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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PROVIDING FEEDBACK ON RED HAT DOCUMENTATION

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- For submitting more complex feedback, create a Bugzilla ticket:
  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.
  4. Click Submit Bug.
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:

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<tr>
<th>Environment</th>
<th>Default profile</th>
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<td>The best throughput performance</td>
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Virtual machines

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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 <code>balanced</code> or <code>powersave</code> profile.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other cases</td>
<td>balanced</td>
<td>Balanced performance and power consumption</td>
</tr>
</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.

**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
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:

  # tuned-adm profile selected-profile

Alternatively, you can activate a combination of multiple profiles:

  # 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:

  # 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

$ 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.

2.1. PREREQUISITES

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

2.2. 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
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The performance-boosting profiles include profiles that focus on the following aspects:

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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.

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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**

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`/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.

**2.3. 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.

```plaintext
[main]
include=balanced

[scsi_host]
alpm=min_power
```

**Additional resources**

- The tuned.conf(5) man page

### 2.4. 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 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.

### 2.5. 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

### 2.6. 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 `wake_on_lan` option. It uses the same syntax as the `ethtool` utility. It also dynamically changes the interface speed according to the interface utilization.

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

Use the `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 `autosuspend` parameter. The value 0 means that autosuspend is disabled.

vm
Enables or disables transparent huge pages depending on the Boolean value of the `transparent_hugepages` option.

audio
Sets the autosuspend timeout for audio codecs to the value specified by the `timeout` option. Currently, the `snd_hda_intel` and `snd_ac97_codec` codecs are supported. The value 0 means that the autosuspend is disabled. You can also enforce the controller reset by setting the Boolean option `reset_controller` to `true`.

disk
Sets the disk elevator to the value specified by the `elevator` option. It also sets:

- APM to the value specified by the `apm` option
- Scheduler quantum to the value specified by the `scheduler_quantum` option
- Disk spindown timeout to the value specified by the `spindown` option
- Disk readahead to the value specified by the `readahead` parameter
- The current disk readahead to a value multiplied by the constant specified by the `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 `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 `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**
• mid
• high
• dynpm
• dpm-battery
• dpm-balanced
• dpm-perfomance

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:

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

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

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

2.7. 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 \texttt{1,2}, and the kernel boots with the `isolcpus=1,2` command-line option.

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

2.8. 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 \texttt{0,2,3} is \texttt{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.

cpulist_online

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

cpulist_present

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

cpulist_unpack

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

cpulist_pack

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

2.9. 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:

   # 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:

   [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:

   # 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

## 2.10. 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:

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

```bash
$ 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

### 2.11. 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:

   ```bash
   $ tuned-adm active
   ```

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

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

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

   ```bash
   $ 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.

2.12. 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 3.5, “Visually tracing PCP log archives with the PCP Charts application”.

Additional resources

- The /usr/share/doc/pcp-doc/ directory.
- Section 3.8, “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:

   ```
   # yum install pcp
   ```

2. Enable and start the **pmcd** service on the host machine:

   ```
   # 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:

   ```
   # 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 3.8, “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:

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

2. Start the **pmcd** and **pmlogger** services:
3. Execute the required operations to record the performance data.

4. Stop the `pmcd` and `pmlogger` services:

   ```bash
   # 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:

   ```bash
   # 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 3.8, “Tools distributed with PCP”](#)
- [Section 3.7, “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 3.8, “Tools distributed with PCP”
- Section 3.7, “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
  xfs.block_map
  xfs.transactions
  xfs.log
```
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 3.8, “Tools distributed with PCP”
- Section 3.7, “System services distributed with PCP”
- The `pmlogger` man page.

- The `/var/lib/pcp/config/pmlogger/config.default` file.
- The `pmlogger` man page.
3.4.4. 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:

  # yum install pcp-gui

Procedure

- Display the data on the metric:

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

  Time local::xfs.perdev.log.writes["/devmapper/fedora-home"]
  local::xfs.perdev.log.writes["/devmapper/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 3.8, “Tools distributed with PCP”
- Section 3.7, “System services distributed with PCP”
- The pmdumptext man page.
- The pmrep man page.
- The pmlogsummary man page.
3.5. 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:

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

**Procedure**

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

  ```
  # 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

chart 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 3.8, “Tools distributed with PCP”**
- The **pmchart** man page.
- The **pmtime** man page.

### 3.6. 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.

#### 3.6.1. 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:

```
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 c(ollector) or m(onitor) 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 3.8, “Tools distributed with PCP”
- The pmcd man page.

3.6.2. 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.

Prerequisites

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

Procedure

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

```
# pminfo xfs
```

2. 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 3.9, “PCP metric groups for XFS”.
- The `pminfo` man page.

### 3.6.3. 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**

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:
3.6.4. 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`:

  ```bash
  # 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 3.10, “Per-device PCP metric groups for XFS”.
- The `pminfo` man page.

3.7. 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>
</tbody>
</table>
pmlogger | The performance metrics logger.

pmmgr | 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.

pmproxy | The Performance Metric Collector Daemon (PMCD) proxy server.

pmwebd | Binds a subset of the Performance Co-Pilot client API to RESTful web applications using the HTTP protocol.

### 3.8. 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 (-host) 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>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>Command</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>pmdumplog</code></td>
<td>Displays control, metadata, index, and state information from a PCP archive file.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>pmdumptext</code></td>
<td>Outputs the values of performance metrics collected live or from a PCP archive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>pmerr</code></td>
<td>Displays available PCP error codes and their corresponding error messages.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>pmfind</code></td>
<td>Finds PCP services on the network.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>pmie</code></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 PCP archive file.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>pmieconf</code></td>
<td>Displays or sets configurable <code>pmie</code> variables.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>pminfo</code></td>
<td>Displays information about performance metrics. The metrics are collected either from a live system, or from a PCP archive file.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>pmiostat</code></td>
<td>Reports I/O statistics for SCSI devices (by default) or device-mapper devices (with the <code>-x dm</code> option).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>pmlc</code></td>
<td>Interactively configures active <code>pmlogger</code> instances.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>pmlogcheck</code></td>
<td>Identifies invalid data in a PCP archive file.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>pmlogconf</code></td>
<td>Creates and modifies a <code>pmlogger</code> configuration file.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>pmloglabel</code></td>
<td>Verifies, modifies, or repairs the label of a PCP archive file.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>pmlogsummary</code></td>
<td>Calculates statistical information about performance metrics stored in a PCP archive file.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>pmprobe</code></td>
<td>Determines the availability of performance metrics.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>pmrep</code></td>
<td>Reports on selected, easily customizable, performance metrics values.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>pmsocks</code></td>
<td>Allows access to a PCP hosts through a firewall.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>pmstat</code></td>
<td>Periodically displays a brief summary of system performance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pmstore</td>
<td>Modifies the values of performance metrics.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pmtrace</td>
<td>Provides a command line interface to the trace Performance Metrics Domain Agent (PMDA).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pmval</td>
<td>Displays the current value of a performance metric.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 3.9. PCP METRIC GROUPS FOR XFS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric Group</th>
<th>Metrics provided</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>xfs.*</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>xfs.allocs.*</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>xfs.alloc_btree.*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xfs.block_map.*</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>xfs.bmap_tree.*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xfs.dir_ops.*</td>
<td>Counters for directory operations on XFS file systems for creation, entry deletions, count of “getdent” operations.</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 systems 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>Metric Group</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------</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>

### 3.10. PER-DEVICE PCP METRIC GROUPS FOR XFS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric Group</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>xfs.perdev.*</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>xfs.perdev.allocs.*</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>xfs.perdev.alloc_btree.*</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>xfs.perdev.block_map.*</td>
<td>Counters for directory operations of XFS file systems for creation, entry deletions, count of “getdent” operations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metric</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xfs.perdev.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.perdev.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.perdev.log.*</td>
<td>Counters for the number of log buffer writes over XFS filesystems includes the number of blocks written to disk. Metrics also for the number of log flushes and pinning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xfs.perdev.log_tail.*</td>
<td>Counts for the number of bytes of file data flushed out by the XFS flush daemon along with counters for number of buffers flushed to contiguous and non-contiguous space on disk.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xfs.perdev.xstrat.*</td>
<td>Counts for the number of attribute get, set, remove and list operations over all XFS file systems.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xfs.perdev.attr.*</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.perdev.quota.*</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.perdev.buffer.*</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:

   ```bash
   $ tuned-adm active
   ```

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

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

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

   ```bash
   $ 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:
     ```bash
     [main]
     include=existing-profile
     ```

   - Set the selected disk scheduler for the device that matches the WWN identifier:
     ```bash
     [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:
     ```bash
     devices_udev_regex=ID_WWN=0x5002538d00000000,
     ID_WWN=0x1234567800000000
     ```

5. Enable your profile:

   ```bash
   # 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:

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

   An example value of *device WWID* is:

   ```bash
   t10.ATA  SAMSUNG MZNLN256HMHQ-000L7  S2WDNX0J336519
   ```

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

   ```bash
   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:

   ```bash
   # udevadm control --reload-rules
   ```

4. Apply the scheduler configuration:

   ```bash
   # udevadm trigger --type=devices --action=change
   ```

5. Verify the active scheduler:
# 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 support 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 IN RHEL 8

Virtual machines (VMs) always experience some degree of performance deterioration in comparison to the host. The following sections describe the reasons why that is and provide instructions how to minimize the performance impact of virtualization, 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 as the host.

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 and 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.

Nevertheless, a variety of features are available that 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.

NOTE

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.

   ```bash
   # tuned-adm profile virtual-host
   ```

   - On a RHEL guest operating system, use the virtual-guest profile.

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

**Additional resources**

- For more information about tuned and tuned profiles, see Monitoring and managing system status and performance.

### 7.3. OPTIMIZING VIRTUAL MACHINE I/O PERFORMANCE

The input and output (I/O) capabilities of a virtual machine (VM) can create a significant limitation to 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:
   
   ```
   # virsh blkiotune virtual_machine
   ```

   ```xml
   <domain>
   ...
   <blkiotune>
     <weight>800</weight>
     <device>
       <path>/dev/sda</path>
       <weight>1000</weight>
     </device>
     <device>
       <path>/dev/sdb</path>
       <weight>500</weight>
     </device>
   </blkiotune>
   ...
   </domain>
   ```

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

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

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

   ```
   # *virsh blkiotune liftbrul --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 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 for a list of disk device names on a specified VM.

   ```
   # 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:

   ```
   # 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:

   ```
   # 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 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:

  ```
  <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:

   ```
   # vir-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 to CPU and memory processes on 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 [ ] and xref:sample-vcpu-performance-tuning-scenario_optimizing-virtual-machine-cpu-performance[.

### 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:

```
# 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:

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

- Enable automatic NUMA balancing on the host:

```
# 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 possible also 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:

```bash
# 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:

```bash
# 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:

```bash
# 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”.

- 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”.

### 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>
   <pages unit="KiB" size="2048">0</pages>
   <pages unit="KiB" size="1048576">0</pages>
   <distances>
    <sibling id="0" value="10"/>
    <sibling id="1" value="21"/>
   </distances>
  </cell>
  <cell id="1">
   <memory unit="KiB">15624346</memory>
   <pages unit="KiB" size="4">3906086</pages>
   <pages unit="KiB" size="2048">0</pages>
  </cell>
 <cpus num="6">
  <cpu id="0" socket_id="0" core_id="0" siblings="0,3"/>
  <cpu id="1" socket_id="0" core_id="1" siblings="1,4"/>
  <cpu id="2" socket_id="0" core_id="2" siblings="2,5"/>
  <cpu id="3" socket_id="0" core_id="0" siblings="0,3"/>
  <cpu id="4" socket_id="0" core_id="1" siblings="1,4"/>
  <cpu id="5" socket_id="0" core_id="2" siblings="2,5"/>
 </cpus>
 </cells>
</topology>
```

CHAPTER 7. OPTIMIZING VIRTUAL MACHINE PERFORMANCE IN RHEL 8
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
      
      [Install]
      WantedBy=sysinit.target
      ```
   c. Create the `/etc/systemd/hugetlb-reserve-pages.sh` file with the following content:
      
      ```
      #!/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:

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

e. Enable huge page reservation on boot:

```
# 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:

```
# virsh edit super-VM
```

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

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

- Pin each of the vCPU threads to the corresponding host CPU threads that it mirrors in topology. To do so, use the `<vcpupin/>` elements in the `<cputune>` section.

  Note that, as shown by `virsh capabilities` 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.

- 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.

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

The resulting XML configuration should include a section similar to the following:

```
[...]
    <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'/>
```
6. [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>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sockets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></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></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>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sockets</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Red Hat Enterprise Linux 8 Monitoring and managing system status and performance
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</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></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>11</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></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUMA nodes</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</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:

```xml
<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 the host network bandwidth it is allocated, 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:

```
# Ismod | 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:
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 to 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:

   ```
   # modprobe -r vhost_net
   ```

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

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

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

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

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:

```
# 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 recognize what consumes the most VM resources and which aspect of VM performance needs optimization, both general and VM-specific performance diagnostic tools 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:
   ```bash
   # 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.
   ```bash
   # perf kvm stat report
   ```

   Analyze events for all VMs, all VCPUs:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VM-EXIT</th>
<th>Samples</th>
<th>Samples%</th>
<th>Time%</th>
<th>Min Time</th>
<th>Max Time</th>
<th>Avg time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Table: Virtual Machine Performance Analysis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Type</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Minimum</th>
<th>Maximum</th>
<th>Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VM-EXIT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

67
EXTERNAL_INTERRUPT  365634  31.59%  18.04%  0.42us  58780.59us
204.08us ( +- 0.99% )
MSR_WRITE       293428  25.35%  0.13%  0.59us  17873.02us  1.80us ( +- 4.63% )
PREEMPTION_TIMER 276162  23.86%  0.23%  0.51us  21396.03us  3.38us ( +- 5.19% )
PAUSE_INSTRUCTION 189375  16.36%  11.75%  0.72us  29655.25us  256.77us ( +- 0.70% )
HLT            20440  1.77%  69.83%  0.62us  79319.41us  14134.56us ( +- 0.79% )
VMCALL         12426  1.07%  0.03%  1.02us  5416.25us  8.77us ( +- 7.36% )
EXCEPTION_NMI    27  0.00%  0.00%  0.69us  1.34us  0.98us ( +- 3.50% )
EPT_MISCONFIG   5  0.00%  0.00%  5.15us  10.85us  7.88us ( +- 11.67% )

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:

```
# 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  18572 2532     1     92  8076
53736 (qemu-kvm)  62  432 1661   506   4851    136  224 445 8116
53773 (qemu-kvm)  1393   3    1   2     0    0   6702   8114

Total             1769  463  2024  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.

```
# 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    0   8072     0   1    0    8080
53736 (qemu-kvm)   0    0   7    0    0   8113     0    8120
53773 (qemu-kvm)   0    0   7    0    0    1   8110  8118
```
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Process</th>
<th>CPU States</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>qemu-kvm</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8072</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8072</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>32368</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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

8.2.1. Prerequisites

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

```bash
# yum install powertop
```

8.2.2. Starting PowerTOP

Procedure

- To run PowerTOP, use the following command:

  ```bash
  # powertop
  ```

  **IMPORTANT**

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

8.2.3. Calibrating PowerTOP

Procedure

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

   ```bash
   # 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.

8.2.4. 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:

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

8.2.5. 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
Wakeups per second. The number of wakeups per second indicates how efficiently the services or the devices and drivers of the kernel are performing. Less wakeups 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 wakeups 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**
Additional resources
For more details on PowerTOP, see PowerTOP’s home page.

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:

```bash
# 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:

```bash
# 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:
# yum install tuned-utils

Procedure

1. Create a custom profile:
   
   # powertop2tuned new_profile_name

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

Additional information

- For a complete list of options that powertop2tuned supports, use:

   $ 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.