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On Linux, the top command gives you several different numbers for memory. Here's what it says about the Hello World example:

PID	USER	PR	NI	VIRT	RES	SHR	S	%CPU	%MEM	TIME+	COMMAND
2120	root	20	0	4373m	15m	7152	S	0	0.2	0:00.10	java

VIRT

is the virtual memory space: the sum of everything in the virtual memory map (see below). It is largely meaningless, except when it isn't (see below).

RES

is the resident set size: the number of pages that are currently resident in RAM. In almost all cases, this is the only number that you should use when saying "too big." But it's still not a very good number, especially when talking about Java.

SHR

is the amount of resident memory that is shared with other processes. For a Java process, this is typically limited to shared libraries and memory-mapped JARfiles.

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Last update: **2016/01/06 18:45**

