

An introduction to bpftrace for Linux

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Bpftrace is a new open source tracer for Linux for analyzing production performance problems and troubleshooting software. Its users and contributors include Netflix, Facebook, Red Hat, Shopify, and others, and it was created by Alastair Robertson, a talented UK-based developer who has won various coding competitions.

Linux already has many performance tools, but they are often counter-based and have limited visibility. For example, `iostat(1)` or a monitoring agent may tell you your average disk latency, but not the distribution of this latency. Distributions can reveal multiple modes or outliers, either of which may be the real cause of your performance problems. Bpftrace is suited for this kind of analysis: decomposing metrics into distributions or per-event logs and creating new metrics for visibility into blind spots.

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Source URL: <http://www.tuxmachines.org/node/127112>

Links:

[1] <http://www.tuxmachines.org/taxonomy/term/63>

[2] <https://opensource.com/article/19/8/introduction-bpftrace>