

KILL(1)

User Commands

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NAME

kill - send a signal to a process

SYNOPSIS

kill [options] <pid> [...]

DESCRIPTION

The default signal for **kill** is **TERM**. Use **-l** or **-L** to list available signals. Particularly useful signals include **HUP**, **INT**, **KILL**, **STOP**, **CONT**, and **0**. Alternate signals may be specified in three ways: **-9**, **-SIGKILL** or **-KILL**. Negative PID values may be used to choose whole process groups; see the **PGID** column in **ps** command output. A PID of **-1** is special; it indicates all processes except the **kill** process itself and **init**.

OPTIONS

<pid> [...]

Send signal to every <pid> listed.

-<signal>

-s <signal>

--signal <signal>

using name or number. The behavior of signals is explained in `signal(7)` manual page.

-q, --queue value

Use `sigqueue(3)` rather than `kill(2)` and the value argument is used to specify an integer to be sent with the signal. If the receiving process has installed a handler for this signal using the `SA_SIGINFO` flag to `sigaction(2)`, then it can obtain this data via the `si_value` field of the `siginfo_t` structure.

-l, --list [signal]

List signal names. This option has optional argument, which will convert signal number to signal name, or other way round.

-L, --table

List signal names in a nice table.

NOTES Your shell (command line interpreter) may have a built-in `kill` command. You may need to run the command described here as `/bin/kill` to solve the conflict.

EXAMPLES

```
kill -9 -1
```

Kill all processes you can kill.

kill -l 11

Translate number 11 into a signal name.

kill -L

List the available signal choices in a nice table.

kill 123 543 2341 3453

Send the default signal, SIGTERM, to all those processes.

SEE ALSO

kill(2), killall(1), nice(1), pkill(1), renice(1), signal(7),
sigqueue(3), skill(1)

STANDARDS

This command meets appropriate standards. The -L flag is Linux-specific.

AUTHOR

Albert Cahalan wrote kill in 1999 to replace a bsdutils one that was not standards compliant. The util-linux one might also work correctly.

REPORTING BUGS

Please send bug reports to procps@freelists.org