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Red Hat Enterprise Linux Release 9.2 Manual Pages on 'procps.1' command

\$ man procps.1

PS(1) User Commands PS(1)

NAME

ps - report a snapshot of the current processes.

SYNOPSIS

ps [options]

DESCRIPTION

ps displays information about a selection of the active processes. If you want a repetitive update of the selection and the displayed information, use top instead.

This version of ps accepts several kinds of options:

- 1 UNIX options, which may be grouped and must be preceded by a dash.
- 2 BSD options, which may be grouped and must not be used with a dash.
- 3 GNU long options, which are preceded by two dashes.

Options of different types may be freely mixed, but conflicts can appear. There are some synonymous options, which are functionally identical, due to the many standards and ps implementations that this ps is compatible with.

Note that ps -aux is distinct from ps aux. The POSIX and UNIX standards require that ps -aux print all processes owned by a user named x, as well as printing all processes that would be selected by the -a option. If the user named x does not exist, this ps may interpret the command as ps aux instead and print a warning. This behavior is intended to aid in transitioning old scripts and habits.

It is fragile, subject to change, and thus should not be relied upon.

By default, ps selects all processes with the same effective user ID (euid=EUID) as the current user and associated with the same terminal as the invoker. It displays the process ID (pid=PID), the terminal associated with the process (pname=TTY), the cumulated CPU time in [DD-]hh:mm:ss format (time=TIME), and the executable name (ucmd=CMD).

Output is unsorted by default.

The use of BSD-style options will add process state (stat=STAT) to the default display and show the command args (args=COMMAND) instead of the executable name. You can override this with the PS_FORMAT environment variable. The use of BSD-style options will also change the process selection to include processes on other terminals (TTYs) that are owned by you; alternately, this may be described as setting the selection to be the set of all processes filtered to exclude processes owned by other users or not on a terminal. These effects are not considered when options are described as being "identical" below, so -M will be considered identical to Z and so on.

Except as described below, process selection options are additive. The default selection is discarded, and then the selected processes are added to the set of processes to be displayed. A process will thus be shown if it meets any of the given selection criteria.

EXAMPLES

To see every process on the system using standard syntax:

```
ps -e  
ps -ef  
ps -eF  
ps -ely
```

To see every process on the system using BSD syntax:

```
ps ax  
ps axu
```

To print a process tree:

```
ps -ejH  
ps axjf
```

To get info about threads:

```
ps -eLf
```

```
ps axms
```

To get security info:

```
ps -eo euser,ruser,suser,fuser,f,comm,label
```

```
ps axZ
```

```
ps -eM
```

To see every process running as root (real & effective ID) in user format:

```
ps -U root -u root u
```

To see every process with a user-defined format:

```
ps -eo pid,tid,class,rtprio,ni,pri,psr,pcpu,stat,wchan:14,comm
```

```
ps axo stat,euid,ruid,tty,tpgid,ses,pgid,ppid,pid,pcpu,comm
```

```
ps -Ao pid,tt,user, fname,tmout,f,wchan
```

Print only the process IDs of syslogd:

```
ps -C syslogd -o pid=
```

Print only the name of PID 42:

```
ps -q 42 -o comm=
```

SIMPLE PROCESS SELECTION

a Lift the BSD-style "only yourself" restriction, which is imposed upon the set of all processes when some BSD-style (without "-") options are used or when the ps personality setting is BSD-like.

The set of processes selected in this manner is in addition to the set of processes selected by other means. An alternate description is that this option causes ps to list all processes with a terminal (tty), or to list all processes when used together with the x option.

-A Select all processes. Identical to -e.

-a Select all processes except both session leaders (see getsid(2)) and processes not associated with a terminal.

-d Select all processes except session leaders.

--deselect

Select all processes except those that fulfill the specified

conditions (negates the selection). Identical to -N.

- e Select all processes. Identical to -A.
- g Really all, even session leaders. This flag is obsolete and may be discontinued in a future release. It is normally implied by the a flag, and is only useful when operating in the sunos4 personality.
- N Select all processes except those that fulfill the specified conditions (negates the selection). Identical to --deselect.
- T Select all processes associated with this terminal. Identical to the t option without any argument.
- r Restrict the selection to only running processes.
- x Lift the BSD-style "must have a tty" restriction, which is imposed upon the set of all processes when some BSD-style (without "-") options are used or when the ps personality setting is BSD-like. The set of processes selected in this manner is in addition to the set of processes selected by other means. An alternate description is that this option causes ps to list all processes owned by you (same EUID as ps), or to list all processes when used together with the a option.

PROCESS SELECTION BY LIST

These options accept a single argument in the form of a blank-separated or comma-separated list. They can be used multiple times. For example: ps -p "1 2" -p 3,4

- 123 Identical to --pid 123.
- 123 Identical to --pid 123.
- C cmdlist

Select by command name. This selects the processes whose executable name is given in cmdlist. NOTE: The command name is not the same as the command line. Previous versions of procps and the kernel truncated this command name to 15 characters. This limitation is no longer present in both. If you depended on matching only 15 characters, you may no longer get a match.

Select by real group ID (RGID) or name. This selects the processes whose real group name or ID is in the grplist list.

The real group ID identifies the group of the user who created the process, see `getgid(2)`.

-g grplist

Select by session OR by effective group name. Selection by session is specified by many standards, but selection by effective group is the logical behavior that several other operating systems use. This ps will select by session when the list is completely numeric (as sessions are). Group ID numbers will work only when some group names are also specified. See the `-s` and `--group` options.

--Group grplist

Select by real group ID (RGID) or name. Identical to `-G`.

--group grplist

Select by effective group ID (EGID) or name. This selects the processes whose effective group name or ID is in grplist. The effective group ID describes the group whose file access permissions are used by the process (see `getegid(2)`). The `-g` option is often an alternative to `--group`.

p pidlist

Select by process ID. Identical to `-p` and `--pid`.

-p pidlist

Select by PID. This selects the processes whose process ID numbers appear in pidlist. Identical to `p` and `--pid`.

--pid pidlist

Select by process ID. Identical to `-p` and `p`.

--ppid pidlist

Select by parent process ID. This selects the processes with a parent process ID in pidlist. That is, it selects processes that are children of those listed in pidlist.

q pidlist

Select by process ID (quick mode). Identical to `-q` and

--quick-pid.

-q pidlist

Select by PID (quick mode). This selects the processes whose process ID numbers appear in pidlist. With this option ps reads the necessary info only for the pids listed in the pidlist and doesn't apply additional filtering rules. The order of pids is unsorted and preserved. No additional selection options, sorting and forest type listings are allowed in this mode.

Identical to q and --quick-pid.

--quick-pid pidlist

Select by process ID (quick mode). Identical to -q and q.

-s sesslist

Select by session ID. This selects the processes with a session ID specified in sesslist.

--sid sesslist

Select by session ID. Identical to -s.

t ttylist

Select by tty. Nearly identical to -t and --tty, but can also be used with an empty ttylist to indicate the terminal associated with ps. Using the T option is considered cleaner than using t with an empty ttylist.

-t ttylist

Select by tty. This selects the processes associated with the terminals given in ttylist. Terminals (ttys, or screens for text output) can be specified in several forms: /dev/ttys1, ttys1, S1. A plain "-" may be used to select processes not attached to any terminal.

--tty ttylist

Select by terminal. Identical to -t and t.

U userlist

Select by effective user ID (EUID) or name. This selects the processes whose effective user name or ID is in userlist. The effective user ID describes the user whose file access

permissions are used by the process (see `geteuid(2)`). Identical to `-u` and `--user`.

-U userlist

Select by real user ID (RUID) or name. It selects the processes whose real user name or ID is in the userlist list. The real user ID identifies the user who created the process, see `getuid(2)`.

-u userlist

Select by effective user ID (EUID) or name. This selects the processes whose effective user name or ID is in userlist. The effective user ID describes the user whose file access permissions are used by the process (see `geteuid(2)`). Identical to `U` and `--user`.

--User userlist

Select by real user ID (RUID) or name. Identical to `-U`.

--user userlist

Select by effective user ID (EUID) or name. Identical to `-u` and `U`.

OUTPUT FORMAT CONTROL

These options are used to choose the information displayed by `ps`. The output may differ by personality.

-c Show different scheduler information for the `-l` option.

--context

Display security context format (for SELinux).

-f Do full-format listing. This option can be combined with many other UNIX-style options to add additional columns. It also causes the command arguments to be printed. When used with `-L`, the NLWP (number of threads) and LWP (thread ID) columns will be added. See the `c` option, the format keyword `args`, and the format keyword `comm`.

-F Extra full format. See the `-f` option, which `-F` implies.

--format format

user-defined format. Identical to `-o` and `o`.

- j BSD job control format.
- j Jobs format.
- l Display BSD long format.
- l Long format. The -y option is often useful with this.
- M Add a column of security data. Identical to Z (for SELinux).

O format

is preloaded o (overloaded). The BSD O option can act like -O (user-defined output format with some common fields predefined) or can be used to specify sort order. Heuristics are used to determine the behavior of this option. To ensure that the desired behavior is obtained (sorting or formatting), specify the option in some other way (e.g. with -O or --sort). When used as a formatting option, it is identical to -O, with the BSD personality.

-O format

Like -o, but preloaded with some default columns. Identical to -o pid,format,state,tname,time,command or -o pid,format,tname, time,cmd, see -o below.

o format

Specify user-defined format. Identical to -o and --format.

-o format

User-defined format. format is a single argument in the form of a blank-separated or comma-separated list, which offers a way to specify individual output columns. The recognized keywords are described in the STANDARD FORMAT SPECIFIERS section below.

Headers may be renamed (ps -o pid,ruser=RealUser -o comm=Command) as desired. If all column headers are empty (ps -o pid= -o comm=) then the header line will not be output.

Column width will increase as needed for wide headers; this may be used to widen up columns such as WCHAN (ps -o pid,wchan=WIDE-WCHAN-COLUMN -o comm). Explicit width control (ps opid, wchan:42,cmd) is offered too. The behavior of ps -o pid=X, comm=Y varies with personality; output may be one column named

"X,comm=Y" or two columns named "X" and "Y". Use multiple -o options when in doubt. Use the PS_FORMAT environment variable to specify a default as desired; DefSysV and DefBSD are macros that may be used to choose the default UNIX or BSD columns.

- s Display signal format.
- u Display user-oriented format.
- v Display virtual memory format.
- X Register format.
- y Do not show flags; show rss in place of addr. This option can only be used with -l.
- Z Add a column of security data. Identical to -M (for SELinux).

OUTPUT MODIFIERS

- c Show the true command name. This is derived from the name of the executable file, rather than from the argv value. Command arguments and any modifications to them are thus not shown.
This option effectively turns the args format keyword into the comm format keyword; it is useful with the -f format option and with the various BSD-style format options, which all normally display the command arguments. See the -f option, the format keyword args, and the format keyword comm.

--cols n

Set screen width.

--columns n

Set screen width.

--cumulative

Include some dead child process data (as a sum with the parent).

- e Show the environment after the command.
- f ASCII art process hierarchy (forest).

--forest

ASCII art process tree.

- h No header. (or, one header per screen in the BSD personality).
The h option is problematic. Standard BSD ps uses this option to print a header on each page of output, but older Linux ps

uses this option to totally disable the header. This version of ps follows the Linux usage of not printing the header unless the BSD personality has been selected, in which case it prints a header on each page of output. Regardless of the current personality, you can use the long options --headers and --no-headers to enable printing headers each page or disable headers entirely, respectively.

-H Show process hierarchy (forest).

--headers

Repeat header lines, one per page of output.

k spec Specify sorting order. Sorting syntax is

[+|-]key[,[+|-]key[,...]]. Choose a multi-letter key from the STANDARD FORMAT SPECIFIERS section. The "+" is optional since default direction is increasing numerical or lexicographic order. Identical to --sort.

Examples:

ps jaxkuid,-ppid,+pid

ps axk comm o comm,args

ps kstart_time -ef

--lines n

Set screen height.

n Numeric output for WCHAN and USER (including all types of UID and GID).

--no-headers

Print no header line at all. --no-heading is an alias for this option.

O order

Sorting order (overloaded). The BSD O option can act like -O (user-defined output format with some common fields predefined) or can be used to specify sort order. Heuristics are used to determine the behavior of this option. To ensure that the desired behavior is obtained (sorting or formatting), specify the option in some other way (e.g. with -O or --sort).

For sorting, obsolete BSD O option syntax is
O[+|-]k1[,[+|-]k2[,...]]. It orders the processes listing
according to the multilevel sort specified by the sequence of
one-letter short keys k1,k2, ... described in the OBSOLETE SORT
KEYS section below. The "+" is currently optional, merely
re-iterating the default direction on a key, but may help to
distinguish an O sort from an O format. The "-" reverses
direction only on the key it precedes.

--rows n

Set screen height.

S Sum up some information, such as CPU usage, from dead child
processes into their parent. This is useful for examining a
system where a parent process repeatedly forks off short-lived
children to do work.

--sort spec

Specify sorting order. Sorting syntax is
[+|-]key[,[+|-]key[,...]]. Choose a multi-letter key from the
STANDARD FORMAT SPECIFIERS section. The "+" is optional since
default direction is increasing numerical or lexicographic
order. Identical to k. For example: ps jax --sort=uid,-ppid,
+pid

w Wide output. Use this option twice for unlimited width.

-w Wide output. Use this option twice for unlimited width.

--width n

Set screen width.

THREAD DISPLAY

H Show threads as if they were processes.
-L Show threads, possibly with LWP and NLWP columns.
m Show threads after processes.
-m Show threads after processes.
-T Show threads, possibly with SPID column.

OTHER INFORMATION

--help section

Print a help message. The section argument can be one of simple, list, output, threads, misc, or all. The argument can be shortened to one of the underlined letters as in:

s|||o|t|m|a.

--info Print debugging info.

L List all format specifiers.

V Print the procps-ng version.

-V Print the procps-ng version.

--version

Print the procps-ng version.

NOTES

This ps works by reading the virtual files in /proc. This ps does not need to be setuid kmem or have any privileges to run. Do not give this ps any special permissions.

CPU usage is currently expressed as the percentage of time spent running during the entire lifetime of a process. This is not ideal, and it does not conform to the standards that ps otherwise conforms to.

CPU usage is unlikely to add up to exactly 100%.

The SIZE and RSS fields don't count some parts of a process including the page tables, kernel stack, struct thread_info, and struct task_struct. This is usually at least 20 KiB of memory that is always resident. SIZE is the virtual size of the process (code+data+stack).

Processes marked <defunct> are dead processes (so-called "zombies") that remain because their parent has not destroyed them properly.

These processes will be destroyed by init(8) if the parent process exits.

If the length of the username is greater than the length of the display column, the username will be truncated. See the -o and -O formatting options to customize length.

Commands options such as ps -aux are not recommended as it is a confusion of two different standards. According to the POSIX and UNIX standards, the above command asks to display all processes with a TTY (generally the commands users are running) plus all processes owned by

a user named x. If that user doesn't exist, then ps will assume you really meant ps aux.

PROCESS FLAGS

The sum of these values is displayed in the "F" column, which is provided by the flags output specifier:

- 1 forked but didn't exec
- 4 used super-user privileges

PROCESS STATE CODES

Here are the different values that the s, stat and state output specifiers (header "STAT" or "S") will display to describe the state of a process:

- D uninterruptible sleep (usually IO)
- I Idle kernel thread
- R running or runnable (on run queue)
- S interruptible sleep (waiting for an event to complete)
- T stopped by job control signal
- t stopped by debugger during the tracing
- W paging (not valid since the 2.6.xx kernel)
- X dead (should never be seen)
- Z defunct ("zombie") process, terminated but not reaped by its parent

For BSD formats and when the stat keyword is used, additional characters may be displayed:

- < high-priority (not nice to other users)
- N low-priority (nice to other users)
- L has pages locked into memory (for real-time and custom IO)
- s is a session leader
- I is multi-threaded (using CLONE_THREAD, like NPTL pthreads do)
- + is in the foreground process group

OBSOLETE SORT KEYS

These keys are used by the BSD O option (when it is used for sorting).

The GNU --sort option doesn't use these keys, but the specifiers

described below in the STANDARD FORMAT SPECIFIERS section. Note that the values used in sorting are the internal values ps uses and not the "cooked" values used in some of the output format fields (e.g. sorting on tty will sort into device number, not according to the terminal name displayed). Pipe ps output into the sort(1) command if you want to sort the cooked values.

KEY	LONG	DESCRIPTION
c	cmd	simple name of executable
C	pcpu	cpu utilization
f	flags	flags as in long format F field
g	pgrp	process group ID
G	tpgid	controlling tty process group ID
j	cutime	cumulative user time
J	cstime	cumulative system time
k	utime	user time
m	min_flt	number of minor page faults
M	maj_flt	number of major page faults
n	cmin_flt	cumulative minor page faults
N	cmaj_flt	cumulative major page faults
o	session	session ID
p	pid	process ID
P	ppid	parent process ID
r	rss	resident set size
R	resident	resident pages
s	size	memory size in kilobytes
S	share	amount of shared pages
t	tty	the device number of the controlling tty
T	start_time	time process was started
U	uid	user ID number
u	user	user name
v	vsize	total VM size in KiB
y	priority	kernel scheduling priority

This ps supports AIX format descriptors, which work somewhat like the formatting codes of printf(1) and printf(3). For example, the normal default output can be produced with this: ps -eo "%p %y %x %c". The NORMAL codes are described in the next section.

CODE NORMAL HEADER

%C	pcpu	%CPU
%G	group	GROUP
%P	ppid	PPID
%U	user	USER
%a	args	COMMAND
%c	comm	COMMAND
%g	rgroup	RGROUP
%n	nice	NI
%p	pid	PID
%r	pgid	PGID
%t	etime	ELAPSED
%u	ruser	RUSER
%x	time	TIME
%y	tty	TTY
%z	vsz	VSZ

STANDARD FORMAT SPECIFIERS

Here are the different keywords that may be used to control the output format (e.g., with option -o) or to sort the selected processes with the GNU-style --sort option.

For example: ps -eo pid,user,args --sort user

This version of ps tries to recognize most of the keywords used in other implementations of ps.

The following user-defined format specifiers may contain spaces: args, cmd, comm, command, fname, ucmd, ucomm, lstart, bsdstart, start.

Some keywords may not be available for sorting.

CODE HEADER DESCRIPTION

%cpu	%CPU	cpu utilization of the process in "##.#" format.
------	------	--

Currently, it is the CPU time used divided by the

		time the process has been running (cputime/realtim ratio), expressed as a percentage. It will not add up to 100% unless you are lucky. (alias pcpu).
%mem	%MEM	ratio of the process's resident set size to the physical memory on the machine, expressed as a percentage. (alias pmem).
args	COMMAND	command with all its arguments as a string. Modifications to the arguments may be shown. The output in this column may contain spaces. A process marked <defunct> is partly dead, waiting to be fully destroyed by its parent. Sometimes the process args will be unavailable; when this happens, ps will instead print the executable name in brackets. (alias cmd, command). See also the comm format keyword, the -f option, and the c option. When specified last, this column will extend to the edge of the display. If ps can not determine display width, as when output is redirected (piped) into a file or another command, the output width is undefined (it may be 80, unlimited, determined by the TERM variable, and so on). The COLUMNS environment variable or --cols option may be used to exactly determine the width in this case. The w or -w option may be also be used to adjust width.
blocked	BLOCKED	mask of the blocked signals, see signal(7). According to the width of the field, a 32 or 64-bit mask in hexadecimal format is displayed. (alias sig_block, sigmask).
bsdstart	START	time the command started. If the process was started less than 24 hours ago, the output format

is " HH:MM", else it is " Mmm:SS" (where Mmm is the three letters of the month). See also lstart, start, start_time, and stime.

bsdtimes TIME accumulated cpu time, user + system. The display format is usually "MMM:SS", but can be shifted to the right if the process used more than 999 minutes of cpu time.

c C processor utilization. Currently, this is the integer value of the percent usage over the lifetime of the process. (see %cpu).

caught CAUGHT mask of the caught signals, see signal(7). According to the width of the field, a 32 or 64 bits mask in hexadecimal format is displayed. (alias sig_catch, sigcatch).

cgname CGNAME display name of control groups to which the process belongs.

cgroup CGROUP display control groups to which the process belongs.

class CLS scheduling class of the process. (alias policy, cls). Field's possible values are:

- not reported
- TS SCHED_OTHER
- FF SCHED_FIFO
- RR SCHED_RR
- B SCHED_BATCH
- ISO SCHED_ISO
- IDL SCHED_IDLE
- DLN SCHED_DEADLINE
- ? unknown value

cls CLS scheduling class of the process. (alias policy, cls). Field's possible values are:

- not reported
- TS SCHED_OTHER

FF SCHED_FIFO
RR SCHED_RR
B SCHED_BATCH
ISO SCHED_ISO
IDL SCHED_IDLE
DLN SCHED_DEADLINE
? unknown value

cmd CMD see args. (alias args, command).

comm COMMAND command name (only the executable name).
Modifications to the command name will not be shown. A process marked <defunct> is partly dead, waiting to be fully destroyed by its parent. The output in this column may contain spaces. (alias ucmd, ucomm). See also the args format keyword, the -f option, and the c option.
When specified last, this column will extend to the edge of the display. If ps can not determine display width, as when output is redirected (piped) into a file or another command, the output width is undefined (it may be 80, unlimited, determined by the TERM variable, and so on). The COLUMNS environment variable or --cols option may be used to exactly determine the width in this case. The w or -w option may be also be used to adjust width.

command COMMAND See args. (alias args, command).

cp CP per-mill (tenths of a percent) CPU usage. (see %cpu).

cputime TIME cumulative CPU time, "[DD-]hh:mm:ss" format.
(alias time).

cputimes TIME cumulative CPU time in seconds (alias times).

drs DRS data resident set size, the amount of physical memory devoted to other than executable code.

egid	EGID	effective group ID number of the process as a decimal integer. (alias gid).
egroup	EGROUP	effective group ID of the process. This will be the textual group ID, if it can be obtained and the field width permits, or a decimal representation otherwise. (alias group).
eip	EIP	instruction pointer.
esp	ESP	stack pointer.
etime	ELAPSED	elapsed time since the process was started, in the form [[DD-]hh:]mm:ss.
etimes	ELAPSED	elapsed time since the process was started, in seconds.
euid	EUID	effective user ID (alias uid).
euser	EUSER	effective user name. This will be the textual user ID, if it can be obtained and the field width permits, or a decimal representation otherwise. The n option can be used to force the decimal representation. (alias uname, user).
exe	EXE	path to the executable. Useful if path cannot be printed via cmd, comm or args format options.
f	F	flags associated with the process, see the PROCESS FLAGS section. (alias flag, flags).
fgid	FGID	filesystem access group ID. (alias fsgid).
fgroup	FGROUP	filesystem access group ID. This will be the textual group ID, if it can be obtained and the field width permits, or a decimal representation otherwise. (alias fsgroup).
flag	F	see f. (alias f, flags).
flags	F	see f. (alias f, flag).
fname	COMMAND	first 8 bytes of the base name of the process's executable file. The output in this column may contain spaces.
fuid	FUID	filesystem access user ID. (alias fsuid).

fuser	FUSER	filesystem access user ID. This will be the textual user ID, if it can be obtained and the field width permits, or a decimal representation otherwise.
gid	GID	see egid. (alias egid).
group	GROUP	see egroup. (alias egroup).
ignored	IGNORED	mask of the ignored signals, see signal(7). According to the width of the field, a 32 or 64 bits mask in hexadecimal format is displayed. (alias sig_ignore, sigignore).
ipcns	IPCNS	Unique inode number describing the namespace the process belongs to. See namespaces(7).
label	LABEL	security label, most commonly used for SELinux context data. This is for the Mandatory Access Control ("MAC") found on high-security systems.
lstart	STARTED	time the command started. See also bsdstart, start, start_time, and stime.
lsession	SESSION	displays the login session identifier of a process, if systemd support has been included.
luid	LUID	displays Login ID associated with a process.
lwp	LWP	light weight process (thread) ID of the dispatchable entity (alias spid, tid). See tid for additional information.
lxc	LXC	The name of the lxc container within which a task is running. If a process is not running inside a container, a dash ('-') will be shown.
machine	MACHINE	displays the machine name for processes assigned to VM or container, if systemd support has been included.
maj_flt	MAJFLT	The number of major page faults that have occurred with this process.
min_flt	MINFLT	The number of minor page faults that have occurred with this process.

mntns	MNTNS	Unique inode number describing the namespace the process belongs to. See namespaces(7).
netns	NETNS	Unique inode number describing the namespace the process belongs to. See namespaces(7).
ni	NI	nice value. This ranges from 19 (nicest) to -20 (not nice to others), see nice(1). (alias nice).
nice	NI	see ni.(alias ni).
nlwp	NLWP	number of lwps (threads) in the process. (alias thcount).
numa	NUMA	The node associated with the most recently used processor. A -1 means that NUMA information is unavailable.
nwchan	WCHAN	address of the kernel function where the process is sleeping (use wchan if you want the kernel function name). Running tasks will display a dash ('-') in this column.
oid	OWNER	displays the Unix user identifier of the owner of the session of a process, if systemd support has been included.
pcpu	%CPU	see %cpu. (alias %cpu).
pending	PENDING	mask of the pending signals. See signal(7). Signals pending on the process are distinct from signals pending on individual threads. Use the m option or the -m option to see both. According to the width of the field, a 32 or 64 bits mask in hexadecimal format is displayed. (alias sig).
pgid	PGID	process group ID or, equivalently, the process ID of the process group leader. (alias pgrp).
pgrp	PGRP	see pgid. (alias pgid).
pid	PID	a number representing the process ID (alias tgid).
pidns	PIDNS	Unique inode number describing the namespace the process belongs to. See namespaces(7).

pmem	%MEM	see %mem. (alias %mem).
policy	POL	scheduling class of the process. (alias class, cls). Possible values are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - not reported TS SCHED_OTHER FF SCHED_FIFO RR SCHED_RR B SCHED_BATCH ISO SCHED_ISO IDL SCHED_IDLE DLN SCHED_DEADLINE ? unknown value
ppid	PPID	parent process ID.
pri	PRI	priority of the process. Higher number means lower priority.
psr	PSR	processor that process is currently assigned to.
rgid	RGID	real group ID.
rgroup	RGROUP	real group name. This will be the textual group ID, if it can be obtained and the field width permits, or a decimal representation otherwise.
rss	RSS	resident set size, the non-swapped physical memory that a task has used (in kilobytes). (alias rssize, rsz).
rssize	RSS	see rss. (alias rss, rsz).
rsz	RSZ	see rss. (alias rss, rssize).
rtprio	RTPRIO	realtime priority.
ruid	RUID	real user ID.
ruser	RUSER	real user ID. This will be the textual user ID, if it can be obtained and the field width permits, or a decimal representation otherwise.
s	S	minimal state display (one character). See section PROCESS STATE CODES for the different values. See also stat if you want additional

		information displayed. (alias state).
sched	SCH	scheduling policy of the process. The policies SCHED_OTHER (SCHED_NORMAL), SCHED_FIFO, SCHED_RR, SCHED_BATCH, SCHED_ISO, SCHED_IDLE and SCHED_DEADLINE are respectively displayed as 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.
seat	SEAT	displays the identifier associated with all hardware devices assigned to a specific workplace, if systemd support has been included.
sess	SESS	session ID or, equivalently, the process ID of the session leader. (alias session, sid).
sgi_p	P	processor that the process is currently executing on. Displays "*" if the process is not currently running or runnable.
sgid	SGID	saved group ID. (alias svgid).
sgroup	SGROUP	saved group name. This will be the textual group ID, if it can be obtained and the field width permits, or a decimal representation otherwise.
sid	SID	see sess. (alias sess, session).
sig	PENDING	see pending. (alias pending, sig_pend).
sigcatch	CAUGHT	see caught. (alias caught, sig_catch).
sigignore	IGNORED	see ignored. (alias ignored, sig_ignore).
sigmask	BLOCKED	see blocked. (alias blocked, sig_block).
size	SIZE	approximate amount of swap space that would be required if the process were to dirty all writable pages and then be swapped out. This number is very rough!
slice	SLICE	displays the slice unit which a process belongs to, if systemd support has been included.
spid	SPID	see lwp. (alias lwp, tid).
stackp	STACKP	address of the bottom (start) of stack for the process.
start	STARTED	time the command started. If the process was

started less than 24 hours ago, the output format is "HH:MM:SS", else it is " Mmm dd" (where Mmm is a three-letter month name). See also Istart, bsdstart, start_time, and stime.

start_time START starting time or date of the process. Only the year will be displayed if the process was not started the same year ps was invoked, or "MmmDD" if it was not started the same day, or "HH:MM" otherwise. See also bsdstart, start, Istart, and stime.

stat STAT multi-character process state. See section PROCESS STATE CODES for the different values meaning. See also s and state if you just want the first character displayed.

state S see s. (alias s).

stime STIME see start_time. (alias start_time).

suid SUID saved user ID. (alias svuid).

supgid SUPGID group ids of supplementary groups, if any. See getgroups(2).

supgrp SUPGRP group names of supplementary groups, if any. See getgroups(2).

suser SUSER saved user name. This will be the textual user ID, if it can be obtained and the field width permits, or a decimal representation otherwise. (alias svuser).

svgid SVGID see sgid. (alias sgid).

svuid SVUID see suid. (alias suid).

sz SZ size in physical pages of the core image of the process. This includes text, data, and stack space. Device mappings are currently excluded; this is subject to change. See vsz and rss.

tgid TGID a number representing the thread group to which a task belongs (alias pid). It is the process ID

of the thread group leader.

thcount THCNT see nlwp. (alias nlwp). number of kernel threads owned by the process.

tid TID the unique number representing a dispatchable entity (alias lwp, spid). This value may also appear as: a process ID (pid); a process group ID (pgrp); a session ID for the session leader (sid); a thread group ID for the thread group leader (tgid); and a tty process group ID for the process group leader (tpgid).

time TIME cumulative CPU time, "[DD-]HH:MM:SS" format.
(alias cputime).

times TIME cumulative CPU time in seconds (alias cputimes).

tname TTY controlling tty (terminal). (alias tt, tty).

tpgid TPGID ID of the foreground process group on the tty (terminal) that the process is connected to, or -1 if the process is not connected to a tty.

trs TRS text resident set size, the amount of physical memory devoted to executable code.

tt TT controlling tty (terminal). (alias tname, tty).

tty TT controlling tty (terminal). (alias tname, tt).

ucmd CMD see comm. (alias comm, ucomm).

ucomm COMMAND see comm. (alias comm, ucmd).

uid UID see euid. (alias euid).

uname USER see euser. (alias euser, user).

unit UNIT displays unit which a process belongs to, if
systemd support has been included.

user USER see euser. (alias euser, uname).

usersn USERNS Unique inode number describing the namespace the process belongs to. See namespaces(7).

utsns UTSNS Unique inode number describing the namespace the process belongs to. See namespaces(7).

uunit UUNIT displays user unit which a process belongs to, if

systemd support has been included.

vsize **VSZ** see **vsz**. (alias **vsz**).

vsz **VSZ** virtual memory size of the process in KiB
(1024-byte units). Device mappings are currently
excluded; this is subject to change. (alias
vsize).

wchan **WCHAN** name of the kernel function in which the process
is sleeping, a "-" if the process is running, or
a "*" if the process is multi-threaded and ps is
not displaying threads.

ENVIRONMENT VARIABLES

The following environment variables could affect ps:

COLUMNS

Override default display width.

LINES

Override default display height.

PS_PERSONALITY

Set to one of posix, old, linux, bsd, sun, digital... (see section
PERSONALITY below).

CMD_ENV

Set to one of posix, old, linux, bsd, sun, digital... (see section
PERSONALITY below).

I_WANT_A_BROKEN_PS

Force obsolete command line interpretation.

LC_TIME

Date format.

PS_COLORS

Not currently supported.

PS_FORMAT

Default output format override. You may set this to a format string
of the type used for the -o option. The DefSysV and DefBSD values
are particularly useful.

POSIXLY_CORRECT

Don't find excuses to ignore bad "features".

POSIX2

When set to "on", acts as POSIXLY_CORRECT.

UNIX95

Don't find excuses to ignore bad "features".

_XPG

Cancel CMD_ENV=irix non-standard behavior.

In general, it is a bad idea to set these variables. The one exception is CMD_ENV or PS_PERSONALITY, which could be set to Linux for normal systems. Without that setting, ps follows the useless and bad parts of the Unix98 standard.

PERSONALITY

390	like the OS/390 OpenEdition ps
aix	like AIX ps
bsd	like FreeBSD ps (totally non-standard)
compaq	like Digital Unix ps
debian	like the old Debian ps
digital	like Tru64 (was Digital Unix, was OSF/1) ps
gnu	like the old Debian ps
hp	like HP-UX ps
hpx	like HP-UX ps
irix	like Irix ps
linux	***** recommended *****
old	like the original Linux ps (totally non-standard)
os390	like OS/390 Open Edition ps
posix	standard
s390	like OS/390 Open Edition ps
sco	like SCO ps
sgi	like Irix ps
solaris2	like Solaris 2+ (SunOS 5) ps
sunos4	like SunOS 4 (Solaris 1) ps (totally non-standard)
svr4	standard
sysv	standard

tru64 like Tru64 (was Digital Unix, was OSF/1) ps

unix standard

unix95 standard

unix98 standard

SEE ALSO

[pgrep\(1\)](#), [pstree\(1\)](#), [top\(1\)](#), [proc\(5\)](#).

STANDARDS

This ps conforms to:

- 1 Version 2 of the Single Unix Specification
- 2 The Open Group Technical Standard Base Specifications, Issue 6
- 3 IEEE Std 1003.1, 2004 Edition
- 4 X/Open System Interfaces Extension [UP XSI]
- 5 ISO/IEC 9945:2003

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Michael K. Johnson [?johnsonm@redhat.com?](mailto:johnsonm@redhat.com) re-wrote it significantly to use the proc filesystem, changing a few things in the process. Michael Shields [?mjshield@nyx.cs.du.edu?](mailto:mjshield@nyx.cs.du.edu) added the pid-list feature. Charles Blake [?cblake@bbn.com?](mailto:cblake@bbn.com) added multi-level sorting, the dirent-style li? brary, the device name-to-number mmapped database, the approximate bi? nary search directly on System.map, and many code and documentation cleanups. David Mossberger-Tang wrote the generic BFD support for psupdate. Albert Cahalan [?albert@users.sf.net?](mailto:albert@users.sf.net) rewrote ps for full Unix98 and BSD support, along with some ugly hacks for obsolete and foreign syntax.

Please send bug reports to [?procps@freelists.org?](mailto:procps@freelists.org). No subscription is required or suggested.