Processes

Shell commands for process management

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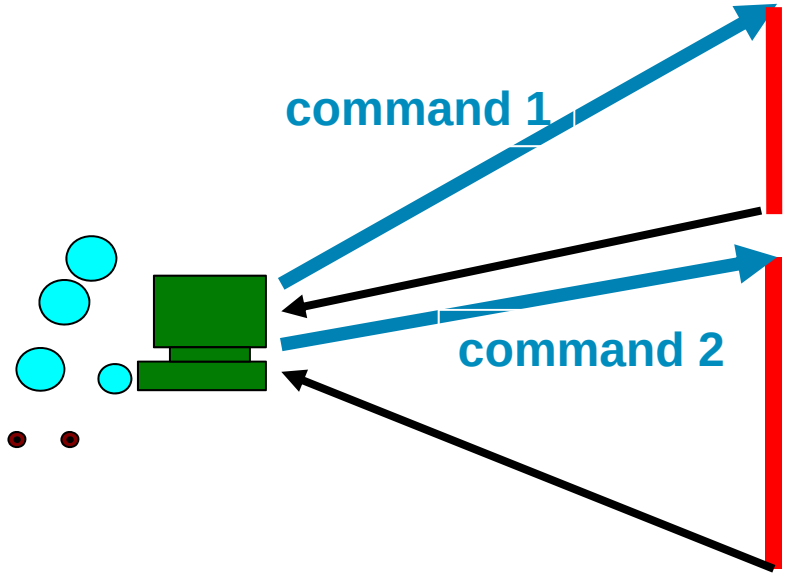
Foreground execution

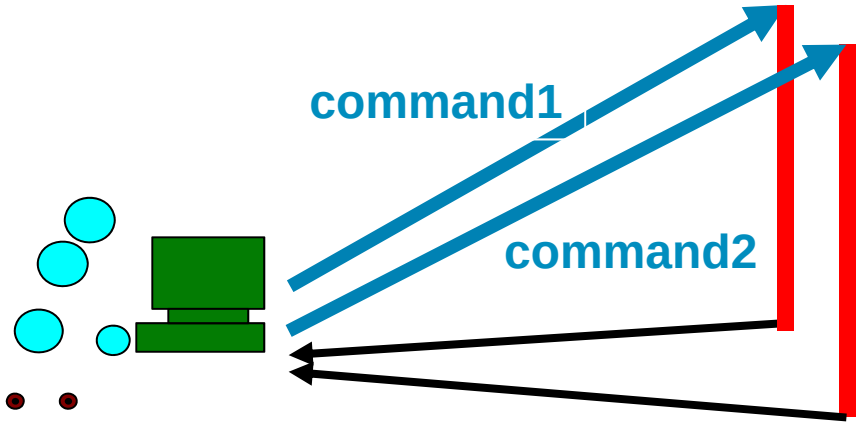
- The standard shell commands
  - Allow executing processes **sequentially**
  - Each process is executed in **foreground,** i.e., using the control terminal




```
> command1
Output of command1
> command2
Output of command2
>
```

Background execution

- The shell interpret character & as an indication to run the command in **background**
  - The process is executed in concurrency with the shell. It loses the control terminal input
  - The shell outputs immediately a new prompt
  - It is possible to run several processes in parallel




```
> command1 &
> command2 &
>

Output of command1
Output of command2
```

Process status commands

- Two main commands
  - **ps (process status)**

    ps <options>
    - List active processes and some related information li
    - Options
      - –e (or –A) List all processes
      - –f Extended format
      - r (not –r) Shows only the "running" processes
      - –u <user> Shows only the <user> processes

Process status commands

- Command **top**
  - Display and updates information about the system used resources, and the active processes

```
user@mahine:~/$ top

top - 10:26:58 up 57 min,  3 users,  load average: 0.00, 0.01, 0.05
Tasks: 152 total, 2 running, 150 sleeping, 0 stopped, 0 zombie
%Cpu(s): 4.0 us, 0.6 sy, 0.4 ni, 93.5 id,  1.4 wa, 0.0 hi, 0.0 si, 0.0 st
KiB Mem:  8177092 total,  1382976 used,  6794116 free,   174096 buffers
KiB Swap: 10482684 total,        0 used, 10482684 free.   544664 cached Mem

 PID USER      PR  NI    VIRT    RES    SHR S %CPU %MEM     TIME+ COMMAND
1821 user      20   0 1297200 198644  39328 S 65.6  2.4   1:59.62 compiz
1302 root      20   0  326708 101316  17712 S 13.1  1.2   0:23.63 Xorg
   1 root      20   0   33648   3028   1492 S  0.0  0.0   0:00.78 init
   2 root      20   0       0      0      0 S  0.0  0.0   0:00.00 kthreadd
   3 root      20   0       0      0      0 S  0.0  0.0   0:00.01 ksoftirqd/0
   4 root      20   0       0      0      0 S  0.0  0.0   0:00.00 kworker/0:0
...
```

kill command

- **kill** allows sending signal from the shell
- Format
  - kill [–sig] pid
    - Sends signal sig to process with PID=pid
  - Option **sig** indicates the signal code
  - **pid** is the process identifier (PID) of the target process
  - The default signal of **kill** is **SIGTERM**, the standard termination command

kill command

- A signal **sig** can be indicated by means of its name or by its corresponding number
  - The list of the available signals can be obtained using the `-l` option
    - `SIGKILL = KILL = 9`
    - `SIGUSR1 = USR1 = 10`
    - `SIGUSR2 = USR2 = 12`
    - `SIGALRM = ALRM = 14`
    - etc.

kill command

- Examples
  - `kill -l`
  - `kill -9 10234`
  - `kill –SIGKILL 10234`
  - `kill –KILL 10234`

List available signals

Three commands to terminate process with PID 10234

- Shell command **`killall`** terminates all process with a specified name
  - `killall -9` **`name`**
    - Useful to terminate all processes generated by the same program avoiding to specify their PIDs