



Linux Ubuntu 26.04 Manual Pages on command 'kill.1'

\$ man kill.1

KILL(1)

User Commands

KILL(1)

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>

Specify the signal to be sent. The signal can be specified by 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.

If you use negative PID values, you will need to specify a signal as well so that kill knows if the option is for the PID or the signal number. For example, issuing the command with the single option `-9` it is not clear if you mean signal 9 (SIGKILL) or process group 9.

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.

`kill -SIGTERM -123`

Send the signal SIGTERM to process group 123. The signal name or number is required if specifying process groups with a negative PID.

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