greater, the host is NUMA-compatible.
  ```

**Procedure**

For ease of use, you can set up a VM’s NUMA configuration using automated utilities and services. However, manual NUMA setup is more likely to yield a significant performance improvement.

**Automatic methods**

- Set the VM’s NUMA policy to Preferred. For example, to do so for the testguest5 VM:

  ```bash
  # virt-xml testguest5 --edit --vcpus placement=auto
  # virt-xml testguest5 --edit --numatune mode=preferred
  ```

- Enable automatic NUMA balancing on the host:

  ```bash
  # echo 1 > /proc/sys/kernel/numa_balancing
  ```
• Use the **numad** command to automatically align the VM CPU with memory resources.

  ```
  # numad
  ```

**Manual methods**

1. Pin specific vCPU threads to a specific host CPU or range of CPUs. This is also possible on non-NUMA hosts and VMs, and is recommended as a safe method of vCPU performance improvement.

   For example, the following commands pin vCPU threads 0 to 5 of the `testguest6` VM to host CPUs 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11, respectively:

   ```
   # virsh vcpupin testguest6 0 1
   # virsh vcpupin testguest6 1 3
   # virsh vcpupin testguest6 2 5
   # virsh vcpupin testguest6 3 7
   # virsh vcpupin testguest6 4 9
   # virsh vcpupin testguest6 5 11
   ```

   Afterwards, you can verify whether this was successful:

   ```
   # virsh vcpupin testguest6
   VCPU   CPU Affinity
   ----------------------
   0      1
   1      3
   2      5
   3      7
   4      9
   5      11
   ```

2. After pinning vCPU threads, you can also pin QEMU process threads associated with a specified VM to a specific host CPU or range of CPUs. For example, the following commands pin the QEMU process thread of `testguest6` to CPUs 13 and 15, and verify this was successful:

   ```
   # virsh emulatorpin testguest6 13,15
   # virsh emulatorpin testguest6
   emulator: CPU Affinity
   -----------------------
   *: 13,15
   ```

3. Finally, you can also specify which host NUMA nodes will be assigned specifically to a certain VM. This can improve the host memory usage by the VM’s vCPU. For example, the following commands set `testguest6` to use host NUMA nodes 3 to 5, and verify this was successful:

   ```
   # virsh numatune testguest6 --nodeset 3-5
   # virsh numatune testguest6
   ```

**Additional resources**

- Note that for best performance results, it is recommended to use all of the manual tuning methods listed above. For an example of such a configuration, see Section 7.4.2, “Sample vCPU performance tuning scenario”.

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To see the current NUMA configuration of your system, you can use the `numastat` utility. For details on using `numastat`, see Section 7.6, “Virtual machine performance monitoring tools”.

NUMA tuning is currently not possible to perform on IBM Z hosts. For further information, see How virtualization on IBM Z differs from AMD64 and Intel 64.

### 7.4.2. Sample vCPU performance tuning scenario

To obtain the best vCPU performance possible, Red Hat recommends using manual `vcpupin`, `emulatorpin`, and `numatune` settings together, for example like in the following scenario.

#### Starting scenario

- Your host has the following hardware specifics:
  - 2 NUMA nodes
  - 3 CPU cores on each node
  - 2 threads on each core

  The output of `virsh nodeinfo` of such a machine would look similar to:

```
# virsh nodeinfo
CPU model:           x86_64
CPU(s):              12
CPU frequency:       3661 MHz
CPU socket(s):       2
Core(s) per socket:  3
Thread(s) per core:  2
NUMA cell(s):        2
Memory size:         31248692 KiB
```

- You intend to modify an existing VM to have 8 vCPUs, which means that it will not fit in a single NUMA node. Therefore, you should distribute 4 vCPUs on each NUMA node and make the vCPU topology resemble the host topology as closely as possible. This means that vCPUs that run as sibling threads of a given physical CPU should be pinned to host threads on the same core. For details, see the **Solution** below:

#### Solution

1. Obtain the information on the host topology:

```
# virsh capabilities

The output should include a section that looks similar to the following:

```
<topology>
  <cells num="2">  
    <cell id="0">  
      <memory unit="KiB">15624346</memory>
      <pages unit="KiB" size="4">3906086</pages>
    </cell>
    <cell id="1">  
      <memory unit="KiB">15624346</memory>
      <pages unit="KiB" size="4">3906086</pages>
    </cell>
  </cells>
</topology>
```
2. **Optional:** Test the performance of the VM using the applicable tools and utilities.

3. Set up and mount 1 GiB huge pages on the host:

   a. Add the following line to the host's kernel command line:

   ```
   default_hugepagesz=1G hugepagesz=1G
   ```

   b. Create the `/etc/systemd/system/hugetlb-gigantic-pages.service` file with the following content:

   ```
   [Unit]
   Description=HugeTLB Gigantic Pages Reservation
   DefaultDependencies=no
   Before=dev-hugepages.mount
   ConditionPathExists=/sys/devices/system/node
   ConditionKernelCommandline=hugepagesz=1G

   [Service]
   Type=oneshot
   RemainAfterExit=yes
   ExecStart=/etc/systemd/hugetlb-reserve-pages.sh
   ```
c. Create the `/etc/systemd/hugetlb-reserve-pages.sh` file with the following content:

```bash
#!/bin/sh

nodes_path=/sys/devices/system/node/
if [ ! -d $nodes_path ]; then
    echo "ERROR: $nodes_path does not exist"
    exit 1
fi

reserve_pages()
{
    echo $1 > $nodes_path/$2/hugepages/hugepages-1048576kB/nr_hugepages
}

reserve_pages 4 node1
reserve_pages 4 node2

This reserves four 1GiB huge pages from `node1` and four 1GiB huge pages from `node2`.

d. Make the script created in the previous step executable:

```bash
# chmod +x /etc/systemd/hugetlb-reserve-pages.sh
```

e. Enable huge page reservation on boot:

```bash
# systemctl enable hugetlb-gigantic-pages
```

4. Use the `virsh edit` command to edit the XML configuration of the VM you wish to optimize, in this example `super-VM`:

```bash
# virsh edit super-vm
```

5. Adjust the XML configuration of the VM in the following way:

a. Set the VM to use 8 static vCPUs. Use the `<vcpu/>` element to do this.

b. Pin each of the vCPU threads to the corresponding host CPU threads that it mirrors in the topology. To do so, use the `<vcpupin/>` elements in the `<cputune>` section. Note that, as shown by the `virsh capabilities` utility above, host CPU threads are not ordered sequentially in their respective cores. In addition, the vCPU threads should be pinned to the highest available set of host cores on the same NUMA node. For a table illustration, see the Additional Resources section below.

The XML configuration for steps a. and b. can look similar to:

```xml
<cpuset>
    <vcpupin vcpu='0' cpuset='1'/>
    <vcpupin vcpu='1' cpuset='4'/>
    <vcpupin vcpu='2' cpuset='2'/>
</cpuset>
```
c. Set the VM to use 1 GiB huge pages:

```xml
<memoryBacking>
  <hugepages>
    <page size='1' unit='GiB'/>
  </hugepages>
</memoryBacking>
```

d. Configure the VM's NUMA nodes to use memory from the corresponding NUMA nodes on the host. To do so, use the `<memnode/>` elements in the `<numatune/>` section:

```xml
<numatune>
  <memory mode="preferred" nodeset="1"/>
  <memnode cellid="0" mode="strict" nodeset="0"/>
  <memnode cellid="1" mode="strict" nodeset="1"/>
</numatune>
```

e. Ensure the CPU mode is set to `host-passthrough`, and that the CPU uses cache in `passthrough` mode:

```xml
<cpu mode="host-passthrough">
  <topology sockets="2" cores="2" threads="2"/>
  <cache mode="passthrough"/>
</cpu>
```

6. The resulting XML configuration of the VM should include a section similar to the following:

```xml
[...]
<memoryBacking>
  <hugepages>
    <page size='1' unit='GiB'/>
  </hugepages>
</memoryBacking>
<vcpu placement='static'>8</vcpu>
<cputune>
  <vcpupin vcpu='0' cpuset='1'/>
  <vcpupin vcpu='1' cpuset='4'/>
  <vcpupin vcpu='2' cpuset='2'/>
  <vcpupin vcpu='3' cpuset='5'/>
  <vcpupin vcpu='4' cpuset='7'/>
  <vcpupin vcpu='5' cpuset='10'/>
  <vcpupin vcpu='6' cpuset='8'/>
  <vcpupin vcpu='7' cpuset='11'/>
  <emulatorpin cpuset='6,9'/>
</cputune>
<numatune>
  <memory mode="preferred" nodeset="1"/>
</numatune>
```
7. **Optional:** Test the performance of the VM using the applicable tools and utilities to evaluate the impact of the VM’s optimization.

**Additional resources**

- The following tables illustrate the connections between the vCPUs and the host CPUs they should be pinned to:

**Table 7.1. Host topology**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CPU threads</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>11</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cores</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sockets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUMA nodes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 7.2. VM topology**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>vCPU threads</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cores</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sockets</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUMA nodes</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 7.3. Combined host and VM topology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>vCPU threads</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Host CPU threads</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cores</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sockets</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUMA nodes</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In this scenario, there are 2 NUMA nodes and 8 vCPUs. Therefore, 4 vCPU threads should be pinned to each node.

In addition, Red Hat recommends leaving at least a single CPU thread available on each node for host system operations.

Because in this example, each NUMA node houses 3 cores, each with 2 host CPU threads, the set for node 0 translates as follows:

```
<vcpupin vcpu='0' cpuset='1'/>
<vcpupin vcpu='1' cpuset='4'/>
<vcpupin vcpu='2' cpuset='2'/>
<vcpupin vcpu='3' cpuset='5'/>
```

### 7.5. OPTIMIZING VIRTUAL MACHINE NETWORK PERFORMANCE

Due to the virtual nature of a VM’s network interface card (NIC), the VM loses a portion of its allocated host network bandwidth, which can reduce the overall workload efficiency of the VM. The following tips can minimize the negative impact of virtualization on the virtual NIC (vNIC) throughput.

**Procedure**

Use any of the following methods and observe if it has a beneficial effect on your VM network performance:

#### Enable the vhost_net module

On the host, ensure the `vhost_net` kernel feature is enabled:

```
# lsmod | grep vhost
vhost_net 32768 1
vhost 53248 1 vhost_net
tap 24576 1 vhost_net
tun 57344 6 vhost_net
```

If the output of this command is blank, enable the `vhost_net` kernel module:

```
# modprobe vhost_net
```

Set up multi-queue virtio-net
To set up the multi-queue virtio-net feature for a VM, use the `virsh edit` command to edit the XML configuration of the VM. In the XML, add the following to the `<devices>` section, and replace `N` with the number of vCPUs in the VM, up to 16:

```xml
<interface type='network'>
  <source network='default'/>
  <model type='virtio'/>
  <driver name='vhost' queues='N'/>
</interface>
```

If the VM is running, restart it for the changes to take effect.

**Set up vhost zero-copy transmit**

If using a network with large packet size, enable the vhost zero-copy transmit feature. Note that this feature only improves the performance when transmitting large packets between a guest network and an external network. It does not affect performance for guest-to-guest and guest-to-host workloads. In addition, it is likely to have a negative impact on the performance of small packet workloads.

Also, enabling zero-copy transmit can cause head-of-line blocking of packets, which may create a potential security risk.

To enable vhost zero-copy transmit:

1. On the host, disable the vhost-net kernel module:

   ```bash
   # modprobe -r vhost_net
   ```

2. Re-enable the vhost-net module with the zero-copy parameter turned on:

   ```bash
   # modprobe vhost-net experimental_zcopytx=1
   ```

3. Check whether zero-copy transmit was enabled successfully:

   ```bash
   # cat /sys/module/vhost_net/parameters/experimental_zcopytx
   1
   ```

**Batching network packets**

In Linux VM configurations with a long transmission path, batching packets before submitting them to the kernel may improve cache utilization. To set up packet batching, use the following command on the host, and replace `tap0` with the name of the network interface that the VMs use:

```bash
# ethtool -C tap0 rx-frames 128
```

**Additional resources**

- For additional information on virtual network connection types and tips for usage, see [Understanding virtual networking](#).

### 7.6. VIRTUAL MACHINE PERFORMANCE MONITORING TOOLS
To identify what consumes the most VM resources and which aspect of VM performance needs optimization, performance diagnostic tools, both general and VM-specific, can be used.

Default OS performance monitoring tools
For standard performance evaluation, you can use the utilities provided by default by your host and guest operating systems:

- On your RHEL 8 host, as root, use the top utility or the system monitor application, and look for qemu and virt in the output. This shows how much host system resources your VMs are consuming.
  - If the monitoring tool displays that any of the qemu or virt processes consume a large portion of the host CPU or memory capacity, use the perf utility to investigate. For details, see below.
  - In addition, if a vhost_net thread process, named for example vhost_net-1234, is displayed as consuming an excessive amount of host CPU capacity, consider using virtual network optimization features, such as multi-queue virtio-net.

- On the guest operating system, use performance utilities and applications available on the system to evaluate which processes consume the most system resources.
  - On Linux systems, you can use the top utility.
  - On Windows systems, you can use the Task Manager application.

perf kvm
You can use the perf utility to collect and analyze virtualization-specific statistics about the performance of your RHEL 8 host. To do so:

1. On the host, install the perf package:

   ```
   # yum install perf
   ```

2. Use the perf kvm stat command to display perf statistics for your virtualization host:
   - For real-time monitoring of your hypervisor, use the perf kvm stat live command.
   - To log the perf data of your hypervisor over a period of time, activate the logging using the perf kvm stat record command. After the command is canceled or interrupted, the data is saved in the perf.data.guest file, which can be analyzed using the perf kvm stat report command.

3. Analyze the perf output for types of VM-EXIT events and their distribution. For example, the PAUSE_INSTRUCTION events should be infrequent, but in the following output, the high occurrence of this event suggests that the host CPUs are not handling the running vCPUs well. In such a scenario, consider powering down some of your active VMs, removing vCPUs from these VMs, or tuning the performance of the vCPUs.

   ```
   # perf kvm stat report
   ```

   Analyze events for all VMs, all VCPUs:

   ```
   VM-EXIT   Samples Samples%   Time%   Min Time   Max Time   Avg time
   ```
EXTERNAL_INTERRUPT    365634    31.59%    18.04%      0.42us  58780.59us
MSR_WRITE           293428    25.35%    0.13%      0.59us  17873.02us
PREEMPTION_TIMER    276162    23.86%    0.23%      0.51us  21396.03us
PAUSE_INSTRUCTION   189375    16.36%   11.75%      0.72us  29655.25us
HLT                  20440     1.77%    69.83%      0.62us  79319.41us
VMCALL              12426     1.07%    0.03%      1.02us   5416.25us
EXCEPTION_NMI       27       0.00%    0.00%      0.69us   1.34us
EPT_MISCONFIG       5       0.00%    0.00%      5.15us   10.85us

Total Samples:1157497, Total events handled time:413728274.66us.

Other event types that can signal problems in the output of `perf kvm stat` include:

- **INSN_EMULATION** - suggests suboptimal VM I/O configuration.

For more information on using `perf` to monitor virtualization performance, see the `perf-kvm` man page.

**numastat**

To see the current NUMA configuration of your system, you can use the `numastat` utility, which is provided by installing the `numactl` package.

The following shows a host with 4 running VMs, each obtaining memory from multiple NUMA nodes. This is not optimal for vCPU performance, and warrants adjusting:

```bash
# numastat -c qemu-kvm
Per-node process memory usage (in MBs)
PID     Node 0 Node 1 Node 2 Node 3 Node 4 Node 5 Node 6 Node 7 Total
------- ------ ------ ------ ------ ------ ------ ------ ------ ----- 51722 (qemu-kvm)   68   16  357  6936     2     3    147   598   8128  51747 (qemu-kvm)  245   11    5   18   5172  2532     1    92  8076   53736 (qemu-kvm)   62   432 1661  506   4851  136   22  445  8116   53773 (qemu-kvm)  1393    3    1    2   12   0     0  6702  8114 Total    1769   463  2024  7462 10037   2672    169  7837 32434
```

In contrast, the following shows memory being provided to each VM by a single node, which is significantly more efficient.

```bash
# numastat -c qemu-kvm
Per-node process memory usage (in MBs)
PID     Node 0 Node 1 Node 2 Node 3 Node 4 Node 5 Node 6 Node 7 Total
------- ------ ------ ------ ------ ------ ------ ------ ------ ----- 51747 (qemu-kvm)   0   0   7  8072     0   1     0   8080   53736 (qemu-kvm)   0   0   7     0  8113    0   8120   53773 (qemu-kvm)   0   0   7     0   1  8110  8118
```
7.7. RELATED INFORMATION

- When using Windows as the guest operating system of your VM, Red Hat recommends applying additional optimization measures. For details, see Optimizing Windows virtual machines.
CHAPTER 8. MANAGING POWER CONSUMPTION WITH POWERTOP

As a system administrator, you can use the PowerTOP tool to analyze and manage power consumption.

8.1. THE PURPOSE OF POWERTOP

PowerTOP is a program that diagnoses issues related to power consumption and provides suggestions on how to extend battery lifetime.

The PowerTOP tool can provide an estimate of the total power usage of the system and also individual power usage for each process, device, kernel worker, timer, and interrupt handler. The tool can also identify specific components of kernel and user-space applications that frequently wake up the CPU.

Red Hat Enterprise Linux 8 uses version 2.x of PowerTOP.

8.2. USING POWERTOP

Prerequisites

- To be able to use PowerTOP, make sure that the powertop package has been installed on your system:

  # yum install powertop

8.2.1. Starting PowerTOP

Procedure

- To run PowerTOP, use the following command:

  # powertop

  IMPORTANT

  Laptops should run on battery power when running the powertop command.

8.2.2. Calibrating PowerTOP

Procedure

1. On a laptop, you can calibrate the power estimation engine by running the following command:

   # powertop --calibrate

2. Let the calibration finish without interacting with the machine during the process. Calibration takes time because the process performs various tests, cycles through brightness levels and switches devices on and off.
3. When the calibration process is completed, *PowerTOP* starts as normal. Let it run for approximately an hour to collect data. When enough data is collected, power estimation figures will be displayed in the first column of the output table.

**NOTE**

Note that *powertop --calibrate* can only be used on laptops.

### 8.2.3. Setting the measuring interval

By default, *PowerTOP* takes measurements in 20 seconds intervals.

If you want to change this measuring frequency, use the following procedure:

**Procedure**

- Run the *powertop* command with the *--time* option:

  ```
  # powertop --time=time in seconds
  ```

### 8.2.4. Related information

For more details on how to use *PowerTOP*, see the *powertop* man page.

### 8.3. POWERTOP STATISTICS

While it runs, *PowerTOP* gathers statistics from the system.

*PowerTOP*’s output provides multiple tabs:

- **Overview**
- **Idle stats**
- **Frequency stats**
- **Device stats**
- **Tunables**

You can use the *Tab* and *Shift+Tab* keys to cycle through these tabs.

#### 8.3.1. The Overview tab

In the **Overview** tab, you can view a list of the components that either send wakeups to the CPU most frequently or consume the most power. The items within the **Overview** tab, including processes, interrupts, devices, and other resources, are sorted according to their utilization.

The adjacent columns within the **Overview** tab provide the following pieces of information:

**Usage**

Power estimation of how the resource is being used.
Events/s

Wakesums per second. The number of wakesums per second indicates how efficiently the services or the devices and drivers of the kernel are performing. Less wakesums means that less power is consumed. Components are ordered by how much further their power usage can be optimized.

Category

Classification of the component; such as process, device, or timer.

Description

Description of the component.

If properly calibrated, a power consumption estimation for every listed item in the first column is shown as well.

Apart from this, the Overview tab includes the line with summary statistics such as:

- Total power consumption
- Remaining battery life (only if applicable)
- Summary of total wakesums per second, GPU operations per second, and virtual file system operations per second

8.3.2. The Idle stats tab

The Idle stats tab shows usage of C-states for all processors and cores, while the Frequency stats tab shows usage of P-states including the Turbo mode, if applicable, for all processors and cores. The duration of C- or P-states is an indication of how well the CPU usage has been optimized. The longer the CPU stays in the higher C- or P-states (for example C4 is higher than C3), the better the CPU usage optimization is. Ideally, residency is 90% or more in the highest C- or P-state when the system is idle.

8.3.3. The Device stats tab

The Device stats tab provides similar information to the Overview tab but only for devices.

8.3.4. The Tunables tab

The Tunables tab contains PowerTOP’s suggestions for optimizing the system for lower power consumption.

Use the up and down keys to move through suggestions, and the enter key to toggle the suggestion on or off.

Figure 8.1. PowerTOP output
8.4. GENERATING AN HTML OUTPUT

Apart from the powertop’s output in terminal, you can also generate an HTML report.

Procedure

- Run the powertop command with the --html option:

```
# powertop --html=htmlfile.html
```

Replace the htmlfile.html parameter with the required name for the output file.

8.5. OPTIMIZING POWER CONSUMPTION

To optimize power consumption, you can use either the powertop service or the powertop2tuned utility.

8.5.1. Optimizing power consumption using the powertop service

You can use the powertop service to automatically enable all PowerTOP’s suggestions from the Tunables tab on the boot:

Procedure

- Enable the powertop service:

```
# systemctl enable powertop
```

8.5.2. The powertop2tuned utility

The powertop2tuned utility allows you to create custom Tuned profiles from PowerTOP suggestions.

By default, powertop2tuned creates profiles in the /etc/tuned/ directory, and bases the custom profile on the currently selected Tuned profile. For safety reasons, all PowerTOP tunings are initially disabled in the new profile.

To enable the tunings, you can:

- Uncomment them in the /etc/tuned/profile_name/tuned.conf file.

- Use the --enable or -e option to generate a new profile that enables most of the tunings suggested by PowerTOP. Certain potentially problematic tunings, such as the USB autosuspend, are disabled by default and need to be uncommented manually.

8.5.3. Optimizing power consumption using the powertop2tuned utility

Prerequisites
• The **powertop2tuned** utility is installed on the system:
  
  ```bash
  # yum install tuned-utils
  ```

**Procedure**

1. Create a custom profile:
  
  ```bash
  # powertop2tuned new_profile_name
  ```

2. Activate the new profile:
  
  ```bash
  # tuned-adm profile new_profile_name
  ```

**Additional information**

• For a complete list of options that **powertop2tuned** supports, use:
  
  ```bash
  $ powertop2tuned --help
  ```

**8.5.4. Comparison of powertop.service and powertop2tuned**

Optimizing power consumption with **powertop2tuned** is preferred over **powertop.service** for the following reasons:

• The **powertop2tuned** utility represents integration of **PowerTOP** into **Tuned**, which enables to benefit of advantages of both tools.

• The **powertop2tuned** utility allows for fine-grained control of enabled tuning.

• With **powertop2tuned**, potentially dangerous tuning are not automatically enabled.

• With **powertop2tuned**, rollback is possible without reboot.