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How do I pause my shell script for 1 second before continuing?

I have only found how to wait for user input. However, I only want to pause so that my `while true` doesn't crash my computer.

I tried `pause(1)`, but it says `-bash: syntax error near unexpected token '1'`. How can it be done?

`bash` `shell` `unix` `terminal`

edited Sep 30 '14 at 12:16   asked Feb 7 '14 at 6:00
Peter Mortensen   user3268208
8,741   10   58   95

3 Answers

Use the `sleep` command.

Example:

```
sleep .5 # Waits 0.5 second.
sleep 5  # Waits 5 seconds.
sleep 5s # Waits 5 seconds.
sleep 5m # Waits 5 minutes.
sleep 5h # Waits 5 hours.
sleep 5d # Waits 5 days.
```

edited Jun 1 at 10:19   answered Feb 7 '14 at 6:52
fedorqui   RydallCooper
78.4k   24   98   135   **664**   2   13

3   How about `sleep 5y` ? :) – anguyen8 Aug 14 at 7:11

In Python (question was originally tagged Python) you need to import the time module

```
import time
time.sleep(1)
```

or

```
from time import sleep
sleep(1)
```

For shell script is is just

```
sleep 1
```

Which executes the `sleep` command. eg. `/bin/sleep`

answered Feb 7 '14 at 6:04

John La Rooy
127k   10   151   289

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2   yes, this says it too, it's just the other one was first, and it has a nice example :) but +1! – user3268208
Feb 7 '14 at 6:05

I realize that I'm a bit late with this, but you can also call sleep and pass the disired time in.
For example, If I wanted to wait for 3 seconds I can do:

```
/bin/sleep 3
```

4 seconds would look like this:

```
/bin/sleep 4
```

answered Jul 30 at 4:48

pcmaster574
11   2

Where on earth could you have found that information, I wonder. – Marko Bonaci yesterday