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## ***Red Hat Enterprise Linux Release 9.2 Manual Pages on 'fork.3am' command***

**\$ 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), in? place(3am), ordchr(3am), readdir(3am), readfile(3am), revoutput(3am), rwarray(3am), time(3am).  
fork(2), wait(2), waitpid(2).

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