

# ps

## ps

ps shows which processes are running

I usually run ps like this:

\$ ps aux

u means include  
username column

a+x  
together  
show all process

(ps -ef works too)

## w

is for wide. ps auxwww will show all the command line args for each process

## e

is for environment. ps auxe will show the environment vars!

## f

is for "forest" !!. ps auxf will show you an ASCII art process tree !

**pstree** can display a process tree too

you can choose which columns to show with ps (ps -eo ...)  
One cool column is 'wchan' which tells you the name of the kernel function if the process is sleeping

try it:

ps -eo user,pid,wchan,cmd

## \* process state \*

Here's what the letters in ps's STATE column mean:

R: running

S/D: asleep

Z: zombie

L: multithreaded

+: in the foreground

ps has 3 different sets of command line arguments 💔

1. UNIX ( 1 dash )

2. BSD ( no dash )

3. GNU ( 2 dashes )

you can write monstrosities like:

\$ ps f -f  
↑  
forest(BSD) full format (UNIX)