

# Essential Linux Process Management Commands

In this presentation, we will cover several key commands in Linux for process management. By the end of this presentation, you will master the `ps`, `kill`, `top`, and `pkill` commands.





| SIGQUIT     | 4)  | SIG  |
|-------------|---|--|
| SIGFPE      | 9)  | SIGK   |
| SIGPIPE     | 14)   | SIGA   |
| SIGCONT     | 19)   | SIGS   |
| SIGURG      | 24)   | SIG  |
| SIGWINCH    | 29)   | SIG]   |
| SIGRTMIN+1  | 36)   | SIGF   |
| SIGRTMIN+6  | 41)   | SIGF   |
| SIGRTMIN+11 | 46)   | SIGF   |
| SIGRTMAX-14 | 51)   | SIGF   |
| SIGRTMAX-9  | 56)   | SIGF   |
| SIGRTMAX-4  | 61)   | SIGF   |
|             | SIGFPE SIGPIPE SIGCONT SIGURG SIGWINCH SIGRTMIN+1 SIGRTMIN+6 SIGRTMIN+11 SIGRTMAX-14 SIGRTMAX-9 | SIGFPE 9) SIGPIPE 14) SIGCONT 19) SIGURG 24) SIGWINCH 29) SIGRTMIN+1 36) SIGRTMIN+6 41) SIGRTMIN+11 46) SIGRTMAX-14 51) SIGRTMAX-9 56) |

## The ps Command (Process Status)

The `ps` command is used to see detailed information about running processes. It stands for "process status." You can quickly check what processes are running with the simple command, `ps`. By default, it shows the processes running for the current user.



```
ping statistics ---
eived, 0% packet loss, time 0ms
28/540.528/540.528/0.000 ms
 Jul 30 22:43 .
 Sep 14 20:42 ..
 May 14 00:15 account
 Jul 31 22:26 cache
 May 18 16:03 db
 May 18 16:03 empty
 May 18 16:03 games
 Jun 2 18:39 gdm
 May 18 16:03 lib
 May 18 16:03 local
 May 14 00:12 lock -> ../run/lock
 Sep 14 20:42 log
 Jul 30 22:43 mail -> spool/mail
 May 18 16:03 nis
 May 18 16:03 opt
 May 18 16:03 preserve
 Jul 1 22:11 report
 May 14 00:12 run -> ../run
 May 18 16:03 spool
Sep 12 23:50 tmp
 May 18 16:03 yp
resto, refresh-packagekit, remove-with-leaves
```

fa.wikipedia.org

(208.80.152.2) 56(84) bytes of data.

## 'ps' Options and Usage

There are many commands you can use with the 'ps' command, depending on what you want to see. The most common 'ps' flags are '-e', which shows all processes, and '-f', which shows extended information.

Other `ps` options include `-l`, `-u`, and `-x`, each of which presents detailed information about each process. To see all options and usage, type `man ps` in the command line.



```
krd@ubuntu:~$ ps axw | grep tick
                      0:03 /home/krd/chanakya/src/code/mul
31915 ?
31916 ?
                      0:04 /home/krd/chanakya/src/code/mul
31917 ?
                      0:02 /home/krd/chanakya/src/code/mul
                      0:03 /home/krd/chanakya/src/code/mul
31918 ?
34074 pts/4
                      0:00 grep --color=auto tick
krd@ubuntu:~$ sudo strace -f 31915
strace: Can't stat '31915': No such file or directory
krd@ubuntu:~$ sudo strace -f -p 31915
Process 31915 attached
^C
^C^C^C^C^C^C^Z
[1]+ Stopped
                             sudo strace -f -p 31915
krd@ubuntu:~$ ps axw | grep strace
                      0:00 sudo strace -f -p 31915
34169 pts/4 T
                      0:00 strace -f -p 31915
34170 pts/4 T
34211 pts/4
                      0:00 grep --color=auto strace
krd@ubuntu:~$ sudo kill -9 34169
[1]+ Killed
                             sudo strace -f -p 31915
krd@ubuntu:~$
krd@ubuntu:~$
krd@ubuntu:~$ sudo strace -f -p 31916
Process 31916 attached
^C^C^Z
[1]+ Stopped
                             sudo strace -f -p 31916
krd@ubuntu:~$ ps axw | grep strace
34170 pts/4
                      0:00 strace -f -p 31915
                      0:00 sudo strace -f -p 31916
 34238 pts/4
 34239 pts/4
                      0:00 strace -f -p 31916
 34257 pts/4
                      0:00 grep --color=auto strace
krd@ubuntu:~$ sudo kill -9 34170 34239
krd@ubuntu:~$ ps axw | grep strace
 34238 pts/4
                      0:00 sudo strace -f -p 31916
                      0:00 [strace] <defunct>
 34239 pts/4
 34282 pts/4
                      0:00 grep --color=auto strace
 rd@uhuntu: ~ $
```

File Edit View Terminal Tabs Help

## The kill Command

The `kill` command is used to send signals to specific running processes in order to stop them. With this command, you can stop running processes that are causing problems for your system, among other things.

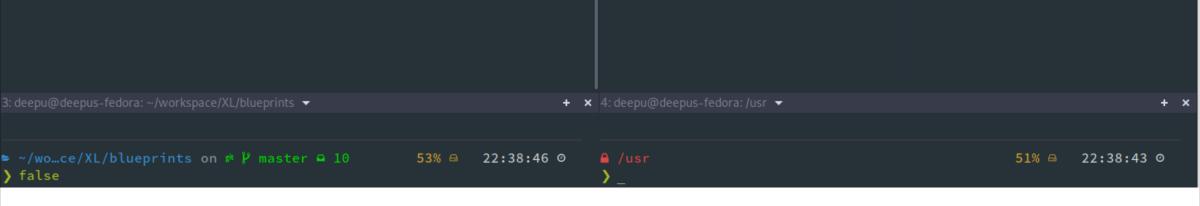


## 'kill' Signals and Usage

Each process has a unique identifier known as a Process ID (PID). To stop a process using the `kill` command, you will need its PID. The commands `kill`, `killall`, and `pkill` are all used to send a signal to a process.

The most commonly used signals with `kill` are `SIGTERM` and `SIGKILL`. `SIGTERM` tells the process to terminate gracefully, while `SIGKILL` will force the process to stop.





## The top Command

The `top` command is another way to check on running processes in real-time. It shows the system summary information and the processes that are currently being managed by the Linux kernel.



```
erage: 0.93, 1.65, 1.43
 0.0%hi, 0.2%si,
                   0.0%st
      7584k buffers
    452396k cached
TIME+ COMMAND
0:06.66 top
4:54.54 python
0:00.14 python
0:00.86 sshd
0:00.00 sftp-server
0:07.78 sshd
0:01.94 sftp-server
0:00.84 sshd
0:00.00 sftp-server
0:03.66 sshd
0:00.00 bash
0:04.84 sshd
0:00.04 bash
0:00.62 tail
0:04.72 sshd
0:00.00 bash
0:00.48 python
0:21.36 python
0:00.96 sshd
0:00.00 sftp-server
0:00.00 java
0:00.00 java
0:00.00 java
0:04.78 sshd
0:00.00 bash
0:04.74 sshd
0:00.00 bash
0:01.32 sshd
0:00.04 sftp-server
0:00.02 tail
0:01.32 sshd
0:00.02 sftp-server
0:01.60 java
0:00.82 java
0:00.10 java
0:00.12 java
0:00.10 java
0:00.04 java
0:00.12 java
0:02.46 sshd
0:00.02 bash
0:00.44 top
0:00.34 top
0:00.10 top
0:00.22 top
0:01.56 tail
```

💤 resolution@kgb04:~

🛼 resolution - resolutio... | 🛼 resolution - resolutio

pb04:~... 🛮 🧬 resolution@kgb0...

## **Interactive top Features**

The 'top' command has several interactive features that allow you to sort running processes by various parameters (e.g., CPU usage), kill running processes, and refresh the display.

To sort the running processes, press P or M to sort by CPU usage or memory usage, respectively. To kill a running process, type its PID and press K. To refresh the display, press the spacebar.



The pkill Command (Process Kill) The 'pkill' command is used to find and terminate processes by name. It sends signals to processes by name rather than by PID, as with the 'kill' command. =>Show the path of current directory

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## 'pkill' Options and Usage

The `pkill` command has several options that you can use to customize the process search. For example, you can specify a signal other than `SIGTERM` to terminate a process gracefully.

A widely used option for `pkill` is the `-f` flag which allows for searching a process by its full name rather than just the name of its command. To terminate a process by name, use `pkill ` or `pkill -f ` if you need to match by the full process command.

```
v user: y
 Marquez
 (again):
ld
 OK, you are logged in.
 Lew
 user [enter = yourself]:
edit
  note 1
my number one note!
uit
gain: y
   OK, you are logged in.
 view
 user [enter = yourself]: incal
                         Made with Gamma
number one note!
```

### Conclusion

The `ps`, `kill`, `top`, and `pkill` commands are essential to efficient and effective Linux process management. By mastering these tools, you will be able to handle an array of process-related issues and streamline your terminal workflow.