NAME

vnstat – a console-based network traffic monitor

SYNOPSIS

vnstat [**–Ddhlmqrstuvw?**] [**––cleartop**] [**––config** *file*] [**––create**] [**––days**] [**––delete**] [**––dbdir** *directory*] [**––debug**] [**––disable**] [**––enable**] [**––exportdb**] [**––help**] [**––hours**] [**––importdb** *file*] [**–i** *interface*] [**––iface** *interface*] [**––iflist**] [**––json**] [**––live** *mode*] [**––locale** *locale*] [**––longhelp**] [**––months**] [**––nick** *nickname*] [**––oneline**] [**––query**] [**––rateunit**] [**––rebuildtotal**] [**––reset**] [**–ru**] [**––savemerged**] [**––short**] [**––showconfig**] [**––style** *number*] [**––sync**] [**––testkernel**] [**––top10**] [**–tr** *time*] [**––traffic** *time*] [**––update**] [**––version**] [**––weeks**] [**––xml**]

DESCRIPTION

vnStat is a console-based network traffic monitor. It keeps a log of hourly, daily and monthly network traffic for the selected interface(s). However, it isn't a packet sniffer. The traffic information is read from the **proc**(5) or **sys** filesystems depending on availability. That way vnStat can be used even without root permissions on most systems.

The implementation is divided into two commands. The purpose of **vnstat** is to provide an interface for querying the traffic information stored in network interface specific databases where as the daemon **vnstatd**(1) is responsible for data retrieval and storage. Although the daemon process is constantly running as a service, it is actually spending most of the time sleeping between data updates.

OPTIONS

--cleartop

Remove all top 10 entries.

--config *file*

Use *file* as configuration file instead of using normal configuration file search functionality.

--create

Create database for interface specified with **–i** or **––iface** option.

-d, --days

Show traffic statistics on a daily basis for the last 30 days.

--dbdir *directory*

Use *directory* as database directory instead of using the directory specified in the configuration file or the hardcoded default if no configuration file is available.

-D, --debug

Show additional debug output.

--delete

Delete the database for the interface specified with **–i** or **––iface** and stop monitoring it.

--enable, --disable

Enable or disable updates for selected interface. Useful for interfaces that aren't always available, like ppp0. If the interface goes down it should be disabled in order to avoid errors. Add something like **vnstat -r --disable -i ppp0** to the script that's executed when the interface goes down and **vnstat --enable -i ppp0** to the up script. These two options aren't needed when the daemon is used.

--exportdb

Instead of showing the database with a formated output, this output will dump the whole database in a format that should be easy to parse with most script languages or imported back using the **--importdb** option. Use this for example with PHP, Perl or Python to make a custom webpage. The dump uses ; as field delimeter.

active;1	activity status
interface;eth0	name for the interface
nick;inet	nick (if given)
created;1023895272	creation date in Unix time
updated;1065467100	when the database was updated
totalrx;569605	all time total received MiB
totaltx;2023708	all time total transmitted MiB
currx;621673719	latest rx value in /proc
curtx;981730184	latest tx value in /proc
totalrxk;644	total rx KiB counter
totaltxk;494	total tx KiB counter
btime;1059414541	system boot time in Unix time

Then follows 30 lines like the following

d;0;1078696800;559;7433;68;557;1

where d = days, 0 = day number in database (0 is today), 1077314401 date in Unix time, 559 = rx MiB, 7433 = tx MiB, 68 = rx KiB, 557 = tx KiB and 1 tells that vnStat has filled this value and it is in use.

m;0;1078092000;48649;139704;527;252;1	(x12)
t;0;1078351200;5979;47155;362;525;1	(x10)
h;0;1078699800;118265;516545	(x24)

m = months, t = top 10 and h = hours, all other fields are in the same order as in days except hours that doesn't have a separate KiB value. For hours the forth and fifth fields have values in KiB.

-h, --hours

Show traffic statistics on a hourly basis for the last 24 hours.

--importdb *file*

Import a database from *file* which was previously exported using the **--exportdb** option. This can be used to transfer a database between different architectures and machines, as the database is architecture dependant and not compatible between different architectures. First dump the database on one machine, e.g. with **vnstat -i ppp0 --exportdb >ppp0db.txt** and then import the text file on a different machine using **vnstat -i ppp0 --importdb ppp0db.txt**

-i, --iface *interface*

Select one specific *interface* and apply actions to only it. For queries, it is possible to merge the information of two or more interfaces using the *interface1+interface2+...* syntax.

--iflist Show list of currently available interfaces.

--json Show database content for selected interface or all interfaces in json format. All traffic values in the output are in KiB.

-l, --live *mode*
Display current transfer rate for the selected interface in real time until interrupted. Statistics will be shown after interruption if the runtime was more than 10 seconds. An optional *mode* parameter can be used to select between the displaying of packets per second (mode 0) and transfer counters (mode 1) during execution. **--style** can also be used to affect the layout of the output.

--locale *locale*
Use *locale* instead of using the locale setting specified in the configuration file or the system default if no configuration file is available.

--longhelp
Show complete options list.

-m, --months
Show traffic statistics on a monthly basis for the last 12 months.

--nick *nickname*
Set the selected interfaces *nickname* as an alias the will be displayed in queries. Usage of **–u** is required to save the change and the daemon may not be running during the set operation.

--oneline
Show traffic summary for selected interface using one line with a parseable format. The output contains 15 fields with ; used as field delimeter. The 1st field contains the version information of the output that will be changed in future versions of vnStat if the field structure changes. The following fields in order 2) interface name, 3) timestamp for today, 4) rx for today, 5) tx for today, 6) total for today, 7) average traffic rate for today, 8) timestamp for current month, 9) rx for current month, 10) tx for current month, 11) total for current month, 12) average traffic rate for today, 13) all time total rx, 14) all time total tx, 15) all time total traffic.

-q, --query
Force database query mode.

-r, --reset
Reset the internal counters in the database for the selected interface. Use this if the interface goes down and back up, otherwise that interface will get some extra traffic to its database. Not needed when the daemon is used.

--rebuildtotal
Reset the total traffic counters and recount those using recorded months.

-ru, --rateunit
Swap the configured rate unit. If rate has been configured to be shown in bytes then rate will be shown in bits if this option is present. In the same way, if rate has been configured to be shown in bits then rate will be shown in bytes when this option is present. Alternatively 0 or 1 can be given as parameter for this option in order to select between bytes (0) and bits (1) regardless of the configuration file setting.

--savemerged
Write the end result of a database merge to the file *mergeddb* that can then be used as a new database if renamed. Top 10 traffic days isn't included in the merge and will start empty in the new

database. The merge interface syntax is documented in **-i, --iface** option.

-s, --short
Use short output mode. This mode is also used if more than one database is available.

--style *number*
Modify the content and style of outputs. Set *number* to 0 for a more narrow output, 1 for enabling bar column, 2 for same as previous but with average traffic rate visible in summary and weekly outputs and 3 for enabling average traffic rate in all outputs where it is supported. 4 disables the use of terminal control characters in **-l / --live** mode.

--sync Synchronize internal counters in the database with interface counters for the selected interface. Use this if the system is rebooted but interface counters aren't reseted. Such can occur when suspend to ram/disk is used. Not needed when the daemon is used.

--testkernel
Test if the kernel boot time information always stays the same like it should or if it's shifting.

-t, --top10
Show all time top 10 traffic days.

-tr *time* Calculate how much traffic goes through the selected interface during the given *time* seconds. The *time* will be 5 seconds if a number parameter isn't specified.

-u, --update
Update all enabled databases or only the one specified with **–i** parameter. Not supported when the daemon is running.

-v, --version
Show current version.

-w, --weeks
Show traffic for 7 days, current and previous week.

--xml Show database content for selected interface or all interfaces in xml format. All traffic values in the output are in KiB.

-?, --help
Show a command option summary.

FILES

/var/lib/vnstat/
This directory contains all databases the program uses. Files are named according to the monitored interfaces. A backup copy of each database is kept in a file starting with a . (dot character) and otherwise named according to the original file.

/etc/vnstat.conf
Config file that will be used unless *$HOME/.vnstatrc* exists. See **vnstat.conf**(5) for more information.

EXAMPLES

vnstat Display traffic summary for the default interface or multiple interfaces when more than one is monitored.

vnstat -i eth0+eth1+eth3
Display traffic summary for a merge of interfaces eth0, eth1 and eth3.

vnstat -i eth2 --xml
Output all information about interface eth2 in xml format.

vnstat --json
Output all information of all monitored interfaces in json format.

vnstat -u -i eth0
Force a database update for interface eth0 or create the database if it doesn't exist. This is usually the first command used after a fresh install if the daemon isn't used.

vnstat -u -i eth0 --nick local
Give interface eth0 the nickname "local". That information will be later later visible as a label when eth0 is queried. The database will also be updated when this command is executed or created if the database doesn't exist.

vnstat -i eth2 --delete
Delete database of interface eth2 and stop monitoring it.

RESTRICTIONS

Updates needs to be executed at least as often as it is possible for the interface to generate enough traffic to overflow the kernel interface traffic counter. Otherwise, it is possible that some traffic won't be seen. This isn't an issue for 64-bit kernels but at least one update every hour is always required in order to provide proper input. With 32-bit kernels, the maximum time between two updates depends on how fast the interface can transfer 4 GiB. Calculated theoretical times are:

10 Mbit:	54 minutes
100 Mbit:	5 minutes
1000 Mbit:	30 seconds

However, for 1000 Mbit interfaces updating once every minute is usually a usable solution if faster updates can't be used.

Estimated traffic values are likely to be somewhat inaccurate if daily traffic is low because only the MiB counter is used to calculate the estimate.

Virtual and aliased interfaces cannot be monitored because the kernel doesn't provide traffic information for that type of interfaces. Such interfaces are usually named eth0:0, eth0:1, eth0:2 etc. where eth0 is the actual interface being aliased.

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SEE ALSO

vnstatd(1), **vnstati**(1), **vnstat.conf**(5), **proc**(5), **ifconfig**(8), **units**(7)