

Linux Processes

Try the following commands and watch what happens.

```
sleep 2
sleep 5
sleep 10
```

Question 1: Based on your observations, what does the sleep command do?

Try this command

```
ps
```

The ps command shows which processes belong to you.

Now, try these commands

```
sleep 600 &
ps
```

Question 2: What do you think the & does?

The pid column given by the ps command tells you the "process id number" of processes. Every process has a unique id number. While two processes might have the same name, no two process ever have the same id number.

Use the ps command to find the pid of the running sleep command. Then to kill that process:

```
kill -9 xxx
```

where xxx is the pid of the sleep command.

Now that you know how to kill a process, try to kill the bash shell that you are using. Here is an example. Note your pids will have different numbers than this:

```
> ps
  PID  TTY          TIME CMD
  4920 pts/0        00:00:00 bash
  5001 pts/0        00:00:00 ps
> kill -9 4920
```

Question 3: What happened when you killed your bash shell?

The ps command has lots of options. Try these:

```
ps l    - long listing
ps f    - show the process tree
ps aux  - every thing the computer is doing
```

In the long listing, ppid is the parent's process id number.

Question 4:

- What is the process id number of your bash shell?
- What is the name of your bash shell's parent (which process spawned your bash shell process)?