



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

\$ man killall.1

KILLALL(1) User Commands KILLALL(1)

NAME

killall - kill processes by name

SYNOPSIS

```
killall [-Z, --context pattern] [-e, --exact] [-g, --process-group] [-i, --interactive]
[-n, --ns PID] [-o, --older-than TIME] [-q, --quiet] [-r, --regexp] [-s, --signal SIG?
NAL, -SIGNAL] [-u, --user user] [-v, --verbose] [-w, --wait] [-y, --younger-than TIME]
[-l, --ignore-case] [-V, --version] [--] name ...

killall -l, --list

killall -V, --version
```

DESCRIPTION

killall sends a signal to all processes running any of the specified commands. If no signal name is specified, SIGTERM is sent.

Signals can be specified either by name (e.g. -HUP or -SIGHUP) or by number (e.g. -1) or by option -s.

If the command name is not regular expression (option -r) and contains a slash (/), processes executing that particular file will be selected for killing, independent of their name.

killall returns a zero return code if at least one process has been killed for each listed command, or no commands were listed and at least one process matched the -u and -Z search criteria. killall returns non-zero otherwise.

A killall process never kills itself (but may kill other killall processes).

OPTIONS

`-e, --exact`

Require an exact match for very long names. If a command name is longer than 15 characters, the full name may be unavailable (i.e. it is swapped out). In this case, killall will kill everything that matches within the first 15 characters. With `-e`, such entries are skipped. killall prints a message for each skipped entry if `-v` is specified in addition to `-e`.

`-I, --ignore-case`

Do case insensitive process name match.

`-g, --process-group`

Kill the process group to which the process belongs. The kill signal is only sent once per group, even if multiple processes belonging to the same process group were found.

`-i, --interactive`

Interactively ask for confirmation before killing.

`-l, --list`

List all known signal names.

`-n, --ns`

Match against the PID namespace of the given PID. The default is to match against all namespaces.

`-o, --older-than`

Match only processes that are older (started before) the time specified. The time is specified as a float then a unit. The units are s,m,h,d,w,M,y for seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, months and years respectively.

`-q, --quiet`

Do not complain if no processes were killed.

`-r, --regex`

Interpret process name pattern as a POSIX extended regular expression, per regex(3).

`-s, --signal, -SIGNAL`

Send this signal instead of SIGTERM.

`-u, --user`

Kill only processes the specified user owns. Command names are optional.

`-v, --verbose`

Report if the signal was successfully sent.

-V, --version

Display version information.

-w, --wait

Wait for all killed processes to die. killall checks once per second if any of the killed processes still exist and only returns if none are left. Note that killall may wait forever if the signal was ignored, had no effect, or if the process stays in zombie state.

-y, --younger-than

Match only processes that are younger (started after) the time specified. The time is specified as a float then a unit. The units are s,m,h,d,w,M,y for seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, Months and years respectively.

-Z, --context

Specify security context: kill only processes having security context that match with given extended regular expression pattern. Must precede other arguments on the command line. Command names are optional.

FILES

/proc location of the proc file system

KNOWN BUGS

Killing by file only works for executables that are kept open during execution, i.e. impure executables can't be killed this way.

Be warned that typing killall name may not have the desired effect on non-Linux systems, especially when done by a privileged user.

killall -w doesn't detect if a process disappears and is replaced by a new process with the same PID between scans.

If processes change their name, killall may not be able to match them correctly.

killall has a limit of names that can be specified on the command line. This figure is the size of an unsigned long integer multiplied by 8. For most 32 bit systems the limit is 32 and similarly for a 64 bit system the limit is usually 64.

SEE ALSO

kill(1), fuser(1), pgrep(1), pidof(1), pkill(1), ps(1), kill(2), regex(3).