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Rocky Enterprise Linux 9.2 Manual Pages on command 'fork.3am'

\$ man fork.3am

FORK(3am) GNU Awk Extension Modules FORK(3am)

NAME

fork, wait, waitpid - basic process management

SYNOPSIS

```
@load "fork"
```

```
pid = fork()
```

```
ret = waitpid(pid)
```

```
ret = wait();
```

DESCRIPTION

The fork extension adds three functions, as follows.

`fork()` This function creates a new process. The return value is the zero in the child and the process-id number of the child in the parent, or -1 upon error. In the latter case, `ERRNO` indicates the problem. In the child, `PROCINFO["pid"]` and `PROCINFO["ppid"]` are updated to reflect the correct values.

`waitpid()`

This function takes a numeric argument, which is the process-id to wait for. The return value is that of the `waitpid(2)` system call.

`wait()` This function waits for the first child to die. The return value is that of the `wait(2)` system call.

BUGS

There is no corresponding `exec()` function.

The interfaces could be enhanced to provide more facilities, including pulling out the various bits of the return status.

EXAMPLE

```
@load "fork"

...

if ((pid = fork()) == 0)
    print "hello from the child"
else
    print "hello from the parent"
```

SEE ALSO

GAWK: Effective AWK Programming, filefuncs(3am), fnmatch(3am), inplace(3am), ordchr(3am), readdir(3am), readfile(3am), revoutput(3am), rvarray(3am), time(3am).
fork(2), wait(2), waitpid(2).

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