

Table Of Contents

Table Of Contents 1

Find out if sshd is Process is Running or Not 2

[Home](#) > [Faq](#) > [AIX](#)

How to: Find Out Whether a UNIX / Linux Process Is Running or Not

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Q. I'd like to find out if httpd / mysqld or sshd process is running or not under CentOS Linux server. How do I determine whether a process is running or not?

A. You need to use following commands:

[a] **ps** - It report a snapshot of the current processes

[b] **grep** - Filter out process names

[1]

Find out if sshd is Process is Running or Not

Type the following command at shell prompt:

```
$ ps -ewwo pid,args | grep [s]sh
```

Output:

```
5341 /usr/sbin/sshd
5864 /usr/bin/ssh-agent x-session-manager
6289 ssh oldbox
7126 ssh admin@core.r1.vsnl.router
```

Where,

- **ps** : Command name
- **-ewwo pid,args** : -e option force to select all running processes. -o option is used to specify user-defined format. In our case we are forcing to display only program pid and its arguments. Finally -w option specifies wide output. Use this option twice for unlimited width.
- **grep [s]sh** : We are just filtering out sshd string

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