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# forever

## Problem

Node services often needs to run forever, but often the program quits unexpectedly or the machine itself crashes.

## Solution

1. Use `forever` to make sure that node always restarts itself upon quit
2. edit `/etc/rc.local` to make sure that forever automatically starts on boot

## How

1. `npm i forever --global`
2. `forever start server.js &` or whatever the name of the js file is that I want to run forever. The ampersand is necessary because I want to return control to the command line afterwards.
  - or `forever -c "npm start" ./ &` : equivalent of running `npm start` but with forever, note that `./` can also be any directory with a package.json file
3. `sudo vim /etc/rc.local`
  - add `cd /absolute/path/to/the/directory;forever start server.js`

## Helper commands

- `forever list` : list all forever threads
  - look for pid
  - `kill {pid}` : kill the process specified by pid, note that if this process is run by forever, forever will start a new thread in order to rerun the same js file. This is exactly what we need forever for.
- `forever restart server.js` : restart server.js
- `forever restart {pid}` : basically kill the process pid, since forever will automatically restart it
- `forever restartall` : restart all forever processes
- `forever stop server.js` or `forever stop {pid}` : permanently stop the thread specified by pid, or server.js
- `forever stopall` : permanently stop all forever threads