

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.

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 <albert@users.sf.net> wrote kill in 1999 to replace a bsduutils one that was not standards compliant. The util-linux one might also work correctly.

REPORTING BUGS

Please send bug reports to procps@freelists.org