

- There are two special signals (KILL and STOP) which are not handled by the process they are sent to. When a KILL or STOP signal is generated, the operating system itself handles this signal and kills or stops the appropriate process. Considering what you learned in today's lab, speculate as to why the system designers chose to include signals which are handled solely by the operating system.

This prevents a process from blocking all signals and becoming unable to be killed or stopped.

- What benefit do we gain from using the pause system call as opposed to an infinite while loop?

Using a pause allows the program to not spend processor time spinning in the while loop and allows the resources spent waiting for a signal to be used elsewhere by the operating system.

- Why do we mask other signals while inside the signal handler?

We mask other signals to prevent unwanted signals from killing or interrupting our program execution.

- When we implement the time out, we do not mask the SIGALRM signal. Why?

We need to not mask the SIGALRM signal because we want it to be able to kill our process when the signal is received.